

**Virginia Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**

**Convening at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel**

**Norfolk, Virginia**

**June 20, 2017- June 25, 2017**



**Conference Theme: “The Freedom Church: Refocusing on our Purpose”**

**Rev. Dr. Vincent Jones, Presiding Elder – Newport News District**  
**Rev. Kenneth W. Crowder, Sr., Presiding Elder - Norfolk District**  
**Rev. T. Kenneth Venable, Presiding Elder – Petersburg District**

**Sister Devieta Moore, Missionary Supervisor**  
**The Right Rev. W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate**

## **Pre-Conference Activities (Lay Council Convocation)**

1PM – Brother Hurley Daye led the opening worship followed by the welcome from Sister Carlee Cash. The Stoling Ceremony was led by Sister Katherine Burrell, Regional Director Mid Atlantic Lay Council. The Lay Council President, Brother William English gave his report of Lay Activities for the past year. He lifted up the fact that Sister Debretta Pulliam, President of the Petersburg District Lay Council was called home during the past conference year....*though she is gone, her works do follow her*. Reports for the Conference and each district were distributed to the Laity. Sister Glenda Wright offered a motion to accept the report of the Lay Council President; seconded by Sister Florence Brown and the motion was carried. Brother English introduced the speaker for the Lay Convocation, Sister Velina Glenn. Her focus was on Stewardship which is going to help our church to grow. She received a round of applause following her presentation.

Election of Officers was led by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Arrington, Lay Advisor:

President – Brother William English  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Sister Carlee Cash  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Glenda Wright  
Secretary – Sister Florence Brown  
Financial Secretary – Sister Regina Rivera  
Treasurer – Sister Paula DeBerry  
Chaplain – Brother Hurley Daye

Officers were called to the front and Dr. Arrington gave them words of encouragement and wanted them to know that they have our support as they go forth in this new Conference year.

## **The Candidates Speak (Lay Council Convention will convene in July, Knoxville, TN)**

1. Sister Cynthia White is seeking the office of Treasurer of the Connectional Lay Council. She believes she has been called by God to serve in this position. She gave her qualifications to serve in this role.
2. Sister Katherine Burrell is seeking the office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Connectional Lay Council. She is known by her works. She speaks victory over herself while still climbing toward her goal.

3. Sister Connie Bell Wright is seeking the office of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Connectional Lay Council to enhance the membership process with her prior experience with the computer data base.

Each candidate brought materials for distributions as it relates to their experience to serve in the various offices they are seeking. Closing remarks were given by Brother William English, Sister Katherine Burrell, Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Arrington and Bishop Darin Moore (presented by Presiding Elder T. Kenneth Venable). We prayed the Lay Council Closing Prayer.

### **Holy Communion Service**

The Ministers of the Virginia Conference processed into the sanctuary as we sang “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name.” The Greater Faith and St. Thomas Choirs provided the music for the Communion service. Rev. Dr. Kenneth Arrington served as the Worship Leader and led us in the Call to Worship and Invocation. We sang “Victory in Jesus” and Rev. Dr. Christopher Eason led the Responsive Reading. The scripture lesson was read by Rev. Brenda Jones and Rev. Dr. Geraldine Booth offered the Evening Prayer.

Rev. Dr. Arrington led us in the Apostle’s Creed as we reaffirmed our faith in God and the Christian Church, followed by two selections from Greater Faith Choir. Rev. Alma Coles Charles received the Ministry of Kindness offering and it was blessed with the offertory. Presiding Elder Kenneth Crowder presented Bishop W. Darin Moore who introduced the preacher for the Communion sermon, Rev. Dr. Rebecca Branch-Griffin. Her subject was “The Blood Makes the Difference” (Hebrews 9:22).

### **Sermon Highlights**

Before Jesus came we were locked into obeying the old rules of Law, but He came with a new and better way and now common folks don’t have to depend on a mediator we can now go boldly to the throne of grace. All because Jesus went into the Holies of Holy and sprinkled His blood on the Mercy Seat to cover our sins. It is indeed the blood that makes the difference.

The Finance Committee received the Communion Offering and it was blessed with the offertory. Bishop Moore was the Celebrant for the Communion Sacrament and the Presiding Elders were con-Celebrants. Bishop Moore provided some awesome teaching throughout the Communion service. At the conclusion of communion, we

sang “It Is Well” and fellowshiped with one another. Announcements were given and Dr. Branch-Griffin gave the closing prayer and benediction.

### **Wednesday Morning**

The morning devotion was led by the Evangelistic Team followed by greeting from Bishop Moore. He then introduced Rev. Dr. Vanessa Hicks, the morning bible Teacher. She taught on the Conference theme, “Refocusing on our Purpose.” In order to refocus our purpose, we must renew our passion, respect our ministry partners, recognize our power and revive our participation. There was great participation from the congregation. Bishop Moore gave additional teaching concerning the re-learning of making disciples. We can’t do it the same as we did it in the 50’s and 60’s.

#### **Rules Committee Report**

1. 1<sup>st</sup> five rows across the front will serve as the bar of the Conference.
2. We will follow the official program of the Annual Conference with the necessary changes per direction of the Bishop.
3. We will be governed by the Holy Bible and the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order.
4. All cell phones will be turned off or placed on vibrate during all sessions.
5. During our entire stay here, we will conduct ourselves in a manner that honor and glory to the God we represent.

Bishop Moore gave additional instructions as it relates to the manner in which we conduct ourselves. There are persons working here and who know we represent a church group. Rev. Dr. Joseph Lamb offered motion that the report of the Rules Committee be received and adopted; Rev. Dr. James McMillan seconded and the motion was carried.

### **Report of Credentials Committee**

#### **Newport News District Delegates**

Greater Walters - Dorothy Lattimore  
Zion Southampton - Mary Butts  
David Temple – Robert Smith, Sr.  
Mars Hill - Gloria Hollomon  
O’Berry – Phyllis Gray, Alt  
Beulah Land - Catherine Jordan

St. Mark - Sallie Person  
Hickory Grove - Marion Banks-Wiggins, Alt  
St. Luke – Cheryl Jackson  
Piney Grove – Beverly Jones  
St. Mary - Kathy Williams  
Walters Temple - Cynthia Forman  
Cuffee Chapel - Essie Ellis  
New Life - Ann Hammond

Presiding Elder Vincent Jones certified that the Delegates were duly elected

### **Petersburg District Delegates**

Blackwell Temple – Lynette Ragsdale  
Greater Faith – Jacqueline Kidd  
Hood Temple – Annette Braden  
Madison Temple – William Cooper  
Mt. Zion – Maxine Hicks  
New Covenant – Carroll Marshall  
Oak Street – Elizabeth Wilson  
Paradise – Gracie Hardy  
St. Paul – Mattie Walker  
Taylor’s Chapel – Doris Tisdale  
White Rock – Thomas Moseley  
Zion Chester – Faye Boisseau

Presiding Elder T. K. Venable certified the Delegates were duly elected. Blackwell Temple’s Delegate was not present

### **Norfolk District Delegates**

Metropolitan – Jannette White  
St. Thomas Norfolk – Cynthia White  
St. John – Adrienne Bradley  
Greater Metropolitan – Bryant Campbell  
Gabriel Chapel – Bridgette Mullen  
Brighton Rock – Pamela Litsey  
St. Joseph – Patricia Griffin  
Wesley Union – Elizabeth Evans  
Walton Grove – Natasha Bryant

Hood Chapel – Florence Brown  
Providence – Jodianne Loveless  
Sycamore Hill – Dorothy Beamon  
Red Oak Grove – Betty Stewart  
Gilmerton Star – Ray Barber  
New Foreman Temple – Mildred Brown  
St. Thomas Chesapeake – Chalaura Griffin

Presiding Elder Crowder certified that the delegates were duly elected.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Secretary – Rebecca Branch-Griffin  
Assistant Secretaries – Linda Stevenson, Adrienna Brooks, Velina Glenn  
Marshalls – Lloyd Griffin, Earl James, Joshua Walker  
Statistician – Geraldine Booth  
Assistant Statisticians – Sheryl Murdaugh, Linda Stevenson, Wilmers Williams  
Chief of Protocol and Aide to the Bishop – John Conwell  
Aide to the Missionary Supervisor – Sandra Crowder  
Musicians – Brandon Praileau and Romane Shelton  
Reporter – Montina Jones  
Administrative Assistant – Neicey Chapman  
Episcopal Director of Communication – Darin Kent

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Arrington offered a motion to receive the report of the Nominating Committee; seconded by Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins and the motion was carried.

