

*African Methodist Episcopal Church
2012–2016 Quadrennial Report
Of The Connectional*



*to the
50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference
July 6–13, 2016
Pennsylvania Convention Center
Philadelphia, PA*



*Bishop John Franklin White, Sr. President of the Council of Bishops
Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, President of the General Board
Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram Presiding Prelate, 1st Episcopal District, Host Bishop &
Chairperson, Bicentennial Committee
Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Chairperson of the General Conference Commission
Bishop John R. Bryant, Senior Bishop
Bishop Clement W. Fugh, Commission on Women in Ministry, Chairperson
Rev. Kimberly L. Detherage, Esq., Connectional President Women in Ministry
Rev. Dr. Emily Gail Dill, 1st Episcopal District President Women in Ministry*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
The Commission on Women In Ministry	3
The Connectional Executive Board for Women In Ministry	4
Greeting – Chairperson, Commission on Women in Ministry	5
Greeting – Connectional President, Women in Ministry	6
2012-2016 Goals and Objectives	8
2012-2016 Highlights of Connectional Activity	9
Towards The Future	14
Financial Report	15
The Election of Women to the Bench in 2016	16
In Memory and Celebration of Bishop Sarah Frances Taylor Davis	18
Connectional AME Women in Ministry Census Data and Annual Conference Leadership, 2014-15 Annual Statistical Report Card Summary	20
Connectional Statistical Highlights	21
Ongoing Statistics for AME/WIM	22
Episcopal District Statistical Data – Number of Women in Ministry	22
Active Female Presiding Elders	23
AME/WIM Episcopal District Highlights	24
In Loving Memory of our Sisters	31

The Commission on Women In Ministry

Bishop Clement W. Fugh, Commision Chair

Rev. Jocelyn Hart, Presidng Elder, 1st Episcopal District

Ms. Tashara Void, 2nd Episcopal District

Rev. Frederick Wright, Sr., 3rd Episcopal District

Ms. Robin Jordan, 4th Episcopal District

Rev. J. Edgar Boyd, 5th Episcopal District

Rev. James Alexander, 6th Episcopal District

Ms. Misbrew L. Times, 7th Episcopal District

Ms. Darlene Gordon, 8th Episcopal District

Rev. Albert Hyce, 9th Episcopal District

Ms. Valentine Merchant, 10th Episcopal District

Rev. Dr. Marvin Zanders, 11th Episcopal District

Rev. Larry Banks, 12th Episcopal District

Mr. Nicholas Dean, 13th Episcopal District

Ms. Souhila Kilby, 14th Episcopal District

Rev. Gertrude Komani, 15th Episcopal District

Ms. Jenell Davis, 16th Episcopal District

Mrs. Amy Zawe-Sikazwe, 17th Episcopal District

Rev. F. D. M. Rafube, 18th Episcopal District

Mrs. Ntombizodwa Alida Thula, 19th Episcopal District

Mrs. Passion Musa, 20th Episcopal District

No At-Large Members

Connectional Women In Ministry Executive Board

Rev. Kimberly L. Detherage, Esq., President

Rev. Carolyn Habersham, First Vice President

Rev. Francine Brookins, Esq., Second Vice President

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, Third Vice President

Rev. Dr. Betty Deas Clark, General Secretary

Rev. Dr. Monica L. Spencer, Corresponding Secretary

Rev. Tyronda Howse Burgess, Financial Secretary

Rev. Cynthia L. Harvin, Treasurer

Rev. Pamela Rivera, Worship Director

Rev. Lola S. Gresham Russell, Herstoryographer

Presiding Elder Paulina Mokhosi, Central/Southern Africa Coordinator

Consultants

Rev. Sandra Smith Blair

Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Grant-Collier

Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown



Bishop Clement W. Fugh

Chairperson, Commission on Women in Ministry

July 6, 2016

Where has the time gone?

The challenge, as we chronicle *The 2012-2016 Quadrennial Acts of AME-WIM* is what do we include, for there have been so many. We began the Quadrennial in 2012 with the election of the Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry- Brown, member and consultant to AME-WIM, to the office of Historiographer and Executive Director of the Department of Research and Scholarship of the AME Church.

In the Summer of 2013, at the invitation of Bishop Sarah Frances Davis (126), the General Board and the Council of Bishops convened for the first time in over a quarter of a century in a territory outside of the North America mainland, when we met on the Island of Jamaica for Bishop Davis' investiture as President of the Council of Bishops. Regrettably her tenure was short due to her passing in November of that same year.

AME-WIM, in 2014, demonstrated the spirit and resilience of Bishop Sarah Davis, when the AME-WIM Convention convened in North Charleston, SC. The meeting was phenomenal in every respect. It brought together Women Bishops from the three predominantly African American Methodist Denominations – AME Zion, CME, and AME – to participate in the teaching, the preaching, and the strategizing on mutual causes. Also, the Quadrennial Convention initiated *The Bishop Sarah Frances Davis Mission Possible Award: Influencing the World for Christ, Living the Great Commission*.

The Late Dr. A. Lewis Williams, Editor of The Christian Recorder, often said, “The measure of the health of the Church is revealed in the quality of persons who offer themselves for service.” The truth of that saying is borne out when we peruse the roster of AME-WIM who are offering themselves for consideration for service on the Judicial Council, as General Officers, and as Bishops.

Finally, what more fitting culmination is there to a banner Quadrennial for AME-WIM than for General Conference to posthumously observe the ordination of Jarena Lee?

To AME-WIM leadership, membership and supporters, I say congratulations, and thanks for the opportunity to sojourn with you during this season.

Sincerely,

Clement W. Fugh
Chair, Commission on Women in Ministry





Reverend Kimberly L. Detherage, Esq.

Connectional President, Women in Ministry

July 6, 2016

Greetings in the Precious Name of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ!

It is hard to believe that 2016 is already here. It seems just a short while ago, I was elected in 2008, to serve as Connectional President of AME/Women in Ministry and in 2012 re-elected to serve for another quadrennium. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Connectional President of AME/Women in Ministry during these eight years. I firmly believe that God has blessed us as an organization and has allowed a shift to take place within the AME Church with respect to the presence, authority, role and leadership of women in ministry.

It has been our goal from the beginning to strengthen the internal structure and focus of AME/WIM, increase communications, maintain fiscal accountability, increase membership, and fulfill our mission and purpose as stated in the Doctrine and Discipline, and our perception as an organization within the church at large. I believe we have done that as an Executive Board. We started out establishing our presence with an interactive website which became a vehicle for increased communication, created a relevant denominational AME/Women in Ministry logo, began monthly Executive Board meetings and bimonthly meetings with District Presidents via teleconference, and then we utilized social media and a newsletter that provided information and news with respect to the organization. We also utilized technology to conduct surveys and obtain information and financially contributed to various projects. We became more visible as an organization across the Connection, consulted, interpreted by-laws, provided support, held two quadrennial conferences and visited the Districts and attended all connectional meetings including CONVO, General Board and Bishops' Council Meetings. We have instituted informational and educational webinars around the Connectional Church and have increased our membership of organized AME/WIM by 50%.

During my eight year tenure we have hosted our Jarena Lee Appreciation Awards Prayer Breakfast annually honoring those persons who have made contributions to women in ministry, and to the church. In 2010 at the Quadrennial Conference we established the Sarah Frances Davis Mission Possible Award in memory of the late Bishop Sarah Frances Davis who died in 2009.

