

**188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore  
Communion Service  
Tuesday, May 23, 2017**

The 188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference began at 7:10 p.m. with the conference singing “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”, as the Conference Evangelist, Pastors, Presiding Elders and the Right Reverend William Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District processed into the sanctuary. The Rev. Dr. William E. Kelly, Presiding Elder of the Philadelphia-Eastern Shore District served as the Worship Leader following the program as printed. The Rev. Dr. Tresa Turner, Rev. Willie Dixon, Rev. Faith Savoy, Rev. Jonathan Counts, Rev. Dr. Vernon Shannon, and the Rev. Cynthia Summers served as program participants. The John Wesley AME Zion Church (Washington, DC) and the Contee AME Zion Church (Washington, DC) rendered musical selections.

The Ministry of Kindness offering was received in the amount of \$2,104.01; afterwhich, the Rev. Lowell A. Williams, Presiding Elder of the Baltimore District presented Bishop W. Darin Moore, the Presiding Prelate of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District. Bishop W. Darin Moore graciously greeted the Conference and acknowledged the presence of Bishop Marshall H. Strickland, our Missionary Supervisor Mrs. Devieta Moore, and the immediate past Supervisor, Mrs. Georgia M. Thompson, Presiding Elders, General Officers from the WHOMS Society, Christian Education Department, Connectional Lay Council and Judicial Council. Bishop Moore acknowledged the presence of Dr. Helen Scott Carter who led the Sunday School literature uniform series of the National Council of Churches. Bishop Moore greeted every one of every rank and file within the bounds of the conference.

Bishop Moore presented the Communion Preacher in the personage of the Rev. Mark Anthony Thomas, Pastor of the Contee AME Zion Church to proclaim the Communion Message. The Contee Choir sang the sermonic selection. The Rev. Mark Thomas acknowledged the personalities of Rev. Dr. Lewis M. Anthony, Bishop Moore and the Supervisor, Bishop Marshall H. Strickland, his wife, family and members of the Contee Church for their love and support.

Rev. Thomas preached from the Matthew 26:26, utilizing the subject: We Don't Take Communion. Pastor Thomas lifted up three poignant points which included: First, Jesus takes what is imperfect in His hands and raises it to God. The imperfect gets blessed in the hands of Jesus. Secondly, brokenness is a part of everyone's story. Like the pieces of a broken mirror held together, we can still be used in our brokenness when Jesus holds us together. And, thirdly, Jesus communes us, feeds us and cleans us up. Using the analogy of a stray dog named “Mutt-Mutt”, who was cleaned up, provided for and loved by his master; we should go out to tell someone what the Master has done for us. Following the message Rev. Mark Thomas extended the Invitation to Discipleship and offering prayer. The Invitational hymn was “Just As I am”. The Rev. Dr. David McClendon gave the offering appeal and prayer.

**188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore  
Communion Service  
(continued)**

Bishop Moore acknowledged all of the guests sharing with the Conference:

Visitors:

|                      |                         |                          |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rev. Dr. Joseph Lamb | Rev. Dr. T.K. Venable   | Rev. Dr. Kenneth Crowder |
| Rev. David Elliott   | Sis. Georgia Woodruff   | Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins |
| Rev. Janet Jones     | Rev. Dr. Melanie Miller | Rev. Stanley Dennison    |

Bishop Moore asked the Rev. Dorothy Patterson from the New Jersey Conference who also supports the work of the Mid-Atlantic in Guyana to greet the conference. Bishop Moore informed the Conference that Bishop Marshall H. Strickland would bring greetings more formally later but acknowledged the presence of Mrs. Strickland.

Holy Communion was received with Bishop W. Darin Moore serving as the Chief Celebrant with Bishop Marshall H. Strickland assisting. The Presiding Elders served as Con-celebrants. The service of Communion concluded with the singing of “What A Fellowship” as the conference celebrated in Fellowship. The closing selection “It is Well” was sung followed by the Bishop William Darin Moore declaring that the 188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Grande Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference was open for all business that shall come before it.

At 10:39 p.m the Rev. Mark A. Thomas pronounced the benediction.

Following the benediction Bishop Moore reported that the offering for the evening was \$13,273.00.