Roll Call done by the Conference Secretary. Rev. Dr. Laura Brown has been suspended and will be notified of the same and given the opportunity to appeal. Bishop will meet with Bro. Alvin Fields. Other areas of the Conference Roll will be corrected.

Annual Conference 2018 – June 19-24 – Newport News District to host  
Annual Conference 2019 – June 20-25 – Petersburg District to host  
Annual Conference 2020 – June 20 -28 – Norfolk District to host

Presiding Elder Crowder offered a motion to receive the recommendations for the locations of the next 3 Annual Conferences; seconded by Rev. Brenda Jones and the motion was carried.

1st Check – Sept 9 – Oak Street  
2<sup>nd</sup> Check - December 9 – Metropolitan  
3<sup>rd</sup> Check – April 7 – Zion Southampton  
Joe Lamb, Chris Eason, motion carried

**Treasurers' Reports** (no vote needed to approve these reports without audit)

Ministry of Kindness – Rev. Alma Coles Charles  
Conference Report – Rev. Kenneth W. Crowder

Presiding Elder T. K. Venable nominated Rev. Alma Coles Charles as treasurer for Ministry of Kindness for the next Conference year; seconded by Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins seconded and the motion was carried.

Presiding Elder Vincent Jones nominated Presiding Elder Kenneth Crowder as Conference treasurer for the next year; seconded by Rev. Alphonso Griffin and the motion was carried.

Bishop Moore offered the name of Rev. Dr. Joseph Lamb to serve as treasurer for Quadrennial Fund. Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins offered a motion of the same; seconded by Rev. Dr. James McMillian and the motion was carried.

**Noonday Worship**

The Evangelistic Committee led the worship service. Bishop Moore introduced the noonday preacher, Rev. Juan Turns, pastor of Beulah Land AME Zion. We sang “Glory To His Name.” Rev. Turns preached an anointed sermon entitled “I Came Back to Say Thank You” (Luke 17:11-19).

**Sermon Highlights** - Only one of the ten persons whom God healed came back to say Lord I thank you! One was grateful enough for his healing to recognize the greatness of Jesus Christ. The other nine were busy celebrating that they no longer had the dreaded disease, leprosy.

Bishop Moore extended the invitation to Christian Discipleship and Rev. Tonya Pass offered the prayer. The finance Committee received the offering and it was blessed with the offertory. Announcements were given and Rev. Turns offered the benediction.

## **Episcopal Address**

The Evangelistic Committee opened the service with songs of praise and worship. Presiding Elder Vincent Jones presented the 99<sup>th</sup> Bishop in the line of succession in the AME Zion Church, The Right Rev. W. Darin Moore who gave the following soul stirring, anointed message:

*Greetings To Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, the Missionary Supervisor of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District and my partner in both life and ministry; to the Reverend Dr. Vincent M. Jones, Sr., Presiding Elder of the Newport News District, the Reverend Kenneth W. Crowder, Presiding Elder of the Norfolk District, the Reverend T. Kenneth Venable, Presiding Elder of the Petersburg District, ministers, delegates, and guests to this the 151st Session of the Virginia Annual Conference... I greet each of you in the only Name that ultimately matters; the Name of Jesus Christ!*

*Introduction It was June, 1979 during the New York Annual Conference, the Mother Conference of Zion Methodism, that I sat as a 19-year-old traveling minister in awe as I listened to the Sunday morning sermon by my bishop at the time, the Right Reverend Herbert Bell Shaw. There was no way for me to know it at the time, but that would be the last sermon I would hear Bishop Shaw preach because six months later, he would be called home to be with GOD.*

*Yet, thirty-eight years later, I stand as a bishop in the AME Zion Church, still inspired by his dynamic words. I cannot recall the entirety of the message that morning long ago, but I do recall the title and scripture text and I'd like to borrow them to establish the theme for this my first Episcopal Address to this Annual Conference. He preached; "Take Another Look" from 1 Kings 18:43. Please prayerfully reflect on the prophet's words:*

*Then he said to his servant, "Go and look out toward the sea." The servant went and looked, then returned to Elijah and said, "I didn't see anything." Seven times Elijah told him to go and look. (1 Kings 18:43 NLT)*

*There is a difference between eyesight and vision. Though eyesight and vision are related concepts, eyesight refers to clarity of images formed by our eyes whereas vision is what our eyes and brain make out of our surroundings, and this is dependent upon many other things apart from eyesight. Elijah's servant likely had 20/20 eyesight, but he lacked vision. Vision requires faith. Vision is the God-given ability to not only see what is there before your eyes, but the ability to see BEYOND what can be viewed with natural eyesight.*



*During the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference, the Board of Bishops presented our Quadrennial Theme - "The Freedom Church: Refocusing on Our Purpose, Reviewing Our Practices, Retooling Our People, Reaching Our Potential." We as a Conference and an Episcopal District will be emphasizing each component annually. This year we begin by challenging Zion as "The Freedom Church" to Refocus on Our Purpose.*

*Great leadership requires more than eyesight, it requires VISION. To simply look at issues facing the church and offer critique and commentary on all that's wrong requires no level of faith, no spiritual vitality, and no Christian maturity. Everybody has an opinion about what the church should be doing. However, great leaders see beyond what is wrong and articulate what GOD is up to and how we can get in the right position to fulfill His purpose for our lives. This requires us to see the truth of our current reality, in other words - to TAKE ANOTHER LOOK.*

*Take another look at the CULTURE:*

*One of the greatest challenges facing society in general and the church in particular is this attitude pervasive in the culture of individualistic autonomy, I call it; "cultural me-ism". We live in an I-focused generation. Technology has blessed us with convenience and unlimited possibilities, but has also burdened us with a false sense of independence. In times past, human interdependence was obvious as neighbors looked to one another for the latest happenings in town, the family dinner table was devoted to sharing activities of the day and planning for the next, and the church was the center of our community activities as well as the place of our worship, fellowship, and spiritual discipleship. Everyone was acutely aware that we needed one another to survive.*

*However, we currently live in a totally new reality. Ours is the most self-centered age in human history. Our music playlist is listened to with personal headphones on our iPods, while we access global information instantaneously on our iPhones, and watch our favorite sermon clips and movies on our iPads. And while no one would argue that a healthy selflove is essential for Christian maturity, we are slipping into idolatry when we imagine GOD as simply catering to our needs in a world where we are the center and everything revolves around us, our desires, and our comfort.*