One of our major accomplishments has been the establishment of a Report Card. For the first time we have statistical data from many of the Districts on the Annual Conference level of the percentages of women in ministry, women in leadership positions, the participation of women in workshops, worship services and committees as well as the percentage of women in the itinerancy

and the local ministry. It is the first time where comprehensive statistics using the Annual Conference roll call, the Annual Conference minutes and individual recorders have been compiled to obtain statistical data on the church.

One of our goals was to assist, empower and educate women in ministry. To that end our 2008-2012 quadrennial theme was: *Navigating the Space Between Call and Response-Stewardship of our Finances, Physical and Spiritual Self Care, Interpersonal Relationships and Institutional Relationships*. It was an opportunity for women to begin to think about their call, the ways in which they responded to the call, and the navigation of their calling by God through the AME Church and community at large. In 2012 -2016 our theme has been *Positioned to Lead: Take thou Authority*, utilizing 1 Corinthians 9:1-2 (MB). It was our intent that women in ministry walk in the authority of their ordination and call by God to aspire to leadership within the AME church and begin to position themselves for the office or leadership role they desire to attain. We believed that is was important for women in ministry to know that they too have been called by God to be leaders on every level of the church. In the 200th anniversary of the existence of the church gender inequality has gone on far too long. It is a sin for which the church must repent.

In 2010 we celebrated at our quadrennial conference the 50th anniversary of the right to full ordination of women in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

I could go on and on. There has been much that we have accomplished, and goals that we have not yet fully realized. Despite the accomplishments and growth, we still have far to go. Our hope is that women in ministry within the African Methodist Episcopal Church will ultimately receive parity in the structure and ministry of the church. It is not about competition-men against women, it is not about taking over or taking someone else's position, it is not about the subjugation of one group over another. Our work and ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church is about partnership. Men and women, sisters and brothers equally sharing and working together to build God's Kingdom, serve humankind and spread the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ.

I thank God for having provided me with the opportunity to serve the women and men of a dynamic, growing and wonderful organization such as AME/Women in Ministry. My prayer is that we will continue to grow, continue to love and serve, continue to continue to keep God in the forefront of all that we do and work to make our Zion a better place and our people whole within the body of Christ. I thank God for our Commission Chair, Bishop Clement Fugh and his support of AME/ Women in Ministry, the Executive Board and the Consultants, the District Presidents and Coordinators for their tireless work and dedication to the work and ministry of AME/WIM.

May God continue to bless and keep you!

Grace and Peace,

Kimberly L. Detherage

Rev. Kimberly L. Detherage, Esq.
Connectional President



2012-2016 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

As developed on September 20-21, 2012 - Atlanta, GA

Theme: “Positioned to Lead: Take Thou Authority”

1 Corinthians 9:1-2 (Message Bible)

And don't tell me that I have no authority to write like this. I'm perfectly free to do this— isn't that obvious? Haven't I been given a job to do? Wasn't I commissioned to this work in a face-to-face meeting with Jesus, our Master? Aren't you yourselves proof of the good work that I've done for the Master? Even if no one else admits the authority of my commission, you can't deny it. Why, my work with you is living proof of my authority!

Overall Objective : To change the face of the church by creating opportunities that enhance, encourage, support, educate and expand the presence and leadership of women in ministry. There were five objectives: 1) : To prepare and equip women in ministry to lead, influence and create change; 2) To improve communication through the use of technology; 3) To advance the financial viability of WIM; 4) To increase membership and 5) To support women in ministry in the AME Church and incorporating and sustaining the Jarena Lee Foundation.



2012-2016 HIGHLIGHTS OF CONNECTIONAL ACTIVITY

This Quadrennial Connectional AME/WIM set goals and worked to strengthen the internal structure and focus of AME/WIM through:

Support

- ◆ Provided support and written submissions to the *AME Church Review*, edited by Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown, the AMEC Historiographer/Executive Director, Department of Research and Scholarship.
- ◆ Published an AME/WIM Quadrennial Anthology of Women in Ministry (herstories, biographies, writings, and accomplishments)
- ◆ Supported the 100th Birthday of the Rev. Dorothy Millicent Stephens Morris of the 16th Episcopal District (Guyana), the first woman Presiding Elder appointed in the AMEC. President Detherage attended the celebration in August 2012. A resolution was passed at the 2012 General Conference commemorating her ministry and legacy.
- ◆ Assisted the Episcopal Districts with the interpretation of the By-Laws and issues with respect to AME/WIM.

Advocacy/Leading, Influencing and Creating Change

- ◆ Advocated for the posthumous ordination of Evangelist Jarena Lee, the first woman licensed to preach in the A.M.E. Church. At the General Board Meeting held in Philadelphia, PA on April 6, 2016, the Council of Bishops voted to posthumously ordain Jarena Lee at the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference in 2016.
- ◆ Attended National Action Network 25th Anniversary Conference on April 15, 2016. Connectional President Kimberly L. Detherage invited to participate in panel discussion regarding the Appalling Silence of the Clergy on social issues in reference to Dr. Martin Luther King's Letter from the Birmingham Jail.
- ◆ Sought to ensure the participation of women in conference planning and presentation.
- ◆ Sought to ensure the appointment of women to key committees and to churches with over 200 members.
- ◆ In December 2013 at the General Board Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, AME/WIM and the Commission on Women in Ministry made the following recommendations which were adopted by the Board:
 - 1) That the AME Church, through its Bishops and Presiding Elders, be intentional in considering the educational background and experience of all clergy, in particular women, as they make Pastoral assignments and recommendations for persons to serve: in the delegation to the General Conference; on the General Board; and on District and Annual Conference Committees such as Board of Examiners, Board of Trustees, Ministerial Efficiency & Judiciary & Finance committees. (Presently, women clergy are underrepresented in leadership.)
 - 2) That the AME Church, through its Bishops and Presiding Elders, be intentional about including women in ministry as worship participants, workshop presenters,

teachers and trainers at Episcopal District, Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District conferences and events.

- ◆ In June 2015 at the General Board Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia AME/WIM and the Commission on Women in Ministry made the following recommendations which were adopted by the Board:
 1. That the General Board recommends to the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference a resolution offered by AME / WIM to posthumously elect and ordain Jarena Lee, an itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
 2. That for the remainder of the Annual Conferences, the Annual Conferences be intentional with respect to parity and equity in the election of women as ministerial delegates.
 3. Local Elders comprise approximately 60% of all women in ministry. We recommend that (1) women who meet the age requirement be encouraged to pursue the itinerant track (2) local ministers and persons who serve as supply pastors, who are pastoring a congregation a year or more, should receive full benefits.
 4. AME Women in Ministry recommends and whole heartedly support the election of women to the Episcopacy in 2016. As we head toward the 50th session of the General Conference to be held in Philadelphia, PA we support the letter of Dr. Jayme Coleman Williams, dated May 15, 2015, for the need of more women on the Bench of Bishops. The bench of Bishops should never be devoid of women. It is estimated that women in ministry throughout the Connection comprise 46% of all ministers and women comprise over 80-85% of the congregations of our Zion. We have five women running and six positions that are open for the election of Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Parity and justice demands that women be given their rightful position and place on the Bench. It would truly be a tragedy if the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 2016, the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the church, failed to elect women to the Episcopacy. God created us all male and female to do God's work.
- ◆ Submitted legislation to the 2012 General Conference increasing the age limit for persons seeking itinerant ordination. We celebrate the decision to increase the age for itinerant ordination to 60 years; and to allow qualified persons (who were previously restricted to local ordination status because of their age) to apply for itinerant status providing all other standards have been met. This new change, along with the retroactive status adjustment has a positive effect on women in ministry.
- ◆ During the 2012 General Conference several changes to the AME/WIM Bylaws were adopted. The most notable change is that the position of the District President is now an elected and not an appointed position. In the past, a Bishop could appoint the WIM District President and her appointment was approved by members of the organization. Under the new law, members of WIM must elect the President in order for her to hold office.