Rev. Dr. Evalina Huggins, Secretary

Rev. Dr. Tina Nelson, Assistant Secretary

**188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore  
Wednesday Morning Bible Study – Rev. Dr. Bernard Richardson  
Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

The Wednesday Morning Session began with devotion led by the Rev. Scot C. Moore. Following devotion Bishop W. Darin Moore presented Dr. Bernard Richardson, Dean of the Howard University School of Divinity. Dr. Richardson greeted the Conference and thanked the A.M.E. Zion Church for its role in his life and ministry. After a powerful meditation moment Dean Richardson presented on prayer, more specifically “Praying in Jesus’ Name”. Dean Richardson integrated with his own personal experiences several highlights regarding prayer:

1. Praying in Jesus Name gives us authority, and helps us to come to grips with our own humanity.
2. How we envision God, our image of God determines how we pray.
3. All of our faults and failures are valid material for prayer. “Our prayers ought to be as messy as our lives”.
4. In prayer God will introduce you to yourself. Like Jacob, the limp is the stuff we have to go through. God hide some sins and some he will expose to that we cannot destroy ourselves.

Dean Richardson concluded at 10:04 a.m.

**Wednesday Morning Business Session – Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding  
Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

Bishop Moore called for the report of the Credentials Committee. Each District representative called the names of the delegates and alternates for each respective district. A motion was received by Presiding Elder Lowell Williams to adopt the report of the rules committee, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Heath Cheek. The motion carried.

The Rules Committee report was given by Chairperson, Rev. Dr. Darrell Gaskins. A motion to adopt the Rules Committee report was made by Bro. Chuck Williams, seconded by P.E. Myrtle Bowen. An amendment was offered by the chair to have the first 10 rows across the sanctuary in the five sections across to constitute the bar

The Nominations Committee chaired by the Rev. Scot C. Moore was given. A motion to receive those persons elected by the nominating committee was made by Rev. Dr. Alie Harper, Jr. and seconded by Dr. Paul Hoggard. The motion carried.

The Secretariat called the Conference Roll and made the necessary corrections. The **Northern Virginia District** and **Harrisburg Districts** were called without correction.

**Wednesday Morning Business Session – Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding**  
**Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

- **The Philadelphia-Eastern Shore District** will determine the status of the Rev. Dr. Joy Carrington and advise Bishop Moore prior to the First Checkup Meeting.
- A motion was made by Dr. William Kelly to honorably withdraw the Rev. Kenneth Hawley (at his request), seconded by Rev. Damon Carver. The motion carried.
- Bishop Moore advised P.E. Kelly to send the Rev. Henry Koffa a letter regarding his status in the Conference, to determine if a trial is warranted to drop Rev. Koffa. This will be dealt with at the 1<sup>st</sup> Checkup meeting.

Bishop Moore instructed the Conference of the proper process for withdrawing from the Conference if you are in full connection. The conference was instructed about the Orders of the Ordained Minister, and that our reception of these orders are a gift from the church; and should be returned in the event we leave the church. Bishop Moore also advised that persons excused from the Conference also need to meet their financial obligations. During his time of Instruction Bishop Moore taught on the difference between being located (in the local church) and a Superannuated Minister that is retired.

- The Rev. Michael A. King advised the conference that the Rev. Nancy Hawes should not be located but rather retired and should be listed as Superannuated.

The roll of the **Washington District** was called at which time the Rev. Linda Fox a minister on trial requested by letter to be withdrawn. A motion was made by the Rev. Mark Thomas, seconded by Rev. W. Ray Douglas for her withdrawal. The motion carried.

- The Rev. Cyprian Chieke is to be sent a letter regarding his status in the Conference, to determine if a trial is warranted to drop Rev. Chieke. This will also be dealt with at the 1<sup>st</sup> Checkup meeting. The same action is to be taken regarding the Rev. Thea Webster Wells of the Union Wesley AME Zion Church.
- Bishop Moore paused momentarily to ask the secretariat to call the name of our sitting Bishop at the time of his death, The Right Reverend Richard Keith Thompson. The Conference stood in tribute to Bishop Thompson.
- The secretariat was asked to determine if the name of the Rev. Gary W. Burns and Sis. Gwendolyn Burns should have been included in the role until their transfer to North Carolina. Bishop Moore advised the secretariat to review the statistical report to see if Dr. Burns' name was previously listed as transferred.