*With the explosion of social media; Facebook, Twitter, texting, Instagram, and a number of other platforms, people are connecting around the globe. But in a strange irony, social psychologists say that while people have more social connections than*

*ever before, more people report experiencing loneliness than at any other time in human history. Just because a person has hundreds of likes on Instagram and thousands of friends on Facebook, that doesn't mean that they have any authentic, abiding friendships.*

*This reality has significant implications for both our theology and our ecclesiology. I'm deeply concerned by the number of preachers, including some within Zion, who have become intoxicated by the spirit of materialism and egoism that is endemic in the broader culture. As a result, they become prophets of a prosperity gospel and a human-centered Christianity, which are both antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The pulpit must never become a platform for our personal ego promotion. We still worship a Savior who said; "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." (Matt. 16:24)*

*Take another look at the CHURCH:*

*Every church will not be a large church, but every church should be a HEALTHY church, and healthy things GROW. Just as no individual Christian is identical, likewise, no single congregation is just like another; however, there are some universal truths about church renewal that if pastor and people are seriously committed to practicing Christian discipleship and experiencing spiritual growth these indicators will be present.*

*1. Passionate, authentic worship – Contemporary culture offers so many choices for people today that it's mind-boggling. The competition for people's time, attention, energy, and resources are innumerable. You no longer need to come to church to hear a sermon, engage in mission work, or connect with others who love the Lord; however, the one indispensable reality of the church is that it is the unique place where the community of faith gathers to worship JESUS CHRIST as LORD.*

*2. Serious, systematic study of Scripture – Our Methodist heritage is grounded in the affirmation by John Wesley; "Let me be homo unius libri." (A man of one book) In the midst of a preaching culture that majors in prosperity laden motivational speaking and a church culture that wallows in superficiality and trivia; The AME Zion Church must recapture and deepen the priority of solid biblical preaching, teaching, and living. Pastors, the genius of great preaching is to speak prophetically to the issues of today firmly grounded in Scripture and to deliver it with passion. If you don't get excited about what you preach, don't expect anyone else to get excited either. And to the laity, please explain to me what reasonable person believes it's*

*acceptable to hold a leadership position in the Church of Christ and never attend Bible Study or Sunday School? A pastor shouldn't have to insist on leaders studying the Bible together, members themselves ought to demand that anyone who wants to lead in our church must grow in the Word of GOD.*

*3. Outwardly focused ministry and radical hospitality. During my more than thirty nine years of ministry, I have found that churches in decline are churches that focus primarily inward. All of their meetings are dominated with in-house business, their budget is inwardly focused, and very little impact is made on the surrounding community. In fact, it's often a sad reality that if one were to walk a few blocks from some of our churches and talk with those in the neighborhood, many wouldn't be aware the church even existed. Look around at who's in the pews of your church. A church with vitality and longevity looks a lot like the community in which it's located. The church is not a social club for contented, comfortable, Christians. It is to be the community of believers where Jesus Christ is powerfully proclaimed, worship is dynamic, and these believers are compelled to work enthusiastically and fervently witness in and with their community seeking transformation.*

*My earnest prayer today is – May the church BE the Church!*

*Take another look at your CALLING:*

*The AME Zion Church is facing a famine of dynamic leadership. Don't get me wrong, we have plenty of people clamoring for leadership positions, and some of them are very good people. It's just that we have too many people seeking positions rather than pursuing purpose. Many simply want to hold the title of bishop, presiding elder, pastor, chairman, president, etc. but they have never stopped to inquire of the Lord whether that is their gift area and calling.*

*A leader can select from two fundamental yet diametrically opposed concepts of ministry. One type of leader seeks power and prestige eager to take from the ministry as many perks and privileges as possible. According to this mentality, the church exists to provide them a title, a job, status, and financial support.*

*Others have assumed a position of leadership seeking self-affirmation and gain. Andy Stanley has correctly asserted that; "Leaders don't look to fill their own cups, they look to empty them. Christian leadership has to be BEYOND YOU and not just ABOUT YOU. The true measure of great leadership is not how one is being treated,*

*how many members show you appreciation, or vote to support your latest, greatest vision; but rather whose life is better because you are there.*

*To my beloved laity: when I send a pastor to serve your congregation, please understand I am not sending him or her there to simply maintain the status quo. Christian Leadership is to be transformative, not complacent. Although change is difficult, it is essential. While change does involve risk, the greater risk is to NOT change. Healthy things grow; growing things change; change is a challenge; challenges help us trust GOD; trusting GOD makes us healthy; and healthy things grow (REPEAT).*

*And to my beloved pastors: please recall the admonition of Dr. Sam Chand, "Culture trumps vision." When the bishop hands you the appointment, it gives you the opportunity to become the pastor of that congregation, but it's no guarantee. You only truly become the pastor when people grow to trust you as their under-shepherd. No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care. When you are leading a congregation through transition, you must begin with education, not implementation. A wise leader begins by learning and loving their members before attempting to change what you don't understand. An effective leader will then invest the time and effort required to teach, train, and smoothly transition. Teaching that is based on solid scriptural principles and practical truths will help those who have receptive attitudes come to understand the necessity of the change. Training individuals on their specific roles, responsibilities, and expectations during and after the changes are implemented. And only then should the process of transition begin, moving the congregation into a new way of worshiping, working, and witnessing together.*

*All of us, clergy and laity alike need to be brutally honest with ourselves. Are we operating in our divine purpose, or are we just holding a position? Do we still have a burning passion to serve the Lord, or are we just holding on to the office because we don't know how to let go? Have we made an impact this past conference year? Is the work assigned to our hands stronger, better, more effective, or have we just barely maintained for another year? Who are we mentoring as our successors? Have we been intentional in training the next generation, or are we so insecure that we fear sharing with others the knowledge we've gained over the years?*

*Take another look at our CHRIST:*

*A little-known hymn by Charles Wesley entitled; "Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee" offers these words of prayer for the church:*

*“Make us of one heart and mind, gentle, courteous, and kind. Lowly, meek, in thought and word, altogether like our Lord. Let us for each other care, each the other’s burdens bear; to Thy church the pattern give. Show how true believers live.”*

*During my pre-teen years, I would go to church each Sunday with my grandmother. She had a consistent routine. Once she took her seat in the sanctuary she would bow her head and say a silent prayer, then lift her eyes as the worship service began. I recall the radiant look on her face as she gazed forward and upward. After worship one Sunday I asked her whether she was looking at the pastor in the pulpit, the usher at the front door, the officers on the front row, or the choir in the choir loft. She explained to me that although she saw all of them, she was looking at none of them. Rather, she was looking BEYOND them to see CHRIST in the midst of His CHURCH.*

*My grandmother taught me a powerful lesson in those days years ago. If we are to truly be the CHURCH we must see all that is around us, but must take another look. Look beyond the frustrations of those who play church; look beyond the aggravation of church politics and leaders with ego-driven motives; look beyond the stagnation of bureaucratic idiosyncrasies that often distract us from Kingdom priorities; and then take another look to behold the One who gave His all for you. Take another look to behold a Savior who loves us so much that He refuses to give up on us, although we are so quick to give up on one another. Take another look to behold our Lord who calls us to serve the Church He shed His blood for and to never take for granted the Church, His precious bride. Take another look at the One who you said; “I decided to follow Jesus. No turning back. No turning back. Take another look and behold your King!*

*As I journey through the land, singing as I go, Pointing souls to Calvary—to the crimson flow, Many arrows pierce my soul from without, within; But my Lord leads me on, through Him I must win.*