Financial Stewardship

- ◆ In 2016, AME/WIM donated \$2,500.00 toward the building of the Jarena Lee Chapel at AME University, in the John H. Bryant Seminary in Liberia, West Africa
- ◆ As the reward recipient of ***The Bishop Sarah Frances Davis Mission Possible Award: Influencing the World for Christ, Living the Great Commission***, Presiding Elder Beatrice Menlor received a \$3,000.00 donation toward the purchase of a truck to assist her in her travels throughout Liberia. Previously Rev. Menlor walked 20 plus miles to visit her churches.
- ◆ Maintained Fiscal Accountability: During this time of economic instability throughout the world, the Executive Board continues to recognize that our budget priorities will be based upon a commitment to conserve our limited funds through a multi-level approach:
 - ◆ a) Limiting travel expenses by holding teleconferences on a monthly basis;
 - ◆ b) Limiting fundraising requests;
 - ◆ c) Increasing the number in dues paying members; and
 - ◆ d) Solicitation of donated services.

Meetings & Events

- ◆ The **AME/WIM Quadrennial Conference- August 7-9, 2014 in Charleston, S.C.** at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center. The theme was *Mission Possible - Positioned to Lead: Take Thou Authority (I Corinthians 9:1-2, MSG)*. More than 300 persons attended the conference. **We celebrated the legacy and ministry of Bishop Sarah Frances Davis.** All of the living **women bishops in the Black Methodist denominations** were present as preachers/presenters for the conference-Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry, Bishop Bonnie Hines AME ZION, and Bishop Teresa Snorton CME Church. For the first time, portions of the conference were available to members connectionally through live streaming.
- ◆ This Quadrennial year, the recipients for the Jarena Lee Appreciation Awards were:
 - ◆ **Bishop Sarah Francis Davis, Presiding Prelate, 16th District**
 - ◆ **Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath -13th Episcopal District**
 - ◆ **Supervisor Claytie Davis -16th Episcopal District**
 - ◆ **Rev. Dr. Miriam Burnett, M.D. - 1st Episcopal District**
 - ◆ **Rev. Francine Angelique Nelson Brookins, Esq, 5th District**
 - ◆ **Presiding Elder Ida Willis Keener, 10th District**
 - ◆ **Mrs. Mary Edity Moody, 8th District**
 - ◆ **Sister Misbrew L. Times -7th Episcopal District**
- ◆ In 2016 The Connectional AME/WIM Presidential Award was established.

Organizing & Membership

- ◆ Beginning in 2014, gathered statistics from the Episcopal Districts to create a **Report Card** on the status of women in leadership positions within the church. Thus far, two Report cards were created for the years 2014-15 and the 2015-2016.
- ◆ Organized a candidates' forum to provide AME/WIM members and others in the clergy and lay with an opportunity to ask relevant questions of the candidates seeking election at 2012 General Conference.

- ◆ Held face to face meetings of the Executive Board and Consultants twice a year.
- ◆ Held monthly meetings of the Executive Board and Consultants via teleconference.
- ◆ Attended all General Board/Bishop Council and CONVO Meetings.
- ◆ Increased visibility of AME/WIM Executive Board. Members of Executive Board more visible at connectional and local meetings and in the visitation of the Districts throughout the Connectional Church.
- ◆ Increased in dues paying membership from 2012-2016 by 50 percent.
- ◆ Launched the first open database for AME ministers on the AME/WIM website that allows all women in ministry to input information on their education, ordination status and type, field of ministry, vocation, and accomplishments. This database is expected to not only serve as a statistical tool, but is expected to become a resource on the AME/WIM website from which others may be able to identify and conduct research on the past and current talent pool among AME/ WIM.
- ◆ Continued herstoriological data collection through our website registration process and highlights in the weekly E-blast. Women's History Month in March featured outstanding AME/WIM who are writing their herstories, April was mentoring month and May featured graduates who shared their educative journeys. Some of the women featured or contributing to these highlights include:
 - ◆ President Leah Gaskin Fitchue, Ed.D. (Payne Theological Seminary),
 - ◆ Presiding Elder Anne Henning Byfield
 - ◆ Chaplain (Captain-USAF) Tara Dixon, Ph.D.
 - ◆ The Rev. Dr. Katurah York Cooper
 - ◆ The Rev. Andrea Cornett-Scott
 - ◆ The Rev. Jeannine Smalls
 - ◆ The Rev. Dr. Joan Wilkerson Stewart (deceased)
 - ◆ The Rev. Dr. Verlie A. Horton
 - ◆ The Rev. Dr. Judith Moore
 - ◆ The Rev. Toni Belin Ingram
 - ◆ The Rev. Cassandra Marcus
 - ◆ The Rev. Francine A. Brookins, Esq.
 - ◆ The Rev. Sabrenia Smallwood
 - ◆ The Rev. Dr. Erika Crawford
 - ◆ The Rev. Sherice Simmons and
 - ◆ The Rev. Angela Christina Bullock

Communication

- ◆ Continued viability through the AME/WIM interactive website which provides a vehicle for timely and improved communication with the membership, reduced snail mail costs, improved organizational visibility and created an evergreen web presence product on the background, leadership, events, daily inspiration messages and history of AME WIM. Active engagement through the use of social media through the AME/WIM Facebook site. The use of this media tool continues to serve as a source of support for AME/WIM. As of May 1, 2016 there were 1,560 members on the AME/WIM Facebook page. Members are predominantly AME/WIM, but also includes female laity and a few male supporters.
- ◆ Established *Weekly Around the Connection* Electronic News Blast – *The Around the*

Connection E-Blast began on Dec 25, 2012 with a Christmas greeting from our Connectional President and since then we have regularly communicated with AME/WIM members and supporters. To date we are actively communicating with over 2,556 persons across the connection sharing news such as bereavement notices; congratulations for ordination, graduations, appointments and special achievements; and the stories of women in African Methodism. Additionally, we use the communication to promote and pray for AME/WIM events taking place around the connection and any news germane to AME/WIM members.

- ◆ Created a denominationally relevant AME/Women in Ministry logo designed by James M. Detherage, copyright 2009.
- ◆ Published a sold-out book of articles about Women in Ministry using the Quadrennial Theme *Navigating the Space Between Call & Response: Stewardship of Finances, Physical and Spiritual Self Care, Interpersonal Relationships and Institutional Relationships*. The book is currently being edited for a second edition.
- ◆ Enhanced pro-active communications with District Presidents and the Executive Board through regular bi-monthly and monthly teleconferencing.
- ◆ Instituted and held informational and educational webinars for AME/WIM members and the general church.

