
ARNETT CHAPEL A.M.E.C.

REVEREND BERNARD E. HUDSON, M.DIV., PASTOR



Know Your Church

KNOW YOUR CHURCH



Session I – Overview
Session II – History
Session III – Beliefs

KNOW YOUR CHURCH

FIRST QUARTER



Session I – Overview

KNOW YOUR CHURCH



Material taken from:

- Official A.M.E. website - <https://www.ame-church.com/>
- The 2012 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

KNOW YOUR CHURCH



The African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded by **Richard Allen** has membership in **twenty Episcopal Districts** in **thirty-nine countries on five continents and has over 2 million members in the United States alone.** The work of the Church is administered by **twenty-one active bishops**, and **nine General Officers** who manage the departments of the Church.

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – BISHOPS



Bishop
Gregory G. M. Ingram
FIRST DISTRICT
Order Elected: 118

Bermuda, Delaware,
New England, New
Jersey, New York,
Western New York,
and Philadelphia



Bishop
James Levert Davis
SECOND DISTRICT
Order Elected: 123

Baltimore, Washington,
Virginia, North
Carolina and Western
North Carolina



Bishop
McKinley Young
THIRD DISTRICT
Order Elected: 109

Ohio, Pittsburgh,
North Ohio, South
Ohio and West Virginia

SENIOR BISHOP



Bishop
John Franklin White
FOURTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 130

Indiana, Chicago,
Illinois, Michigan,
Canada and India

**President of
Bishops Council**



Bishop
Clement W. Fugh
FIFTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 131

California, Southern
California, Desert
Mountain, Midwest,
Missouri, and Pacific
Northwest

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – BISHOPS



Bishop
Reginald T. Jackson
SIXTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 132

Georgia, Southwest
Georgia, Atlanta-
North, Macon, South
Georgia and Augusta



Bishop
Samuel Lawrence
Green Sr.
SEVENTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 125

Palmetto, South
Carolina, Columbia,
Piedmont, Northeast
South Carolina, and
Central South
Carolina



Bishop
Julius Harrison
McAllister
EIGHTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 129

South Mississippi,
North Mississippi,
Central North
Louisiana, and
Louisiana



Bishop
Harry Lee Seawright
NINTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 133

Alabama River Region,
Southeast Alabama,
Northeast Alabama,
Southwest Alabama,
Northwest Alabama



Bishop
Vashti Murphy
McKenzie
TENTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 117

Texas, Southwest
Texas, North Texas and
Northwest Texas

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – BISHOPS



Bishop
Adam J. Richardson Jr.
ELEVENTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 115

Florida, Central, South,
West Coast, East,
Bahamas



Bishop
Michael Leon Mitchell
TWELFTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 134

Oklahoma State,
Arkansas, East
Arkansas, and West
Arkansas



Bishop
Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath
THIRTEENTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 128

Tennessee, East
Tennessee, West
Tennessee, Kentucky and
West Kentucky



Bishop
E. Earl McCloud Jr.
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 127

Liberia, Central Liberia,
Sierra Leone, Ghana,
Nigeria, Cote D' Ivoire and
Togo-Benin



Bishop
David Rwhynica Daniels
Jr.
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 124

Angola, Cape, Eastern
Cape, Kalahari, Namibia,
and Queenstown

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – BISHOPS



Bishop
E. Anne Henning-Byfield
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 135

Guyana/Suriname, Virgin Islands, European, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Winward Islands



Bishop
Wilfred Jacobus Messiah
SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 120

Southeast Zambia, Southwest Zambia, Northeast Zambia, Northwest Zambia, Zambezi, Congo Brazzaville, Katanga, Kananga, Kinshasa, Mbuji-mayi, Rwanda, Burundi and Tshikapa



Bishop
Stafford J. N. Wicker
EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 137

Botswana, Lesotho, Northeast Lesotho, Mozambique, and Swaziland



Bishop
Paul J.M. Kawimbe
NINETEENTH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 121

Orangia, Natal, M.M. Mokone Memorial Conference, East, West



Bishop
Ronnie E. Brailsford Sr.
TWENTIETH DISTRICT
Order Elected: 136

Malawi North, Malawi South, Malawi Central, Northeast Zimbabwe, Southwest Zimbabwe, Central Zimbabwe

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – BISHOPS



Bishop
Frank Madison Reid III
Ecumenical & Urban
Affairs

Order Elected: 138



As a church founded to insure the moral bre of this nation’s treatment of its residents, we are obligated to preach about civic engagement, take leadership in insuring voter turnout, and educate the community about the issues “set before them”. The General Conference has affirmed the role of the Connectional Lay Organization in leading this organizing effort. The Connectional Lay Organization has reached out to every component/ministry in the AME Church and interfaith/civic partners to get the job done.

