

December 1, 2019



AME/WOMEN IN MINISTRY ELECTION

AME/Women In Ministry (AME/WIM) will hold its election of Connectional Executive Board officers for the 2020-2024 Quadrennium at the site of the 51st Quadrennial Session of the General Conference which will convene at the Orange Convention Center-West Concourse, Orlando, FL between July 8-15, 2020. The date, time and location of the election meeting will be announced as soon as it is confirmed.

As we prepare for our time together, let us keep in the forefront of our minds the mission which provides the foundation of who and why we are:

The mission of AME/WIM is to define, enhance, support and expand the presence of women in ministry in leadership, at every level, in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

The purpose of AME/WIM is to meet and further the following objectives:

- a. To recognize and support women in ministry as an integral part of the leadership of the AME Church.
- b. To raise the consciousness of the AME Church on issues important to women.
- c. To address and eradicate sexism in the AME Church.
- d. To work to expand leadership opportunities for women in ministry in leadership in the AME Church.
- e. To support women in the pastoral ministry.
- f. To support women in specialized ministries including but not limited to: chaplaincy, writing, teaching, counseling, research, prison, youth, geriatric, singles, street, health care, family/life relations, music, homeless, HIV/AIDS and religious education ministries.
- g. To encourage academic training for the ministry.
- h. To sponsor a Connection conference at least once in each Quadrennium.
- i. To support and provide assistance and outreach to women in ministry in the Fourteenth through Twentieth Episcopal Districts.
- j. To compile a complete and accurate record of all women in ministry in the AME Church.
- k. To foster and develop relationships with people and entities that will assist in furthering the objectives described herein.

Nominations are being solicited for the following offices that constitute the Connectional Executive Board: President; First Vice-President; Second Vice-President; Third Vice-President; General Secretary; Financial Secretary; Corresponding Secretary; Treasurer; Herstorlographer; Worship Director; and Central /Southern Africa Coordinator.

The duties and responsibilities of each office are described in Article VI, Sections 13-23 of the Connectional Bylaws of AME/WIM (The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2016, pages 547-549).

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, President * Rev. Ammie L. Davis, First Vice President
Rev. Joelynn T. Stokes, Esq., Second Vice President * Rev. Dr. Monica L. Spencer, Third Vice President
Rev. Louise V. Jackson, General Secretary * Rev. Tyronda Howse Burgess, Financial Secretary
Rev. Garland D. Higgins, Communication Secretary * Rev. Angelique J. Mason, Treasurer
Rev. Dr. Janie Dowdy-Dandridge, Herstorlographer * Rev. Pamela R. Rivera, Director of Liturgy&Worship
Rev. Nomalungelo Pamella Vena, Central South Africa Coordinator

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CONNECTIONAL AME WOMEN IN MINISTRY

The deadlines for submission of required documents specified in the Guidelines below are:

February 11, 2020:

1. Nomination packet (1-page Statement of Interest; and resume or curriculum vitae of no more than five pages; letter verifying no criminal case or action and agreement to sign a waiver for background check).
2. Video, no more than 3-5 minutes in length

May 31, 2020:

Confirmation that Dues at every level are paid for the 2018-19 fiscal year and 2019-20 fiscal year. Please note that dues cannot be paid retroactively or in arrears.

The Guidelines governing the election process are as follows:

Guidelines for Candidates for Executive Board Office:

1. Shall be women ordained as Itinerant Elders of the AME Church and shall be active dues paying members of AME/WIM in good and regular standing for two consecutive years before the election.
2. Each prospective candidate shall by February 11, 2020 submit:
 - a. A one-page printed Statement of Interest that includes her qualification and visions for the office being sought.
 - b. A current photograph in professional attire.
 - c. Verification of being a full member in good and regular standing, as defined by the Bylaws of AME/WIM and The Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the General Conference (2018-19 and 2019-20) with dues paid at the established time in each of the two years. Dues may be paid in advance but shall not be paid retroactively or in arrears.
 - i. Dues for 2020 must be received by the Connectional Treasurer between June 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020.
 - ii. By May 31, 2020 the Connectional Treasurer will have the names of dues payers verified by the Connectional Financial Secretary who, with the Connectional Third Vice-President, will prepare the list of credentialed nominees.
 - iii. Candidates shall provide written statements from her Episcopal District President of AME/WIM and her Annual Conference Coordinator of AME/WIM verifying that the candidate is an active, dues paying member at both levels. The verification shall be provided by the Episcopal District First Vice-President if the nominee is the Episcopal District President, and by the Assistant Annual Conference Coordinator if the nominee is the Annual Conference Coordinator.
 - d. A resume or curriculum vitae not exceeding five pages that includes:
 - i. Previous experience as a member/officer on any Boards or organizations in the church, community and/or professional field.
 - ii. Involvement in AME/WIM on the District/Local level, including office(s) held, level of attendance and participation in meetings and other activities, advocacy, mentoring and other areas of contribution.
 - e. A letter stating:
 - i. if she has any pending criminal case(s) or action that would impede her service to AME/WIM; or
 - ii. if she has been convicted of a crime or any case(s) substantiated by the Annual Conference Ministerial Efficiency Committee or any other AME tribunal; and
 - iii. if she would sign a waiver for a background check.
3. Incumbent members of the Executive Board who were previously certified by the Nominating Committee need only to submit Items 2-a, 2-b, 2-c, and 2-e above when applying for the position they currently hold. Incumbent members of the Executive Board seeking election to an office other than the one currently held shall submit Items 2-a, 2-b, 2-c, 2-d, and 2-e.
- 4. Acceptance of documents from nominees will not be official until dues are received and verified.**
5. Nominations for the same office will not be accepted from more than one (1) member from the same Episcopal District.
6. There will be a limit of two (2) nominees from the same Episcopal District in any Quadrennium.