TOWARDS THE FUTURE

- ◆ For the first time, the elections will be by electronic balloting at the 2016 General Conference. In addition, for the first time, all women eligible to vote will be certified prior to the Elections at the General Conference.
- We are continuing to gather statistical data through the Report Card which was compiled in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 and our data base and research of AME/WIM. We look forward to sharing 2015-2016 results soon.
- ◆ Prepared legislation for the 2016 General Conference.
- ◆ Provided resources, interpretation and clarification of by-laws to women in ministry throughout the Episcopal Districts.
- ◆ Amended Bylaws to clarify roles, responsibilities and timelines.
- ◆ Submitted legislation intended to clarify eligibility for service as a delegate to the General Conference and to restore democracy to voting process for the election of the same.
- ◆ Collaborated with others who submitted legislation having a positive impact on Women in Ministry such as clarification of the role and accountability of Exhorters and persons with Local Orders.
- ◆ The General Board adopted two separate policies of inclusion at the last session, and we look forward to participating in creating change with legislation at the General Conference in 2016. While some do not agree that we should attempt to legislate morality, we find inspiration in the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his address to Western Michigan University on December 18, 1963:

Now the other myth that gets around is the idea that legislation cannot really solve the problem and that it has no great role to play in this period of social change because you've got to change the heart and you can't change the heart through legislation. You can't legislate morals. The job must be done through education and religion. Well, there's half-truth involved here. Certainly, if the problem is to be solved then in the final sense, hearts must be changed. Religion and education must play a great role in changing the heart. But we must go on to say that while it may be true that morality cannot be legislated, behavior can be regulated. It may be true that the law cannot change the heart but it can restrain the heartless. It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me but it can keep him from lynching me and I think that is pretty important, also. So there is a need for executive orders. There is a need for judicial decrees. There is a need for civil rights legislation on the local scale within states and on the national scale from the federal government.

Financial Report

A.M.E. Connectional Women in Ministry Quadrennial Finance Report June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2016

Reverend Cynthia S. Harvin, Treasurer
Reverend Tyronda H. Burgess, Financial Secretary

	Year 1 6/1/12 - 5/31/13	Year 2 6/1/13 - 5/31/14	Year 3 6/1/14 - 5/31/15	Year 4 6/1/15 - 4/30/16	Quadrennial Total
INCOME					
Connectional Allocation	\$ 13,210.00	\$ 14,280.00	\$ 14,280.00	\$ 13,090.00	\$ 54,860.00
Connectional Dues	\$ 19,900.00	\$ 11,670.00	\$ 35,251.00	\$ 15,996.20	\$ 82,817.20
Quadrennial Conference	\$ -	\$ 21,447.25	\$ 55,261.51	\$ -	\$ 76,708.76
Jarena Lee Breakfast	\$ 22,660.00	\$ 45.00	\$ -	\$ 5,697.66	\$ 28,402.66
Public Offerings Received	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,668.00	\$ -	\$ 2,668.00
T-Shirt/Pin Sales	\$ 1,360.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 450.00	\$ 1,810.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 57,130.00	\$ 47,442.25	\$ 107,460.51	\$ 35,233.86	\$ 247,266.62
EXPENSES					
Travel	\$ 32,995.27	\$ 16,757.34	\$ 28,984.38	\$ 18,022.87	\$ 96,759.86
General Conference Booth	\$ 932.37	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 932.37
General Conference Expense	\$ 9,362.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,140.00	\$ 11,502.00
Jarena Lee Breakfast	\$ 18,446.26	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,266.71	\$ 21,712.97
Quadrennial Conference - 2014	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 63,539.39	\$ -	\$ 64,539.39
Benevolence	\$ 1,335.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 8,085.00
Banking Fees	\$ 40.20	\$ 36.00	\$ 155.99	\$ 18.00	\$ 250.19
General & Administrative Expense	\$ 619.41	\$ 830.62	\$ 1,823.85	\$ 468.73	\$ 3,742.61
Registration Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Public Offerings Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,100.00
Printing	\$ 194.63	\$ -	\$ 553.90	\$ 112.67	\$ 861.20
Marketing/Premium/T-Shirt/Pins	\$ 5,440.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,381.00	\$ 7,821.50
Honoraria - Public Worship	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 74,965.64	\$ 18,223.96	\$ 97,007.51	\$ 33,209.98	\$ 223,407.09
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ (17,835.64)	\$ 29,218.29	\$ 10,453.00	\$ 2,023.88	\$ 23,859.53



THE ELECTION OF WOMEN TO THE BENCH IN 2016

For over 200 years, the African Methodist Episcopal Church has stood as the vanguard for justice, reconciliation and liberation. “#Blacklivesmatter” is the clarion call that has emanated throughout our church and we find ourselves being challenged to affirm all lives, not only black and male. We cannot demand parity from others and then, as an institution, fail to embrace and extend it. We cannot fight racism, and yet embrace and perpetuate sexism.

At the 2016 General Conference, the African Methodist Episcopal Church has the opportunity to affirm all lives by supporting and electing women to the Bench of Bishops. Our Zion must be intentional in addressing this wonderful opportunity to extend parity and equity.

In 2010, Connectional AME/Women in Ministry hosted its Quadrennial Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania commemorating the 50th Anniversary of women in ministry obtaining full ordination as Itinerant Elders in the African Methodist Episcopal Church enacted at the 1960 General Conference in Los Angeles, California. The ability of women to be ordained as Itinerant Elders in the African Methodist Episcopal Church opened up many doors and opportunities and allowed women to be eligible to run for the highest office in our Zion, the Episcopacy. Full ordination allowed women to serve in churches as pastors and not just supply them.

In Annual Conferences following the 1960 General Conference, women were ordained Itinerant Elders in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Four years later, Rev. Carrie Hooper from the First Episcopal District, New York Conference ran for the office of Bishop in 1964 and was not elected. A woman of endurance and perseverance, she officially ran for the office of the Episcopacy six times. She is quoted by the Rev. Dr. D. Albert Turk and the late Rev. Harold Rutherford, Presiding Elder, “that she was running not just for herself, but for every woman that comes after her, opening the door and paving the way.” In 1984 the second woman to run for Bishop was Rev. Elizabeth Scott who in 1988, was joined by Louise Harris. In 1992, Rev. Scott was joined by Louise Harris, Gloria Barrett and Delores Pennerman Jacobs. In 1996, Rev. Carolyn Tyler Guidry (now a retired Bishop of the church) joined Gloria Barrett and Elizabeth Scott for the run for the Episcopacy.

It wasn't until the year 2000 that the first female Bishop, Rev. Vashti Murphy McKenzie was elected and consecrated in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In that year, two women ran for Bishop: Rev. Carolyn Tyler Guidry, Presiding Elder, and Rev. Vashti Murphy McKenzie.* “Open the Door to Women.” was the motto that AME/WIM used and promoted into lapel pins. That “Door” was opened by the Holy Spirit; and propelled by the untiring efforts of Dr. Jayme Coleman Williams, the support of clergy and lay working together; and the utilization of electronic balloting for voting. On July 11, 2000 Bishop McKenzie won on the second ballot, with the second highest number of votes (847) as the 117th Bishop of the church.

In 2004, Presiding Elder Carolyn Tyler Guidry, Rev. Deborah Grant, Rev. Dr. Eraina Marie Ross Aseme and Rev. Sarah Frances Davis ran for the office of Bishop.* The motto of the Conference was "Keep the Door Open." In 2004, Rev. Carolyn Tyler Guidry with 776 votes and was elected the 122nd Bishop of the church. In addition, on the third ballot Sarah Frances Davis with 716 votes was elected the 126th Bishop of the church. After, this historic General Conference 2 additional women were seated on the Bench of Bishops.