Taken from - <http://www.ameecumenicalaffairs.org/>

KNOW YOUR CHURCH - GENERAL OFFICERS



DR. RICHARD
ALLEN LEWIS

**TREASURER /
CFO AME
FINANCE
DEPARTMENT**



DR. GEORGE F.
FLOWERS

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR,
GLOBAL
WITNESS &
MINISTRY**



DR. JEROME V.
HARRIS

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT
OF ANNUITY
INVESTMENTS &
INSURANCE**



DR. JAMES C. WADE

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT
OF CHURCH
GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT**



DR. JEFFERY
COOPER

**GENERAL
SECRETARY /
CHIEF
INFORMATION
OFFICER**

KNOW YOUR CHURCH - GENERAL OFFICERS



DR. TERESA L. FRY
BROWN

**HISTORIOGRAPHER
/ EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT OF
RESEARCH AND
SCHOLARSHIP**



REV. RODERICK D.
BELIN

**PRESIDENT /
PUBLISHER A ME
SUNDAY
SCHOOL UNION**



MR. JOHN THOMAS
III

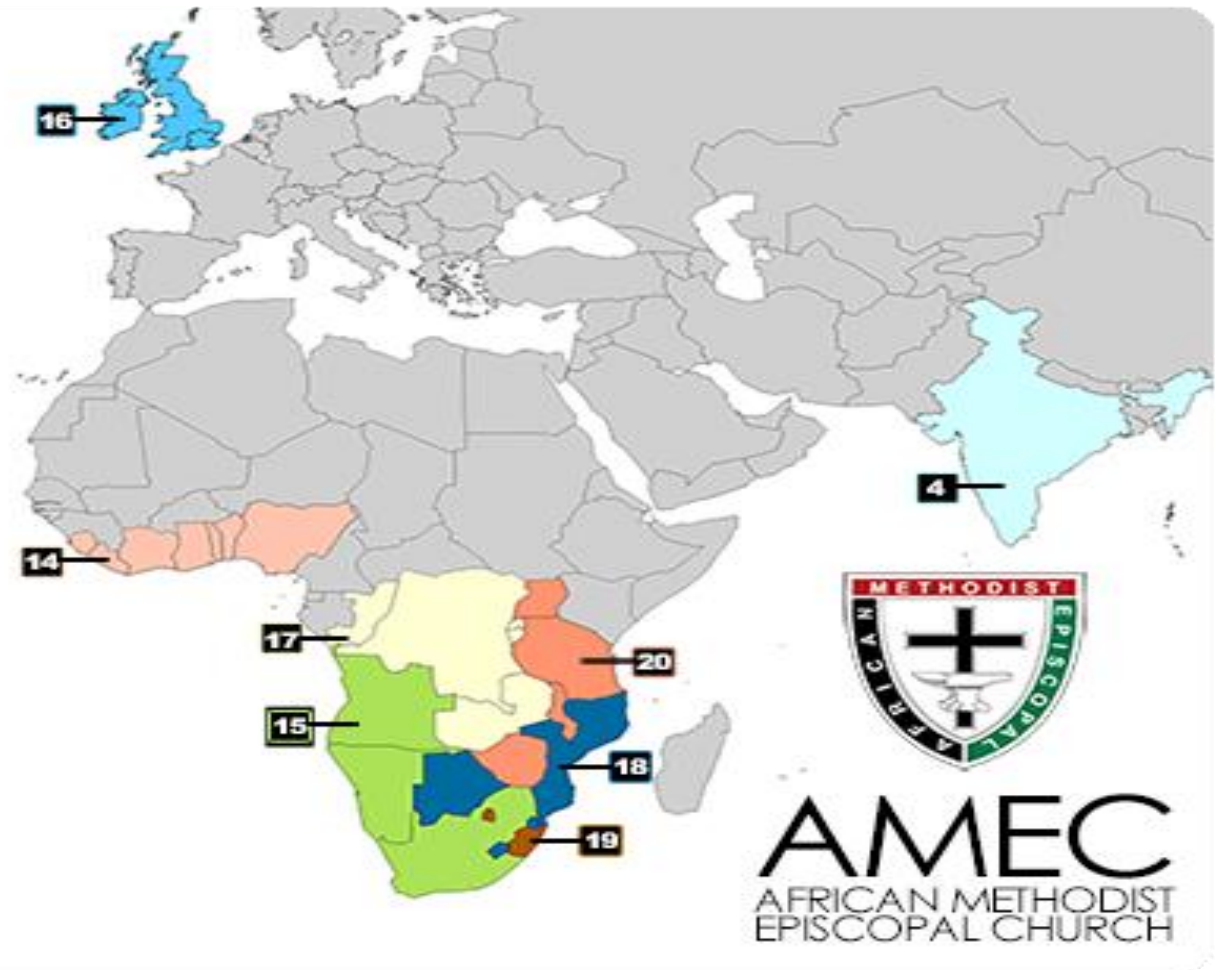
**EDITOR, THE
CHRISTIAN
RECORDER**



REV. GARLAND F.
PIERCE

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT
OF CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

KNOW YOUR CHURCH



KNOW YOUR CHURCH – OUR NAME



African Methodist Episcopal Church

The word African means that the church was organized by people of **African** descent and heritage. It does not mean that the church was founded in Africa, or that it was for persons of **African** descent only.



KNOW YOUR CHURCH – OUR NAME



African Methodist Episcopal Church

The church's roots are of the family of **Methodist** churches. Methodism provides an orderly system of rules and regulations and places emphasis on a plain and simple gospel.

- African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- Canada, The United Church
- Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- United Methodist Church
- Methodist Church (Various Countries)
- Free Methodist Church
- Evangelical Methodist Church
- The Wesleyan Church

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – OUR NAME



African Methodist Episcopal Church

Episcopal refers to the form of government under which the church operates. It means that the church is governed by bishops. The chief executive and administrative officers of the African Methodist Episcopal denomination are the Bishops of the church.

Episcopacy – A system of government or policy of the church in which bishops are the general superintendents, chief administrative and executive heads.

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – OUR NAME



African Methodist *Episcopal* Church

Church is a community of people who believe in God and have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior. We believe:

- God can transform lives.
- Jesus is the Head of the Body