*When in service for my Lord dark may be the night, But I’ll cling more close to Him, He will give me light; Satan’s snares may vex my soul, turn my thoughts aside; But my Lord goes ahead, leads whate’er betide.*

*When in valleys low I look toward the mountain height, And behold my Savior there, leading in the fight, With a tender hand outstretched toward the valley low, Guiding me, I can see, as I onward go.*

*When before me billows rise from the mighty deep, Then my Lord directs my bark;  
He doth safely keep, And He leads me gently on through this world below; He's a  
real Friend to me, oh, I love Him so.*

*Chorus Oh, I want to see Him, look upon His face, There to sing forever of His  
saving grace; On the streets of glory let me lift my voice, Cares all past, home at  
last, ever to rejoice.*

*Respectfully submitted;*

*Your fellow servant of the Gospel,  
W. Darin Moore, 99th Bishop in line of succession of The African Methodist  
Episcopal Zion Church*

#### *ADDENDUM*

*RECOMMENDATIONS: ➤ Every pastor and lay leader, including Stewards,  
Trustees, and Class Leaders should read and study together "Five Practices of  
Fruitful Congregations" by Robert Schnase. ➤ I suggest that pastors consider Life  
Enrichment Classes or Ministries for their churches and invite persons from the  
community to participate. Examples would include but not be limited to: Marriage  
Ministry, Singles Ministry, Financial Management Workshops, Seniors Ministry,  
Health and Fitness Ministry, etc. ➤ We must practice Lifestyle Stewardship of our  
time, talents, temple, and treasure. As such, every church should encourage their  
members to tithe, to adopt healthy life habits (healthy eating and exercise), and to  
reduce financial indebtedness. ➤ Every church should have someone or a team of  
persons to spearhead Voter Education and "Get Out The Vote" efforts in their  
congregation.*

Presiding Elder Crowder offered a motion that we receive this episcopal address from our Bishop, The Right Reverend W. Darin Moore with thanksgiving; the congregation stood up and seconded the motion. Unreadiness by Rev. Dr. Medis Warren Cheek. The following persons offered remarks of appreciation for such an awesome word:

Rev. Dr. Medis Warren Cheek  
Bro. William English  
Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Arrington

Rev. Dr. James McMillian  
Rev. Dr. Joseph Lamb  
Rev. Dr. E. H. Whitley  
Rev. Alma Coles Charles  
Sis. Sandra Crowder  
Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins  
Bro. Lloyd Griffin  
Rev. Brenda Jones  
Rev. Clarencetine Jones

The notion was carried. Bishop Moore thanked the Virginia Conference for the overwhelming response to the episcopal address.

### **Presiding Elders' Reports**

Presiding Elder Vincent Jones of the Newport News District report gave his report in the form of a PowerPoint presentation of activities for the past year. Rev. Dr. Christopher Eason a motion to receive the Presiding Elder's awesome report with thanksgiving; seconded by Rev. Vanessa Hinton. Unreadiness was expressed by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Arrington and special presentations were given to the Presiding Elder and First Lady by Rev. Kenneth Zollicoffer. Rev. Carrie Seaborne presented Mrs. Montana Jones with a special gift from the Ministers' Wives Alliance. The motion was carried.

Presiding Elder Kenneth Venable of the Petersburg District's report was presented in the form of PowerPoint, giving an account of activities for his first year as Presiding Elder. Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins offered a motion to receive the Presiding Elder's report with thanksgiving; seconded by Rev. Sheryl Murdaugh. Unreadiness expressed by Rev. Alma Coles Charles. A special presentation was given to Rev. and Sis. Venable by Rev. Alma Charles and Sis. Joyce Thompson presented a gift to Sis. Venable from the Ministers' Wives. The motion was carried.

The Presiding Elder Kenneth Crowder of the Norfolk report was presented in the form of a PowerPoint. Rev. Sandi Hutchinson motion that the Norfolk district report be received, second by Rev. Adrienne Brooks. Unreadiness by Rev. Dr. Joseph Whitney. An honorarium of Appreciation was given to Rev. Kenneth Crowder. Andrea Warren presented a gift to Mrs. Crowder. Motion was carried.

Recognition of Guest:

Rev. Dr. Evalina Huggins, Presiding Elder - Baltimore District  
Rev. Scott Moore - Judah Temple - Upper Marlboro MD  
Rev. Mark Thomas - Contee AME Zion Church - Washington. D.C.  
Rev. Dr. Heath Cheek - Metropolitan Wesley AME Zion, Washington D.C.

Following announcements, Presiding Elder T. Kenneth Venable pronounced the benediction.

### **Ecumenical Worship**

Dr. Andrea Warren, President of the Norfolk District Ministers' Spouses presided during this service. The following persons participated:

Mr. Kenneth Alexander, Mayor of Norfolk, VA  
Elder Al Cooper, Pastor of Revelation Tabernacle COGIC  
Rev. John Burton, St. John AME Church  
Rev. Mark Whitaker, Asst. Pastor New Bethel Baptist Church

Following the service Bishop Moore gave remarks and offered the benediction.

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

ORGAN PRELUDE OR PIANO VOLUNTARY  
(The Congregation in Devout Meditation)

PRAISE & WORSHIP

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** God is calling you today.

*People:* Help us hear God's call in our lives.

**Leader:** God needs you gifts and graces to help others.

*People:* May we use the blessings which God has given us to benefit others

**Leader:** Come, let us worship and celebrate God's love for us.

**All:** Let us show our faithfulness in our words and actions. Amen

THE CHORAL RESPONSE            *"The Lord is in His Holy Temple"*

THE INVOCATION            (People Seated and Bowed)





Rev. David McClendon, St. James AME Zion – Salisbury, MD  
Rev. Dwayne Walker, Little Rock AME Zion – Charlotte, NC

THE BENEDICTION & Closing Prayer (People Seated and Bowed) Rev. Alphonso Griffin

THE CHORAL AMEN

## **Thursday AM**

The Evangelistic Committee led us in the songs and worship experience. Bishop Moore called for the pastors' reports of the Petersburg, Newport News District. Each pastor lifted up praise highlights and prayer requests. Because our Bible teacher is now in place and the Norfolk District will give their report later.

The Bible Study teacher is Rev. Dr. Marcus Sloan, Pastor of the New Calvary Baptist Church. He has a passion for lives being changed in a positive change. He taught on evangelism and witness (what faith does and how faith works). You can't just articulate the story of Jesus but you have to show others how salvation benefits them. He taught about the needs/pillars of the church:

1. Worship
2. Christian Education
3. Outreach
4. Youth

You do not have any delivering power, it comes from another source.....to God be the Glory. We are called to share our experience of the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Following Dr. Sloan's anointed teaching, Bishop Moore called for the Pastors' reports of the Norfolk District. He also used this time as a teaching moment for all the pastors as it related to pruning, changing and other areas. Rev. Dr. Christopher Eason moved that the reports of the Norfolk District be received with thanksgiving; seconded by Rev. Sheryl Murdaugh and the motion was carried.

## **Noonday Worship**

The Evangelistic Committee blessed with a brief medley of worship songs. Bishop Moore introduced the preacher for the noonday service, the Rev. Bristol Elliott, Pastor of the Providence AME Zion Church. The Conference Choir sang "On The Battlefield" and Rev. Elliott preached an anointed sermon entitled *I Still Made It Through*. (Daniel 3:23-27). *It's not how you go in but how you come out!* Rev.