In 2008, Rev. Diane Burl and the Rev. Dr. Ann Lightner Fuller ran for the Episcopacy but were unsuccessful in their bids. In 2012 Bishop Guidry retired due to the mandatory age requirement and on November 9, 2013 Bishop Sarah Frances Davis transitioned from labor to reward. To date, Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, (who retires in 2020), is the only active female Bishop in our church.

In one year, we head to Philadelphia for the 50th General Conference and the 200th Anniversary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. With six vacancies on the bench, the time is now to affirm all lives and let go of draconian, demeaning and sexist attitudes. Connectional AME/Women in Ministry advocates for the election of women to the bench in 2016 and as long as the AME Church exists. The bench should never be devoid of women. We wholeheartedly support the letter of Dr. Jayme Coleman Williams, dated May 15, 2015 regarding the need of more women on the Bench of Bishops and never should the bench be devoid of women.

In support of Dr. Jayme Coleman Williams, the bench must reflect the church and should always have females serving. Never again should the Bench of Bishops be vacant of women. It is estimated that women in ministry throughout the connection comprise 46% of all ministers and women comprise over 80-85% of the congregations of our Zion. There are six seats that are open for the election of Bishops in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. **To date, five women are running as candidates: Rev. Dr. E. Anne Henning-Byfield, Presiding Elder, Rev. Francine Brookins, Esq., Rev. Dr. Katurah Cooper, Rev. Cecelia Greene Barr, and Rev. Elizabeth Yates, Presiding Elder.**

As we look toward the future of our church the Executive Board of AME/WIM fully supports the election of women to the Episcopacy in 2016. Parity and justice demand that women be given their rightful position and place on the Bench. It would truly be a tragedy if the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 2016, the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the church, failed to elect women to the Episcopacy. God created us all male and female to do God's work. It's time to swing the door wide open!

* Please note, we may not have included all the women who ran for Bishop in the years from 1988 to the present. If we have left anyone out please contact us so that we can have the information for our records.



In Memory and Celebration of
Bishop Sarah Frances Taylor Davis



February 4, 1948 - November 9, 2013
The 126th Elected and Consecrated Bishop of the
African Methodist Episcopal Church

MISSION POSSIBLE

Positioned to Lead: Take Thou Authority



On November 9, 2013, Bishop Sarah Frances Taylor Davis passed away and the African Methodist Episcopal Church lost a great compassionate leader, prayer warrior, champion, advocate, and woman in ministry. Bishop Sarah Frances Taylor Davis inspired thousands of AME's, both men and women, clergy and laity. In our overwhelmingly patriarchal and political environment, she was a particular inspiration to Women in Ministry who have historically struggled to make bricks without straw. In June 2013, in Jamaica, West Indies she was Invested as the President of the Bishops' Council. Her Investiture theme: MISSION POSSIBLE (Luke 18:27—*What is impossible with man is possible with God*), was also her life theme. In honor of her legacy, AME/Women in Ministry dedicated our Quadrennial Conference in August 2014 in Charleston, South Carolina to the mission and ministry of the late Bishop Sarah Frances Davis. Our theme was *Mission Possible-Positioned to Lead: Take Thou Authority*. As Women in Ministry take our authority to lead, we recognize that Bishop Davis' life bears witness for us that the MISSION IS POSSIBLE.

AME/Women in Ministry also established the: **Bishop Sarah Frances Taylor Davis Mission Possible Award: Influencing the World for Christ, Living the Great Commission.**

Background and Purpose

Bishop Sarah Frances Taylor Davis, the 126th elected and consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was an active member of AME/WIM. She served on the Executive Board of AME/WIM as Financial Secretary and as the Chairperson of the Commission on Women in Ministry from 2004-2008. As Chairperson, Bishop Sarah's leadership provided the Board an opportunity to examine its ministry and its mission as women in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

On November 9, of 2013 Bishop Sarah transitioned from earth to reward. AME/WIM desires to honor her legacy through the Bishop Sarah Frances Davis Mission Possible Award: *Influencing the World for Christ: Living the Great Commission*. The award will be given to current member(s) of AME/WIM at its quadrennial conference based upon available funds and the selection of the awardee(s) by the current AME/WIM Executive Board.

Criteria for Selection

The Bishop Sarah Frances Davis Mission Possible Award, (*Influencing the World for Christ: Living the Great Commission*) recognizes a African Methodist Episcopal Church woman in ministry who over the course of her ministry life's work has made a significant contribution to either church, community and profession. Her lifework should represent exemplary service and accomplishments in the area of Prayer, Discipleship, Leadership, Education, Missions, Mentoring and/or Justice. Therefore, the awardees contributions will demonstrate a lifetime commitment to the ideology of Bishop Sarah Frances Davis and a dedication to the advancement of women in ministry.

The first recipient of the award was Rev. Beatrice Menlor, Presiding Elder of the 14th Episcopal District, Liberia Conference. Presiding Elder Menlor has been pastoring for over 20 years. She started over 19 churches of which she now presides as the Presiding Elder. Oftentimes, she travels by foot to her charges sometimes walking a distance of over 20 miles. She has many daughters and sons in the ministry. She models the work of missions, leadership and discipleship and demonstrates a lifetime commitment to the development of the AME Church and the ideology of Bishop Davis and the advancement of women in ministry.

We were honored and privileged to have with us Supervisor Claytie Davis who flew in from Texas for the presentation and honoring of the Bishop Sarah Frances Taylor Davis Mission Possible Award.

The award was presented at our Friday evening Service of Commitment & Surrender on August 8, 2014 at St. Peters A.M.E. Church in North Charleston, South Carolina where the Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kennedy is the pastor. Rev. Kimberly L. Detherage, Esq., the Connectional President preached the sermon of surrender entitled, "ALL." Mark 10:17-31. Following the sermon of surrender the Commitment to Lead and take our authority as women of God, the Blessing and altar call solidified a night of surrender, release, and commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Connectional AME Women in Ministry

Census Data and Annual Conference Leadership

2014-2015 Annual Statistical Report Card Summary

At the June 2013 General Board Meeting the Commission on Women in Ministry through AME/WIM, recommended to the General Board that a tool be developed to gather and report statistical data on the parity of Women in Ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The General Board approved the recommendation and an AME Women in Ministry Statistical Report Card was compiled for 2014-2015. In addition, data was collected for the 2015-2016 year and the findings will be published at a later date.

Each Episcopal District President, Coordinators and officers of the Districts were trained in the collection and compilation of the data included in the Annual Statistical Report Card. The data collected was based on the Annual Conference Roll Call, Conference Leadership and Committee Membership. (Data was not consistently collected on the number of women who preached Annual sermons or sermons during the Annual Conference.) In our initial report we received reports from seven out of 20 Districts: the First Episcopal District, the Second Episcopal District, the Third Episcopal District, the Fifth Episcopal District, the Eighth Episcopal District, the Ninth District, and the Thirteenth Episcopal District. (No global Districts reported).