7. In preparing the slate of nominees, the Nominating Committee will consider the broadest possible representation of the Twenty Episcopal Districts.
8. Recommendations and nominations will not be accepted at the seat of the General Conference.
9. Members nominated to run for Executive Board office must be present at the time and place of the election meeting. No proxy or absentee voting shall be permitted.
10. Officers elected to the Executive Board shall surrender any other offices(s) held in AME/WIM.
11. The term of each office shall be four (4) years and no officer shall serve in the same office for more than two (2) consecutive terms.
12. **It shall be unlawful for any candidate for office on the Executive Board of AME/WIM to advertise or exploit said candidacy by use of any printed advertisements, columns of any secular newspaper, streamers, banners, signs, placards, cards or circulars or by the use of social media of any kind including but not limited to websites, emails, text messaging or videos (other than the candidate video to be submitted to the Nominating Committee for posting on the AME/WIM website).** Refer to The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2016, Part XVI, Judicial Administration, Section II-Charge, A-II-Improper Electioneering, page 317.

Candidates will be given an opportunity to submit by February 11, 2020 a 3 to 5-minute video in addition to the one-page Statement of Interest referenced in 2-a above. By April 1, 2020, AME/WIM will promote the video as well as distribute an Election Guide which will include the name, photograph, qualifications and vision of each person who has met the eligibility Guidelines (including payment of dues) for election at AME/WIM Election Meeting at the site of the General Conference. (See the Attached AME/WIM Candidate Video Submissions Guidelines.)

Each nominee shall prepare and submit a complete packet of required information to the **Nominating Committee Chair by certified mail for delivery no later than February 11, 2020.** Nominees from Districts 14-20 shall contact the Committee Chair by email (at ssblair47@comcast.net) in adequate time prior to the February 2020 if submission by postal mail is not feasible and an optional mode of delivery needs to be arranged.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR:
Rev. Sandra Smith Blair, Fifth Episcopal District
6028 Buena Ventura Avenue
Oakland, California 94605-1842. U.S.A.

Guidelines for Voting Members:

1. For members to be certified to vote, their dues must be paid for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the General Conference (2019-20).
2. Dues must be received by the Connectional Treasurer between June 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020.
3. By May 31, 2020, the Connectional Treasurer will have the names of dues payers verified with the Connectional Financial Secretary who, with the Connectional Vice-President, will prepare the list of credentialed voters.
4. Dues will not be accepted at the seat of the General Conference.
5. Voting members must be present at the time and place of the election meeting. No proxy or absentee voting shall be permitted.

[1 attachment – video guidelines]

ATTACHMENT

2020 AME/WIM Candidate Video Submissions

Beginning December 1, 2019 women who desire to run for a Connectional AME/WIM Executive Board office can submit a short video introducing themselves to the members of Connectional AME/WIM. The video you submit will be posted on the AME/WIM website (www.amewim.org) from April 1, 2020 through July 15, 2020.

The deadline for submitting videos is February 11, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. (EST), We ask that submitted videos follow the guidelines below. Videos received after the deadline or outside of these guidelines will not be posted on the AME/WIM website.

Please note that the campaigning guidelines prohibit candidates from using social media to promote their candidacy. Therefore, videos should only be posted via AME/WIM. Posting or distributing the video via any other means will be considered a violation of the campaign guidelines.

VIDEO GUIDELINES

By submitting a video, you agree that the video becomes the property of Connectional AME/WIM and can be used to promote the work of AME/WIM.

- ✓ The video should be between 3 – 5 minutes in length. The video shall be no longer than 5 minutes in duration from beginning to end.
- ✓ The video should focus solely on the candidate and her candidacy, including but not limited to the following information:
 - ✓ Candidate's full name;
 - ✓ Office for which she is a candidate;
 - ✓ Any relevant experience and/or qualifications; and
 - ✓ Her vision for the office.
- ✓ Video must include a current photograph of the candidate in professional attire
- ✓ Video must be submitted in one of the following formats. Any other formats may be rejected.
 - ✓ .MOV
 - ✓ .MPEG4
 - ✓ .MP4
 - ✓ .AVI
 - ✓ .WMV

HOW TO SUBMIT VIDEO

Videos should be submitted via email to ssblair47@comcast.net no later than February 11, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. (EST). An email will be sent confirming receipt of your video.