Kenneth Zollicoffer extended the invitation to Christian Discipleship. The Finance Committee received the offering and it was blessed with the offertory. Announcements were given and guests greeted the conference. They were Rev. Arthur Holloway, Ohio Conference, Rev. David Elliot, Washington, DC, and Rev. Dr. Vernon Shannon, Washington, DC. Rev. Bristol Elliott offered the close prayer, grace and the benediction.

### **Afternoon Session**

The Evangelistic Committee opened with songs of praise. Bishop Moore introduced the presenter for School of the Prophets, Rev. Dr. Dwayne Walker, Pastor of Little Rock AME Zion Church in Charlotte, NC. He taught “Fundamentals of Our Faith” (The Apostle’s Creed). It included:

1. Origin of the Creed
2. Organization of the Creed
3. Orientation of the Creed

Following this anointed teaching, Bishop Moore called for the report of the Evangelism Committee from Rev. Yolanda Buck, Conference Director of Evangelism. She gave an account the labors. Her report included a panel discussion with a group of young people/young adults. It was an excellent dialogue exchange! Rev. Dr. Christopher Eason offered a motion to receive the evangelism report; it was seconded by Rev. Sheryl Murdaugh and the motion was carried.

Bishop Moore gave us a teaching moment that included five points for Christian Growth. They were:

1. Envision - spend the time to see what needs to be improved within the church organization.
2. Enlist - Thy rod and staff shall comfort me
3. Equip - Teaching and training
4. Encourage - Become a cheerleader for the people
5. Evaluate – Obtain feedback and listen

Lay Delegates Reports were given by each district, Petersburg, Newport News and Norfolk. A motion was made by Rev. Sheryl Murdaugh that the reports given by the Lay Delegates be received with thanks; seconded by Rev. Samuel Warren and the motion was carried. Bishop Moore asked all conference Evangelists to stand. He

then encouraged them to stay faithful in their service to God and at the right time God will place you where He wants you to be.

Sister Joyce Lamb gave an overview of the Home Missions Banquet for Saturday evening. Sister Alfreda Griffin gave an abbreviated report of finances and will give a full financial report once the final monies are collected. A motion was made by Presiding Elder Vincent Jones to receive the home mission treasurer report; seconded by Rev. Dr. Joseph Lamb and the motion was carried.

Rev. Leon Hutchison gave a brief report on Men of Zion and some of their activities for the past year. A workshop was conducted on the Norfolk District by local police off on how to men should act when pulled over by police and even if they are arrested.

Bishop Moore asked that men of the Virginia Conference mark their calendars for Aug10-12, 2017 to attend the Men of Zion Conference at the Kenneth Monroe Transformation center in Rock Hill, S.C. He also asked the women to courage the men to attend this great event.

Following announcements, Rev. Sheryl Murdaugh gave the closing prayer and benediction.

## **Christian Education**

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SERVICE WORSHIP LEADER: REV. ALMA COLES CHARLES

---

7:00 P.M.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Rv. Yolanda Buck "Hallelujah"

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

*"Doxology"*

THE INVOCATION

*(People Seated and Bowed)*

Lord, we gather here this day in praise and thanksgiving for all the wonderful things you have done for us. Help us to be faithful disciples in all that we think, do and say, that your great love may be revealed and offer healing to all people.

**AMEN.**

THE HYMN *"Praise Him, Praise Him, "*

THE RESPONSIVE READING Education Proverbs 2:1-10 (KJV) Rev. Katina Williams  
(Congregation Standing)

THE GLORIA PATRI (Congregation Standing)

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostle's Creed* Rev. Alma Charles

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Colossians 1:24-29 Mrs. Avelyn Chambers

THE CHORAL SELECTION

THE PRAYER Rev. Bettie  
Bradley

Selections: *"God's Grace" And "The Blood Still Work"* Hood Temple Choir

REPORT OF CONFERENCE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR Rev. Dr. Sandi B. Hutchinson

**AFTER THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT A MOTION WAS MADE BY SISTER VELINA GLENN TO RECEIVE THIS REPORT WITH THANKS; SECONDED BY REV. BARBARA MERRIWEATHER. UNREADINESS FROM REV. BETTIE BRADLEY IN THE FORM OF A HONORARIUM TO DR. SANDI HUTCHINSON AND THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.**

SELECTIONS: *"IF GOD BE FOR US IT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH"* GREATER WALTERS CHOIR  
*"WE GIVE YOU PRAISE"*

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER Bishop W. Darin Moore  
SELECTION: *"Thank You"* *"Hello God"* Kaneisha *"Nee Cee "* Trott

THE EDUCATION SERMON Rev. Dr. Gina M. Stewart  
Christ Missionary Baptist Church - Memphis, TN

2 Corinthians 4: 7 -10 *"It's In the DNA"*

*Rev. Stewart preached an anointed and powerful sermon! We have something on the inside, a treasurer in the Excellency of God. We may wobble but we won't fall down. At the end of the day God wants to demonstrate His power in our weakness! Every time the enemy thought we were down for the last count, we bounced back up again!*

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP – *Awesome anointing at the Altar!!*

THE INVITATIONAL HYMN *You Are My Strength*

THE MINISTRY OF GIVING/OFFERTORY PRAYER Bishop W. Darin Moore

## THE STOLING CEREMONY FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS

### Presentation of Stoles

Christian Education stoles represent the universal color of **Red** identifying the suffering of Jesus Christ and His blood given as a life predestined by our Father for the sins of the world.

**Blue** reminds us of the academic field of educators pointing to hope and sincerity. The lettering "A. C. E." depicts the component of the Christian Education

### Department

of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church known as the Assembly of Christian Educators. Through this division all training of Christian Education Directors at various levels is enhanced.

The Pledge (Below is the pledge to be taken by all persons receiving a stole.

Each person should be facing the altar)

### Bishop:

In as much as our Lord said, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," as Christian Educators, are you aware that you have come to this altar to dedicate yourself to truth,

teaching, and learning for self-first and then for sharing the same with others?

**Christian Educators:** Of this we are aware.

**Bishop:** (The Bishop holds up a stole here for the entire congregation to see.)

That this might be done in spirit and truth, we are gathered here, first to dedicate these Christian Education stoles as outward symbols of the commitment and responsibility each of you have chosen to exemplify. It is paramount that you understand that wearing of these stoles attest to the work of the Holy Spirit in you, around you, and through you. Wear these stoles to communicate to the world that

the God we serve is a living and loving God waiting to bring each into creation.

(Place stoles on persons.)

**Christian Educators:**

To the blessing of many who will be inspired through Christian Education services in which these stoles are worn, we will endeavor to do so in love for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Bishop:**

Let us combine our hearts and minds in unison by saying the Christian Education Worker's Prayer. (Christian Educators being installed shall face the altar).

Every member a Christian; every Christian a worker;  
Every worker trained; a worker that needeth not be  
ashamed; this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Bishop:**

(To those just installed) Face the congregation.

(To the congregation) *Please stand.*

Standing before you are Christian Educators of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church family, seeking your full support and cooperation as they continue in their commitment to do the will of God through educational ministry.

Will you pray for them?

**Congregation:** With God's help we will.

**Bishop:**

Will you commit yourself to training sessions initiated by Christian Educators for your personal, spiritual, physical, emotional and social growth?

**Congregation:** With God's grace we will.

**Bishop:**

To the best of your ability and resources will you support the Christian Education programs of our denomination?