A summary of the data received in 2014/2015 indicated that 48 percent of all clergy are Women in Ministry and 31 percent of pastors are AME/WIM. The data also indicated that the majority of clergy holding a license to preach in the AME Church are Women in Ministry and that 51 percent being admitted on trial are AME/WIM. The data also indicates that a majority of those holding local ordinations (Deacon and Elder) are Women in Ministry. The trend toward local ministry, rather than itinerant ministry, for Women in Ministry is of particular concern to AME/WIM and requires additional research into the reasons for women pursuing the local ordination path. (Currently, local ordination precludes certain career paths and benefits for clergy within the AME Church)

Women in Ministry comprised in 2014-2015 48 percent of all clergy. Twelve percent were Presiding Elders, 18 percent served on the Finance Committee, 29 percent on the Ministerial Efficiency Committee, 27% on the Board of Examiners and 19 percent served on the Conference Board of Trustees.

While this report is not exhaustive, we believe that it is a start on the collection of data in determining the status of women in the AME Church and the parity of women in leadership positions throughout the denomination.

The Annual Statistical Report Card is on file with AME/WIM and the archives of the Historiographer and Director of Research and Scholarship for viewing.

CONNECTIONAL STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ 1 Woman Bishop on the Council of Bishops (plus one retired Woman Bishop). Bishop Sarah Frances Davis died on November 9, 2013
- ◆ 44 Women in 19 of the 20 Episcopal Districts are actively serving as Presiding Elders in the African Methodist Episcopal Church There are over 300 total Presiding Elders.
- ◆ 4,472 Women in Ministry in the AMEC (Includes Itinerants, Locals, Licensed Evangelists and Exhorters, Licentiates and Superannuates)
- ◆ 21% of ordained Women in Ministry are local deacons and elders

ONGOING STATISTICS FOR AME/WIM

The first open database for AME ministers on the AME/WIM website was initiated in December 2011. This database is an online vehicle that allows all Women in Ministry to enter information regarding their education, ordination status and type, field of ministry, vocation, and accomplishments. In addition to this database, various measurement and statistical instruments are in place to record the journey of women in ministry across the connection.

This is a summary of what the website data tells us:

- ⇒ 49 Percent of Women in Ministry are Bi-vocational
- ⇒ 70 Percent are ordained as Itinerants
- ⇒ 10 Percent are ordained as Locals
- ⇒ 15 Percent are Licentiates
- ⇒ 5 Percent are Exhorters, Evangelists
- ⇒ 49 Percent grew up in the AMEC
- ⇒ 60 Percent are seminary graduates

Number of Women in Ministry

EPISCOPAL DISTRICT STATISTICAL DATA

Episcopal District	2016					
	Itinerants	Locals	Licensed Evangelists/Exhorters	Licentiates	Total	Pastors
1 st District	270	136	108	35	632	130
2 nd District	481	191	35	127	844	149
3 rd District	82	60	9	16	168	60
4 th District	169	24	17	31	241	74
5 th District	202	90	18	24	335	68
6 th District	304	69	2	23	398	138
7 th District	187	181		32	420	139
8 th District	125	25	7	20	204	60
9 th District	82	22	2	16	128	50
10 th District	167	35	12	24	256	56
11 th District	271	81	23	49	413	115
12 th District	52	9	4	7	88	52
13 th District	122	10	10	15	225	50
14 th District	34	3	0	3	40	
16 th District	25	5		11	68	20
20 th District	10			4	14	10
TOTAL	2,583	939	247	436	4,471	1,189

*Data reported by District of the number and category of women in ministry as of May 15,2016

* As of May 15, 2016 the following Districts have not reported: 15th, 17th,18th and 19th.

- ❖ 12th – U.S. District with the highest percentage of WIM who pastor (57%),
3rd (37%), 6th (36%) – 26% overall for the connection
- ❖ 20th – Global District with the highest percentage of WIM who pastor (71%),
14th (48%), 16th (29%)
- ❖ 1st - District with largest number of licensed exhorters/evangelists (108),
2nd (35), 11th (23)
- ❖ 2nd - District with largest number of WIM (844), 2nd (632), 11th (413)

ACTIVE FEMALE PRESIDING ELDERS

In 1973 The Reverend Dorothy Millicent Stephens Morris was appointed by Bishop Frederick H. Talbot to the Guyana-Suriname Annual Conference in the 16th Episcopal District. Since her appointment as the first female Presiding Elder in the AME Church, 54 other females have been appointed to that office. At present, 44 female Presiding Elders are in active service in 19 of the 20 Episcopal Districts, constituting approximately 8% of the Presiding Elders currently holding appointment in the AME Connection.

1st District

- ◆ Rev. Dr. Henrietta Scott Fullard
- ◆ Rev. Betty L. Furbert-Woolridge
- ◆ Rev. Jocelyn Hart
- ◆ Rev. Janet J. Sturdivant

2nd District

- ◆ Rev. Evelyn Gail Dunn

3rd District

- ◆ Rev. Dr. Betty W. Holley
- ◆ Rev. Melanie Valentine

4th District

- ◆ Rev. Dr. E. Anne Henning Byfield
- ◆ Rev. Sarah Abraham
- ◆ Rev. Tracey Thomas

5th District

- ◆ Rev. Darlene Singer Smith
- ◆ Rev. Frances T. Cary

6th District

- ◆ Rev. Jacqueline D. Smith
- ◆ Rev. Millie Rambeau
- ◆ Rev. Catherine Mathis

7th District

- ◆ Rev. Rosalyn Grant Coleman
- ◆ Rev. Judy McCoppin Richardson
- ◆ Rev. Charmaine Ragin

8th District

- Rev. Michele Goodloe
- Rev. Gwendolyn E. Snearl

9th District

- Rev. Jacquelyn L. Denson
- Rev. Letitia W. Watford

10th District

- Rev. Dr. Ida Willis Keener (longest active PE)
- Rev. Dr. Ella McDonald
- Rev. Brenda Beckford Payne

11th District

- Rev. Elizabeth E. Yates
- Rev. Valarie J. Walker
- Rev. Joyce J. Moore

12th District

- Rev. Dr. Mary V. Williams

13th District

- Rev. Linda F. Thomas-Martin

14th District

- Rev. Margaret Fadehan
- Rev. Beatrice Menlor
- Rev. Mary Doe Asare
- Rev. Rosaline Barnes

15th District

- Rev. Tamara Zukiswa Mvubu
- Rev. Gertrude N. Komani

16th District

- None

17th District

- Rev. Agnes Makwaza
- Rev. Grace Nanyiza

18th District

- Rev. Mapeete Pauline Mokhosi
- Rev. Nomsa Mary Nxumalo
- Rev. Florina Dlukula

19th District

- Rev. Dibetu Onicah Leepo

20th District

- Rev. Nontokoko Khumalo
- Rev. Rosetta Swinton

AME/WIM EPISCOPAL DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

We acknowledge with deepest appreciation the dedication and contribution of the District Presidents who make the work of AME/WIM throughout the Connection possible. This year has been one of re-organization, including the election of new officers.