- The Holy Spirit enables us to be true and effective servants.

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – MISSION & VISION



Mission

The Mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, and environmental needs of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed.

The Vision

At every level of the Connection and in every local church, the AME Church shall engage in carrying out the spirit of the original Free African Society, out of which the AME Church evolved: that is, to seek out and save the lost, and to serve the needy. It is also the duty of Church to continue to encourage all members to become involved in all aspects of church training.

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE



The Purposes

The ultimate purposes are:

- Make available God's biblical principles,
- Spread Christ's liberating gospel, and
- Provide continuing programs which will enhance the entire social development of all people.

Objective

In order to meet the needs of every level of the Connection and in every local church, the AME Church shall implement strategies to train all members in: **(1)** Christian discipleship, **(2)** Christian leadership, **(3)** current teaching methods and materials, **(4)** the history and significance of the AME Church, **(5)** God's biblical principles, and **(6)** social development to which all should be applied to daily living.

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – OUR MOTTO



Our Motto

“God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family.”

Bishop Daniel A. Payne proposed to the 1856 General Conference that the episcopal seal should include the denominational creedal statement, **God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Man Our Brother**. A surge of Pentecostalism in 1906 in Los Angeles at the Azusa Street mission, the former site of First A.M.E. Church, convinced African Methodists to alter the motto. In 1908 the General Conference placed on the published minutes, **God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, the Holy Ghost Our Comforter, Man Our Brother**.

At the 2008 General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri an inclusive motto was adopted and now declares **God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family**. The evolution of our motto demonstrates that African Methodists engage in ongoing assessments of our theology and how God speaks to us in changing circumstances.

Dennis C. Dickerson
Retired General Officer

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – OUR STRUCTURE



The African Methodist Episcopal Church is a **connectional organization**. Each local church is a part of the larger connection.