**Congregation:** With God's mercy, we offer our best.

**Bishop/Elder:** Let us pray in unison:

O God, our Father, we come in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son Who is the "Word of Life", to commit our lives and our work to your service. We recognize that the dedication of these stoles will help us to remember whose we are and for whom and what we work. Help us to remember our roles as students and teachers, engaged in studying Thy Word. Challenge us, each time we study to





and “I Love To Praise Him.” The Scripture (Romans 12 :1-2) was read by Mrs. Elaine Logan and prayer was offered by Sister. Gracie Hardy.

The following are highlights of “the Missionary Supervisor Speaks.” She talked about Personal Transformation using as a scripture reference Galatians 5:22-23.

What Missionaries should wear:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self-Control

Following the Missionary Supervisor, Ms. Georgia Woodruff sang “A Change Has Come Over Me.” Missionary Supervisor Moore presented the speaker for the hour. Ms. Renee Pullen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of WH & OM Society. Her topic was “You Heard Your Calling, Are You Transforming Your Life?”

Following the W.H.& O.M. Society District Officers’ creative conference reports, Rev. Dr. Montana Jones offered a motion that the report of Virginia Conference Missionaries be received with thanksgiving; seconded by Sis. Dorothy Lattimore. Unreadiness expressed by the District Presidents and gifts were given to Sister Moore and Sister Rene Pullen. Motion was carried.

Visitors were acknowledged and they were Rev. Toni Joyner, Western NC Conference, Rev. Alvin and Sister Brenda Durant, Union Wesley in Washington DC and Mrs. Gwaltney, Mother and two sisters of Missionary Supervisor Moore. Following closing remarks, we repeated the Missionary Benediction.

### **Necrology Report**

The Evangelism Committee lead us in a brief medley of praise songs. Rev. Vanessa Hinton read the following names:

The 151st Session of the Virginia Conference  
Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  
Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate

To the Rt. Rev. W. Darin Moore and Mrs. Devita Moore, Presiding Elders, Pastors, Ministers, Delegates, Laity and guest of the 151<sup>st</sup> Session of the Virginia Conference.  
Greetings in the name of Jesus,

The Virginia Conference Necrology committee reports the transitioning of sixty-one souls out of a total of twenty-nine churches within the conference family of forty-three churches.

The Newport News District Necrology Report

Beulah Land A.M.E. Zion Church

Lorraine Brown

Greater Walters A.M.E. Zion Church

John Arthur Williams            Jacqueline A. Barnes  
Minnie Ross Turner

Mars Hill A.M.E. Zion Church

Wilbur Brown

New Life A.M.E. Zion Church

Freddie Lee James            Marie Stanley

St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church

Johnny Pope                    Sharon Gordon

St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church

Thelma Brown

Zion Southampton A.M.E. Zion Church

Virginia Morris

## The Petersburg District Necrology Report

### Blackwell Temple A. M. E. Zion Church

Deaconess Gladys Hargrove Alice Capers

### Greater Faith A.M.E. Zion Church

Lillian Mabry Mable Lee  
Parris W. Drake Debretta Pulliam

### Hood Temple A.M.E. Zion Church

Pansy Jackson Jeter	Samuel Oliver	Gregory Simmons
Camilla Conner	Lottie Thorpe	Ruby Clevert
Rev. Willie Mae Vincent	Betty Anderson	
Mary B. Chalmers	Doris B. Johnson	

### Madison Temple A.M.E. Zion Church

George Carrington Sr. Lucille Harris

### Oak Street A.M.E. Zion Church

Doris Blount

### St Paul A.M.E. Zion Church

Wayne Rowlett

### White Rock A.M.E. Zion Church

Rosa Drummond

### Zion Chester A.M.E. Zion Church

Juanita Webster Viola Oxendine  
Nollie West

## The Norfolk District Necrology Report

### Brighton Rock A.M.E. Zion Church

Helen Hampton

### Gabriel Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church

Belvin Roderick Cuffee, Sr. Namon S. Banks

### Greater Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church

Kathy Lewis

### Hood Chapel A.M.E. Zion (Norfolk) Church

Pearline Roulack

Hood Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church

Rev. Willis Hurdle                  Charles Hawkins

Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church

Erma Ferebee  
DeQuilla Winfield

New Foreman Temple A.M.E. Zion Church

Ella Louise Eason

Providence A.M.E. Zion Church

William M. Davis                  David Cook  
William Brown                  Lisa Boon

Red Oak Grove A.M.E. Zion Church

Fannie Freeman                  Vernest Herbert

St. John A.M.E. Zion Church

Leroy Riddick                  Charles Lycurgus Beamon

St. Joseph A.M.E. Zion Church

Mary Louise Wilson Griffin                  Pattie Louise Griffin

St. Thomas A.M.E. Zion , Norfolk Church

Ephraim Ferguson                  Sheila Butts  
Juanita Fuller                  Wanda Jordan

Walton Grove A.M.E. Zion Church

James "Buddy" Britt

Wesley Union A.M.E. Zion Church

Ester Marie Christian

Don't

Don't spend too much time in mourning,  
Those tears are for the sad.  
Our loved ones left to be with Jesus, and this  
Should make us glad.

Don't waste hours in grieving,  
No need for us to feel distress.  
They were tired of life's frustration, and  
Had to get some rest.

Now, let's not vex ourselves with questions, or try  
To reason why.  
Life here for them has ended,  
it came their time to die.

Don't lose the love they gave us; we must feed it with our care.  
We must grow it with devotion and spread it everywhere.  
Don't fret because their leaving came in such away.  
We'll have another meeting, in God's eternal Day.

Humbly Submitted,

Reverends Vanessa Hinton, Charles Turner, Dr. Joyce Brown, Johnny Warren, Clarence Cuffee,  
Donald Pollard, Samuel Buck, and Mrs. Avelyn Chambers

Charles Turner offered the Necrology Prayer. Bishop Moore introduced the preacher for the occasion, Rev. John D. Conwell, Pastor of Whit Rock AME Zion Church. The Evangelistic Choir sang "Going Up Yonder." Rev. Conwell preached a powerful sermon entitled "The Price of Moving Forward" (Philippians 3:1-14). We must have a personal relationship with God, obedience to the spirit and we must be humble. We cannot continue with the "Burger King" mentality. We cannot continue to do things the way we've always done. We must get up, move upward and move onward so we can be effective Christians.

As we sang "I decided to Make Jesus My Choice" the spirit moved though the congregation. Bishop Moore shared the importance of remembering the names of those who are no longer with us who poured into us. He then asked for a symbolic offering to remember those who have gone on before us. As we give, let's call out the name of one of our mentors. Bishop Moore received this offering, prayed a powerful prayer and it was blessed with the offertory. Announcements were given and Rev. John Conwell offered the closing prayer and benediction.

### **Afternoon Business Session**

The Evangelistic Committee opened with "He's An Awesome God" and "How Great Is Our God." Bishop Moore presented Rev. Dr. Dwayne Walker, Pastor of Little Rock AME Zion Church, Charlotte, NC for School of the Prophets. He continued the teaching on Fundamentals of Our Faith, The Apostle's Creed. Following this anointed teaching, Bishop Williams called for the following reports:

## **Social Concerns (Presented in PowerPoint) – Rev. Wilmers Williams**

This report is part of a booklet of reports prepared and given to each delegate for their churches at the beginning of this Annual Conference. Title: Healthcare in the Trump era. Recommendations were:

1. Become more involved with the election process
2. Churches to plan community outreach projects
3. Bring in professionals to educate membership so they can educate others
4. Get persons to the polls to vote

Rev. Andrea James offered a motion to receive and adopt the report; seconded by Rev. Vanessa Hinton. Unreadiness by Presiding Elder Kenneth Crowder as it relates to a statement in the report. Question answered and motion carried. Bishop Moore gave some additional information as it relates to this topic.