Rev. Dr. Emihygail A. Dill, 1st District President

The First District AMEWIM continues to commit herself to growth corporately and individually amongst the many women ministers in our district. Our impact is felt throughout our churches and in our surrounding communities and it is our prayer that we continue to operate in God's authority as we endeavor to do God's will. Some of the highlights from this quadrennial include:

- ◆ Increased attendance at our District and Conference AME/WIM meetings and WIM membership growth at all levels.
- ◆ District Meeting sessions featuring women at all stages in pastoral ministry ("Herstory: An Interactive Panel on Women in Ministry," "A Spotlight on Authors," "Reflections from Our Connectional WIM," and "A Conversation with the Bishop.")
- ◆ Twelve female delegates and twenty-seven female alternates elected for the 2016 General Conference. WIM were also included in the leadership of several committees in preparation for the upcoming General Conference and in other leadership roles throughout the District.
- ◆ Annual Celebration of Women in Ministry who have reached significant ministerial outcomes.
- ◆ Annual Women in Ministry Summits held.
- ◆ Lenten Devotionals published using submissions from women in ministry from all seven conferences.
- ◆ The First District AMEWIM contributed to the "Maintaining the Miracle" project of refurbishing the First Episcopal District Headquarters by furnishing one of the administrative offices. We also purchased a brick for the Richard Allen Memorial Courtyard.
- ◆ We are completing a video documentary on the Rev. Lillian Frier-Webb which chronicles her journey as one of the first females ordained to the itinerant ministry and her contribution as a former Connectional WIM President.

We are thankful for the leadership of Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram and Rev. Dr. Jessica Ingram who continue to support WIM, and elevate and include women in the leadership of the district.

Rev. Dr. Joan L. Wharton, 2nd District President

SEDWIM during this quadrennial has been effective and engaged. Some highlights include:

- ♦ A seminar entitled “MNISTRY, MONEY MATTERS AND MORE.” The behavioral purpose for this whole experience was that ALL WIM would leave this component better equipped, empowered and energized to understand and manage their personal, family and church money. We also addressed “Positioning Churches for Financial Success and Understanding Why We Pay Assessments.
- ♦ A SHOWCASE of talents, gifts and skills of the clergy women.
- ♦ A Trunk Show was held which involved business women, entrepreneurs, authors, poets, play-writers, movie produces, songwriters, chefs, craftswomen, seamstresses, etc.
- ♦ A forum on Getting Ready for the General Conference: *Body, Mind and Spirit and the Legislative Process.*
- ♦ We sponsored a three-month challenge weight loss event and a dialogue on being *The Best You.*
- ♦ We held a Prayed Out for Nigerian Abducted Girls; the Grand Jury’s failure to Indict Officer Darren Wilson for shooting unarmed African American teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri on August 9, 2014.
- ♦ The SEDWIM also supported the National Wear Red Day for Women’s Heath and Heat Awareness around The Call: The Heart and Soul of the Black Woman.
- ♦ The SEDWIM saluted Our Mother in Ministry – The Rev. Jarena Lee - A Model of Excellence, Example and Encouragement.

Rev. Louise Jackson, 3rd District President

Our quadrennial highlights are as follows:

- ♦ *Much Prayer – Much Power.* The Third District has an awesome “Prayer and Encouragement Ministry” headed by Rev. Barbara Baccus.
- ♦ The Third District WIM retreat was held August 28-29, 2015. The WIM connectional theme became our theme, “Positioned to lead: Take Thou Authority.” Rev. Dr. Melonie Valentine, Presiding Elder of the Dayton District, preached the opening retreat sermon entitled, “Drink the Water, but not the Kool-Aid.” Rev. Dr. Betty Holley, Presiding Elder, Columbus-Springfield-Xenia Districts, presented a workshop on leadership – “How Do We Prepare Ourselves For Leadership”, and Rev. Louise V. Jackson, Third District WIM President presented a workshop entitled, “Leading Up – Leaders Leading Leaders.”
- ♦ WIM Night Out – Third District hosted a night of fun and laughter to aid in tearing down walls between the various conferences.
- ♦ WIM Support Ministry – Third District WIM continue to support members in the pastorate and to help women become successful pastors and ministers by being present at special services for financial and spiritual support. The Third District

WIM is not only organized at the Conference Level but also at the Presiding Elder District level.

- ◆ Delegates to the General Conference – Leadership retreats were held in all conferences and eleven women were elected as delegates and twelve women were elected as alternates to the General Conference.

Rev. Lila Martin, 4th District President

The Fourth Episcopal District WIM have spent the past quadrennial working on ourselves by preparing for the best ministry possible. Highlights include:

- ◆ Each year at our District Planning meeting and Mid-Year meeting we were presented workshops on such topics as "Emotional and Spiritual Wellness", "Your Health Matters", "How to Preserve Our Mental Health" and "Steps to Building Your Personal Self Care Plan".
- ◆ We have also supported many of the activities of the Fourth District financially, the most recent being the "Water for Flint Michigan" and Camp Joy for the children of Flint to attend our Camp Baber.
- ◆ Each conference has special activities that they do to recognize their WIM, for example: Michigan WIM have a Spring Revival and a Fall Luncheon honoring various women and presenting scholarships to assist the women in Seminary.

Rev. Carolyn Baskin- Bell, 5th District President

The Fifth District Women in Ministry led the following:

- ◆ Leadership Training Workshops led by President Baskin-Bell which focused on Love Leadership and began each Executive Board Meeting with a meditation addressing the Quad theme presented by an Executive Board member.
- ◆ Prayer Breakfast, Coordinated by First Vice, President, Rev. Mercedes Tudy Hamilton, at Midyear Convocation with over 100 participants joining in a "Call to Corporate Prayer.
- ◆ Prayer Phone Calls prior to every Annual Conference was led by the District Worship Leader, Rev. Dr. Cassandra Gould to encourage WIM.
- ◆ Sistering Session led by Rev. Joyce Kitchen and follow-up Practicums were held to strengthen relationships between WIM.
- ◆ Mentoring Session led by Presiding Elder Shermella Garret (Retired) .
- ◆ Herstoryographer, Reverend Gayle Jones Lockhart compiled District Newsletter to celebrate the accomplishments and report the news of WIM.
- ◆ Marjorie Casson Scholarship which honors a trailblazer in Fifth District WIM by awarding two scholarships to members in Seminary.

Rev. Velma Grant, 6th District President

Women in Ministry of the Sixth Episcopal District first would like to express appreciation to Bishop Preston W. Williams, II, and Supervisor Wilma Delores Webb Williams for the appointment of two additional female presiding elders (Presiding Elder Catherine Mathis and Millie Rambeau) who now serve with Presiding Elder Jacqueline Smith. The first female assigned to the Sixth District as a Presiding Elder, Ella Mae Samuels has retired from that office. There have been a number of appointments of women in key pastoral positions as well as a record number of delegates and alternates who will represent the Sixth Episcopal District at the upcoming 2016 General Conference.

While we mourned the death of several women in ministry, we celebrated the educational achievements of those who graduated from seminary with M.Div. Degrees as well as those who have received the Doctor of Ministry Degree. In December 2015, the Sixth District WIM hosted in Macon, Georgia, the 2015 Ministry Summit, “Walking, Praying, and Working Together in Ministry!” Although there were many challenges during the quadrennial, the Sixth Episcopal District Women in Ministry are dedicated women who are ready and willing to serve God and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. Jeannine R. Smalls, 7th District President

The Seventh Episcopal District under the leadership of Bishop Richard Franklin Norris has experienced much growth and success over the past four years. The following is a highlight of those victories:

- ◆ Implemented a membership drive which increased WIM Membership by 53%.
- ◆ Bishop Norris allowed WIM to be responsible for the noon day worship at each annual conference on the Wednesday after the opening session, where a woman delivered the messages.
- ◆ Successfully hosted the WIM Quadrennial Connectional Meeting at the Embassy Suites in Charleston, SC.
- ◆ We celebrate the forming of the WIM 50 voices choir which performed for the WIM Quadrennial Connectional Meeting.
- ◆ In collaboration with the Ministers Spouses and PK's, WIM planned and implemented four annual WIM Retreats. The “Retreat 2016” featured Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry who led the group in workshop sessions entitled, “At the Well” and preached the opening and closing message. The number of persons registered for this year’s retreat was three times more than in previous years.
- ◆ We lost three promising female clergy persons in the Emanuel Nine Tragedy. (Rev. Sharonda Singleton, Rev. Myra Thompson, and Lic. Depayne Doctor). Their death was not in vain as it triggered the removal of the Confederate Flag from the top of the State House Dome, and prompted various movements across the state for unity. What was meant for evil, God will turn into good.