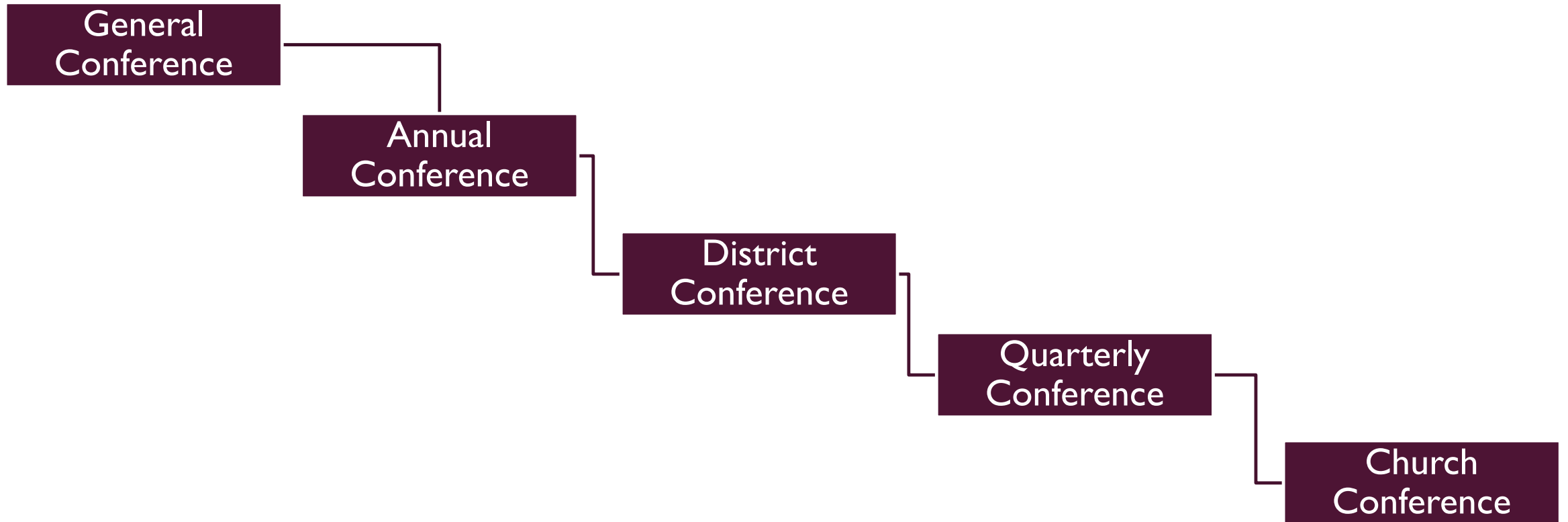
The **Bishops** are the Chief Officers of the Connectional Organization. They are elected for life by a majority vote of the General Conference which meets every four years.

Presiding Elders are the assistants, like middle management, whom the Bishops appoint to supervise the preachers in a Presiding Elder's District. A Presiding Elder District is one portion of an Annual Conference, which in turn is one part of the Episcopal District over which a Bishop presides.

In the Presiding Elder District, the appointed Presiding Elder meets with the local churches, that comprise the District, at least once every three months for a Quarterly Conference. At the end of an Annual Conference year, the Presiding Elder reports to the Bishop at the Annual Conference and makes recommendations for pastoral appointments.

Pastors receive a yearly appointment to a charge (church), on the recommendation of the Presiding Elder and with the approval and final appointment of the Bishop. The pastor is in full charge of the Church and is an ex-official member of all boards, organizations and clubs of that Church

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – OUR STRUCTURE



KNOW YOUR CHURCH – GENERAL CONFERENCE

The General Conference is the supreme body of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is composed of the Bishops, as ex-officio presidents, according to the rank of election, and an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates, elected by each of the Annual Conferences and the Lay Electoral Colleges of the Annual Conferences. Other ex-officio members are: the General Officers, College Presidents, Deans/Presidents of Theological Seminaries; Chaplains in the Regular Armed Forces of the U.S.A. The General Conference meets quadrennially (every four years), but may have extra sessions in certain emergencies.

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Geographical contiguous groupings of annual conferences that work together in an administrative unit superintended by one Bishop. (2012 Doctrine and Discipline, p.705)

Our Episcopal District is the **Eleventh Episcopal District** (EED) and includes the entire state of Florida and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

The EED has six (6) conferences.

Florida
South
Central
West Coast
East
Bahamas

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A geographical grouping of congregations in a specified geographical area to form the legal entity of Methodist polity. This is where mission , resource personnel (clergy and lay), and property are administered and where a bishop is the president. (2012 Doctrine and Discipline, p.700)

Our Annual Conference is the Florida Conference

KNOW YOUR CHURCH – DISTRICT

The Florida Conference includes 4 Presiding Elder districts

Marianna District – The Reverend James H. Davis, Presiding Elder

Tallahassee District – The Reverend Dr. Carlton Taylor, Presiding Elder

Quincy-Monticello District – The Reverend Lee E. Plummer, Presiding Elder

Pensacola-Panama City District – The Reverend Philip Russ, IV, Presiding Elder

QUESTIONS