## **State of the Country – (PowerPoint) Rev. Dr. Audrey Jones**

This report is part of a booklet of reports prepared and given to each delegate for their churches at the beginning of this Annual Conference. Title: Voting, Unemployment, Physical Abuse and Policing from Both Sides (PowerPoint presentation). What to do when stopped by police:

1. Stay Calm
2. Listen carefully to officer's request
3. Keep hands visible at all times
4. Advise officer if you carry a concealed weapon
5. Do not have an attitude
6. Comply even if arrested; you will have time to file a complaint later

### **Recommendations**

1. Individual churches develop a specific plan for educating their members on the importance of voting, assist with eligibility requirements
2. Help members to understand that many issues can be resolved by exercising their right to vote and assist in getting them to the polls.
3. Individual churches determine ways in which they might address several issues by implementing a plan and reporting the results to their Presiding Elder for the purpose of sharing so others may replicate the plan.

Rev. Kenneth Zollicoffer offered a motion to accept the report and adopt the recommendations; seconded by Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins. Unreadiness by Rev. Dr. Christopher Eason who had a question on what can we do when persons comply and are still murdered. Bishop Moore responded to this question and motion was carried.

### **State of the Church – Rev. Andrea James**

This report is part of a booklet of reports prepared and given to each delegate for their churches at the beginning of this Annual Conference. Recommendations were:

1. To enhance church growth, the church family must re-group and re-engage
2. The church should be inclusive; a place for love and acceptance
3. Seek divine interaction to become informed about situations that impact our local communities,
4. Unite with the ecumenical communities to deal with mental health and other issues that plague our churches.

Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins offered a motion to receive and adopt the report of this committee; seconded by Re. Dr. Christopher Eason and the motion was carried.

Report of the  
Virginia Conference Committee on Admissions  
151<sup>st</sup> Annual Session of the  
Virginia Conference  
June 23, 2017  
Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel

To the Right Rev. W. Darin Moore, Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, General Officers both past and present, Presiding Elders, Pastors, Ministers, District Officers, Delegates and this 151<sup>st</sup> Annual Session of the Virginia Conference:

On June 22-23, 2017, the Committee on Admissions met with the following persons seeking admission to the Virginia Conference, and at this time wishes to make the following report:

**Sis. Robin Denise Mines**

Church/Pastor: Oak Street AME Zion Church/Rev. Dr. Rebecca Branch Griffin

Recommended: by the Quarterly Conference to the District Conference; by the District Conference to the Annual Conference

Age: 58

Marital Status: Single – No Children

Number of years in ministry: 3

Education:

- Master of Divinity from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University

**Recommendation of this committee:** Upon completion of background check by the agency approved by the AME Zion Church, the recommendation is to be admitted on trial and placed in first year studies pending review of her M. Div. transcript and consideration by the Bishop concerning her placement in conference studies.

**Bro. Lafayette Jefferson, Jr.**

Church/Pastor: Oak Street AME Zion Church/Rev. Dr. Rebecca Branch Griffin

Recommended: by the Quarterly Conference to the District Conference; by the District Conference to the Annual Conference

Age: 49

Marital Status: Single – One child

Number of years in ministry: 4

Education:

- 1986 graduate of the Franklin Military Academy, Richmond VA
- 1991 graduate of Norfolk State University, Bachelor of Science, Business Management
- 2012 graduate of Nova Southeastern University, Master of Business Administration – Entrepreneurship
- 2016 graduate of the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology, Master of Divinity (committee has transcript).

**Recommendation of this committee:** Upon completion of background check by the agency approved by the AME Zion Church, the recommendation is to be admitted on trial and placed in first year studies pending review of his M. Div. transcript and consideration by the Bishop concerning his placement in conference studies.

**\*\*Bro. Joshua Paul Logan – SEPARATELY DONE**

Church/Pastor: New Life AME Zion Church/Rev. Andrea L. James

Recommended: by the Quarterly Conference to the District Conference; by the District Conference to the Annual Conference

Age: 48

Marital Status: Married – Three Children (Joshua, Caleb, and Jonathan)

Number of years in ministry: 25

Bro. Logan grew up in the Greater Walters AME Zion Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. E. M. Wilson; he returns to us from the World Assemblies of Restoration Fellowship where he was elevated to the office of Arch Bishop. Bro. Logan founded thirteen churches and oversaw many more.

Education:

- 1988 graduate of ECPI (Electronic Computer Programming Institute) – Electronic Theory

***Recommendation: Upon Completion of background check by approved Agency of the AME Zion Church, have the Bishop review his credentials and ministerial history and advise this***



*committee based on his Godly judgement. Bishop Moore questioned this candidate about his work for the past 25 years and the fact that the church organization is not one of the churches recognized by the National Council of Churches. He also said that he would do further investigation of his church and credentials and that may warrant him being advanced to another level. Rev. Dr. Lorenzo Meekins made a motion that Brother Logan would be received on trial and placed in first year studies to become familiar with AME Zion Polity and Administration; seconded by Rev. Adrienna Brooks and motion carried.*

**Bro. Earl McKinley James**

Church/Pastor: New Covenant AME Zion Church/Rev. Cheryl Spencer James

Recommended: by the Quarterly Conference to the District Conference; by the District Conference to the Annual Conference

Age: 59

Marital Status: Married – Five Children

Number of years in ministry: 13

Retired Military

Education:

- Graduate of St. Leo University with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems.
- Graduate of The City College of Chicago with an Associates of Applied Science
- Pursuing a Master of Divinity from the Andersonville Theological Seminary

**Recommendation of this committee:** Upon completion of background check by the agency approved by the AME Zion Church, the recommendation is to be admitted on trial and placed in first year studies.

**Sis. Elaine L. Tyson**

Church/Pastor: New StThomas AME Zion Church/Bro. Lloyd Griffin

Recommended: by the Quarterly Conference to the District Conference; by the District Conference to the Annual Conference

Age: 57

Marital Status: Married – Six children

Number of years in ministry: 6

Ordained in the Baptist

Background check complete by the agency approved by the AME Zion Church

Education:

- Graduate of St. Joseph College, Bachelor of Science in Community Health and Human Services; Master of Science in Organizational Management and Human Resources.
- License/Certified Therapeutic Counselor (St. Joseph College)
- Certified in Leadership Supervision (St. Joseph College)
- Certified Parent Trainer
- Certified Acupuncture Specialist

**Recommendation of this committee:** Admitted on trial and placed in first year studies.

**Rev. Todd French**

Church/Pastor: Attending St. Joseph AME Zion Church/Rev. Dr. Sandi B. Hutchinson

Age: 36

Marital Status: Married – One child

Has been ordained as an Elder in the AME Zion Church

Education:

- 1998 graduate of Graham High School in Bluefield, VA
- 2000 graduate of Southwest Virginia Community College, Associates in Computer Science

**Recommendation of this committee:** Upon completion of background check by the agency approved by the AME Zion Church, the recommendation is to be re-admitted on trial. The pastor under whom he serves will report on his labors to the Bishop and Presiding Elder for further consideration.

**Bishop Moore questioned each of the candidates extensively as it relates to their understanding of the meaning of traveling preachers. He spent time giving instructions to the candidates being considered for admission on trial. Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins offered a motion to receive the amended recommendations of the committee; seconded by Rev. Kenneth Zollicoffer and the motion was carried.**

**Conference Studies Report****1<sup>st</sup> Year Studies**

Bro. Lloyd Griffin, advance to second year studies.