- ◆ WIM contributed over \$40,000.00 to Allen University and \$2000.00 toward the restoration of Chappelle Auditorium.
- ◆ Several women received advanced doctoral degrees across the district.
- ◆ Several women were assigned to major pulpits by Bishop Norris, including one to Mother Emanuel in Charleston, SC.

Rev. Leoda Topps, 8th District President

Greetings on behalf of the 8th Episcopal District Women in Ministry. The WIM of the 8th Episcopal District have truly been blessed and busy during this quadrennial year. The Moody-Cherry Boyd legacy scholarship banquet was established. During this banquet we take time to recognize the WIM for their dedication and hard work. Not only do we recognize 8th District WIM, we use this as an opportunity to recognize and fellowship with our sisters from other denominations. The WIM are attending colleges and seminaries to prepare and equip themselves for the ministry they have been called into. We have WIM in the district serving as Deans of the Board of Examiners, preaching the opening sermon at annual conferences, and serving on numerous committees during annual conferences. The 8th district WIM would like to congratulate the Rev. Gwendolyn E. Snearl on being appointed Presiding Elder of the Alexandria-Thibodaux District, of the Central North Louisiana Conference. We would also like to extend congratulations to the Rev. Dr. Glenell Lee-Pruitt on being appointed 8th Episcopal District Christian Education Director. The 8th Episcopal District had six WIM to be elected as delegates to the General Conference and four WIM alternate delegates to the General Conference.

The 8th Episcopal District WIM have labored outside the walls of the church with various outreach ministries to spread the gospel and be a blessing to others. We are seeking God's guidance for our lives and praying that as we grow our service for the Lord will bring others to Christ and glory to his name.

Rev. Dr. Mary Hudson, 9th District President

We give thanks and praise to God almighty for the privilege to serve this present age under the leadership of our esteemed Bishop James L. Davis. The 9th Episcopal District Women in Ministry have experienced a historic year.

We maintain the goals and objectives of the Connectional Women in Ministry and strive to remain diligent in the support of our Episcopal Leadership. Women in ministry are actively involved across the state of Alabama and making a mentionable difference in the life of the church and community.

For spiritual renewal, relaxation and bonding as sisters, the 9th Episcopal District WIM Post Resurrection Event was held in the form of a Retreat at Camp in Wetumpka, Alabama. All

who attended reported renewed energy, insight as well as opportunity to extend service to others, with particular emphasis on sponsoring children to share in a week of activities in the same Christian camp during the summer months.

Many of our WIM are enrolled in seminary seeking their M.Div. and D.Min. We are happy to report that the 9th District has two female Presiding Elders: the Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Denson and the Rev. Dr. Letitia Watford.

We applaud the Conference Coordinators, Officers and all members of WIM who participated through your prayers, support and financial contributions for a successful year of ministry. Thanks to our Servant Leader, Bishop James L. Davis for the opportunity to serve.

Rev. Benita Hill, 10th District President

The Tenth Episcopal District WIM hosted several female candidates running for Episcopal Service, prayed for them, and provided each a love offering. We honored our theological graduates with flowers and a reception. We raised funds to assist Doctoral students traveling out of state with meals and one night lodging. Our newly appointed Presiding Elder, the Rev. Brenda Payne shared her journey and how to be the best you can be in ministry without reservations or regrets. Every Founder's Day we honored Jarena Lee by celebrating each women's gift and grace to the body of Christ with roses and a reception. We recognize and encourage one another in the service and work of ministry. And, every Friday morning, 6:00 to 6:30 Central, the District WIM are in prayer, please join us at (712) 432-0375 code 207718.

Rev. Bettye J. Watson, 11th District President

To God be the Glory, WIM in the district were able to continue our project of helping supply the Harbor House located in Orlando, FL, a home where persons may live while visiting a sick relative in a connecting hospital. WIM has continue to contribute financial to the Episcopal district Nehemiah project which aide churches within the district with repairs. As a district we have continued our SOS Project (Supporting Our Sisters) with moral and financial supports, workshops were conducted on self-care, mind, body and soul as well as leadership. To God Be All the Glory! Other highlights include:

- ◆ Bishop A. J. Richardson giving Women in Ministry the Monday of each annual conference. On this day each conference held training on various topic to help in our work as pastors, luncheons to honor WIM making a difference within our district.
- ◆ Within the district each annual conference WIM shared in quarterly worship services we named SOS... Supporting Our Sisters, a service is held, the monies collected is left at the sister's church to help with budget and other needs.
- ◆ We have also supported and provided aid for Domestic Violent Shelters.

Rev. Dr. Janie Dowdy-Dandridge, 13th District President

Each Annual conference within the 13th Episcopal District had their perspective conference events:

- ♦ The East Tennessee Annual Conference had a Praise Celebration Luncheon, Dr. Janie Dandridge was the speaker.
- ♦ The Kentucky Annual Conference held an Annual Women in Ministry Retreat, The Western Kentucky Conference shared in their Annual Prayer Breakfast.
- ♦ Rev. Barbara led the 13th Episcopal District prayer line each Wednesday throughout the year. Women in Ministry in our district participated in the Church Growth and Evangelism Conference. At the Midyear and Bishop's planning meeting we held our District meetings. We worked on our District budgets for the 2012-2016 Quadrennial. As the District President I traveled to all the conferences to offer support as this was an election year of delegates to the General Conference. The 13th Episcopal District is proud to announce we had 10 women elected as delegates and 12 women elected as alternates.

Presiding Margaret Fadehan, 14th District

Held first 14th District WIM Convention & Meeting on the 20th August 2015 in Monrovia, Liberia. We also elected our first 14th District WIM Executive Board. We presented a resolution at the 14th District conclave on educational advancement initiatives for the conferences & presiding elder districts through collaboration with AMEU & Bryant Theological Seminary.

Rev. Fanny Banda, 20th District President

We are organizing the Women of our Episcopal District and are now beginning to work together to strengthen Women in Ministry in the 20th District. We look forward to growing and receiving help from other Districts.



In Loving Memory of our Sisters



The Rev. Sharonda Coleman -Singleton



The Rev. Depayne Middleton-Doctor



Licentiate Myra Thomson

And the remaining "Charleston Nine" of Mother Emmanuel AMEC, Charleston, S.C. who were killed in the line of Christian duty on Wednesday, June 17, 2015.

The Rev. Clementa Pinckney, Pastor; the Rev. Daniel "Super" Simmons, Sr., Sister Cynthia Hurd, Sister Susie Jackson, Sister Ethel Lance, and Brother Tywanza Sanders.

President Detherage spoke at the funeral services of Rev. Coleman-Singleton; an Opinion Editorial was written for the New York Amsterdam News and AME/WIM were present during the services. The Rev. Betty Deas Clark, AME/WIM Recording Secretary, is now the pastor of Mother Emmanuel.