Sis. Willie Brown, advance to second year studies.

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Arrington made a motion to accept the recommendation for the first-year students; seconded by Rev, Samuel Warren and the motion was carried.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Year Studies**

Rev. Joshua Walker, advance to fourth year studies

Bro. Alvin Leroy Fields, located to his local church (St. Paul)

Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins made a motion to accept the recommendation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year students; seconded by Rev. Dr. Montana Jones and the motion was carried.

Brother Alvin Fields (at his request) will be located at St. Paul AME Zion Church. Rev. Dr. Joseph Lamb offered a motion to accept the request of Brother Fields; seconded by Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins and the motion was carried.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Year Studies

Rev. Sylvia Jordan, completed 4<sup>th</sup> year studies, referred to Holy Orders

Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins offered a motion to accept the recommendation for Rev. Sylvia Jordan; seconded by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Arrington and the motion was carried.

Following announcements, Bishop Moore dismissed us in prayer.

## Evening Missionary Service

### THE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District

THE VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*“The Great Commission – A Global Outreach: Personal Calling, Personal Transformation, Personal Instruction and Personal Commitment”*

---

---

CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE

“Procession in White”

WORSHIP LEADER

Sister Devieta C. Moore - Missionary Supervisor  
Mid - Atlantic Episcopal District

THE PROCESSIONAL

*“Siyahamb' ekukhanyeni kwenkhos”*

WE ARE MARCHING TO THE LIGHT OF GOD

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** We come seeking Jesus, the Light of the world!

Response: *Shine in our hearts Lord Jesus!*

**Leader:** We believe in the strength of God to illuminate dark places.

Response: *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it.*

**Leader:** Lord, in this hour of worship, kindle in us the light of your love.

**All:** *Let your light shine through us now and forever.*

THE INVOCATION

SISTER SANDRA CROWDER

Oh Lord, may your Spirit fill this place. Let the light of your awesome Presence radiate through us so that we may forever walk in the light of your love, delight in the light of your peace and rejoice in the light of your power. Let the light from the lighthouse shine on all of us in this place.....Amen.

THE CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

*"Lift Him Up"*

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

EXODUS 3: 1-10

SISTER ELAINE LOGAN

THE EVENING PRAYER

SISTER FAYE BOISSEAU

THE CANDLELIGHT LITANY

## A Litany for Women and Missions

**Reader 1:** We **LIFT OUR LIGHTS** as we gather this evening in worship and praise of the Lord, thankful for this assembly of Missionaries who love God and serve the cause of missions at home and overseas. We hold in our hands lights as symbols of our hearts and minds which have been illuminated by the Holy Spirit to the concerns of God's creation. They also represent our shared ministry to the world and witness to the glory of God.

**Congregation:** We **LIFT OUR LIGHTS** in a testimony to our unity and the presence of the Holy Spirit in and among His people. Light is an image from scripture associated with peace, joy, and oneness with God. When there was chaos and all was in darkness God created light and called it good.

**Reader 2:** We **LOWER OUR LIGHTS** in recognition that far too many of our sisters around the world are suffering at this very moment from hunger, inadequate shelter, lack of clean water, and from violence. We pray for healing and wholeness in the Name of our Savior, Jesus Christ who is the Prince of Peace.

**Congregation:** We **LIFT OUR LIGHTS** in demonstration of our commitment to be ambassadors of Jesus, bringing hope and healing to our homes, our communities, and our world. We let our lights so shine that others may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven.

**Reader 3:** We **LOWER OUR LIGHTS** in memory of all the women who have died as the result of wars, terrorism, domestic violence, or inadequate healthcare. We repent of the apathy, the greed, and the selfishness that often blinds us to injustice. Lord, have mercy on us.

**Congregation:** We **LIFT OUR LIGHTS** in gratitude for Missionaries, past and present, who sacrifice time, talent, and treasure to support global missions and provide hope to hurting people. Lord, we thank you for the unnamed masses who give of themselves as agents of peace.

**Reader 4:** We **LOWER OUR LIGHTS** in solidarity with women who are being victimized by human trafficking, sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, and those living in poverty struggling to raise children and provide for their families.

**Congregation:** We **LIFT OUR LIGHTS** in celebration of women throughout the centuries who have endured hardships and inspired others to become more than conquerors through Christ Jesus.

**Reader 5:** We **LOWER OUR LIGHTS** in sorrow for the distorted images of women promoted by various media and throughout society. We grieve over the enduring gender discrimination evident in the workplace and even in the church. We reject a culture that treats women as objects and ignores that we all are created in the Image of God.

**Congregation:** We **LIFT OUR LIGHTS** in honor of the women of all generations, all cultures, and all social backgrounds who affirm that they have been created in God's divine image and understand that they have been endowed with grace, compassion, and resiliency. They bring beauty and strength to our world.

**Reader 6:** We, therefore, **LIFT OUR LIGHTS** in the spirit of Miriam, who danced beside the Red Sea, Esther, who demonstrated the courage to intervene on behalf of her people, Mary, the mother of Jesus, who yielded herself to be a vessel of the Holy Spirit, Mary Magdalene, the first to hear the voice of the Risen Christ, and Lois, the grandmother of Timothy, whose abiding faith inspired her entire family.

**Congregation:** We continue to **LIFT OUR LIGHTS** in the tradition of Harriet Tubman, who led her people to freedom, Sojourner Truth, who preached truth against all odds, Rosa Parks, who sat that others might stand, and all of the wives, mothers, and sisters who may never be famous but have been true partners in the struggle.

**Reader 7:** We commit to continue to **LIFT OUR LIGHTS** in tribute to our fore parents, women and men who founded The AME Zion Church - The Freedom Church- in the face of great struggles and continued to remain faithful to their mission, confident in the promise of the Lord to never leave or forsake them.

**Congregation:** And we will forever **LIFT OUR LIGHTS** with a blessed assurance that we are God's people and His love and power will keep us always. It is with this hope and in this faith that we **LIFT OUR LIGHTS** and walk in the light because **JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. AMEN!**

*Prepared by Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, Missionary Supervisor  
Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District  
To be used during Missionary Night Candlelight Service*

THE CHORAL SELECTION

“GOD IS IN CONTROL”

UNION WESLEY AME ZION CHURCH CHOIR

THE MISSIONARY STOLING CEREMONY

THE CHARGE

*“Throw Out the Lifeline” (music softly playing)*

PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP

Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, Missionary Supervisor

INTRODUCTION OF PREACHER

The Rt. Rev. W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate  
Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

THE CHORAL SELECTIONS

“GRATEFUL”

UNION WESLEY CHOIR

THE MISSIONARY SERMON

Rev. Dr. Alvin T. Durant  
Pastor, Union Wesley A. M. E. Zion Church  
Washington, DC

***Exodus 3:2 “The Bush Still Burns” The bush was blazing but not consumed. The bush will never be consumed but will be consummated. God pulls at us so we can refocus on our purpose! We must all the bush continue in our lives and in our ministry.***

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

REV. DR. DURANT

THE MISSIONARY OFFERING BY DISTRICT

NEWPORT NEWS DISTRICT - \$3,700

PETERSBURG DISTRICT - \$2,073

NORFOLK - \$4,560

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS/RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

REMARKS AND BENEDICTION

DR. DURANT

**The Missionary Benediction**

***“God be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us and give us peace. Amen.”***