The roll of the **Baltimore District** was called at which time Bishop Moore reminded the Conference that all ministers have an obligation to answer the roll, and that all absences must be requested from him.

- The Rev. Florence D. Crawford requested to be withdrawn. Bishop Moore advised her Pastor the Rev. Adrian Nelson, II to receive her credentials so that she might be withdrawn honorably.

**Wednesday Morning Business Session – Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding  
Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

- Rev. Phyllis Fletcher from the Patterson Asbury Church is requesting to be located at the Charity AME Zion Church. P.E. Lowell Williams made the motion, seconded by Rev. Faith Savoy. The motion carried.
- A motion to drop Sis. Vanessa Graham was made by Dr. Toni Draper, seconded by Rev. Damon Carver. The motion carried. The Florence Miller is requesting to be located.

The Date and Place for the 2018 – 2020 Annual Conference was reported by the Rev. Dr. Rita J. Colbert:

|                 |                           |                             |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| May 22-27, 2018 | 189 <sup>th</sup> Session | The Bethesda Marriott North |
| May 21-26, 2019 | 190 <sup>th</sup> Session | The Bethesda Marriott North |
| May 19-24, 2020 | 191 <sup>st</sup> Session | The Bethesda Marriott North |

The Dates and Location for the 2017 – 2018 Checkup Meetings

|                                 |                    |                           |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Checkup Meeting | September 16, 2017 | Union Wesley (Washington) |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Checkup Meeting | December 9, 2017   | Cyber Checkup Meeting     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Checkup Meeting | March 3, 2018      | St. James, Salisbury, MD  |

- The Rev. Michael King presented the Treasurer’s Report from April 16 – March 31, 2017, which was received for information. A motion was made by P.E. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Lester A. McCorn elect the Rev. Michael King as Conference Treasure.
- Ministry of Kindness Report given by the Rev. Dr. Tresa S. Turner. A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Alvin T. Durant, seconded by P.E. Hargrove to elect Dr. Turner as the treasurer for the MOK.

**Noon Day Worship  
Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

Sis. Darlene Counts led the conference in worship as we sang together “How Great is Our God” and “I Love You Lord”. Bishop W. Darin Moore introduced the preacher the Rev. Michael A. King as the noonday preacher. Following the singing of “Great is thy Faithfulness” by Sis. Melva Polk Wright the Rev. Michael King stood to proclaim the word using the text: Psalm 31:9-14 and the subject: “*In Good Hands*”. Rev. King encouraged the Conference by preaching:

1. We all experience times of distress, nevertheless in the midst of our circumstances we make a confession of trust. It puts us in position to make a claim on God, which requires God to give us some attention.
2. In God’s hands we experience God’s care, attention, warmth and protection. And, because we are in God’s hands we’re in good hands.
3. In God’s good hands we have accident forgiveness and new replacements simply because we signed up for the policy in which Jesus has already paid the premium.

**Noon Day Worship (con't)**  
**Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

Rev. King extended the Invitation to Discipleship, followed by the exhortation of Bishop Moore that indeed our life is in God's hands. The offering was received in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. The Rev. Michael King acknowledged the presence of his wife Sis. Ravell King, and pronounced the benediction at 1:15 p.m.

**EPISCOPAL ADDRESS**  
**Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate**  
**Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

The Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference reconvened for the Episcopal Address at 2:45p.m. The conference sang together the hymn "I am Thine O Lord". The Rev. Dr. Alvin T. Durant read from Psalm 27; and the Rev. Sharon Cheek offered the prayer, the choral response was "Oh, How I Love Jesus". The Presiding Elder of the Northern Virginia District, the Rev. Dr. Monica Hargrove introduced Bishop W. Darin Moore. The Conference standing received Bishop Moore as the 99<sup>th</sup> Bishop in the line of succession in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Bishop Moore asked Sis. Georgia Woodruff to sing. Sis. Woodruff sang "When the Saints Go to Worship"

Bishop W. Darin Moore, the Presiding Prelate of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District brought greetings and proceeded to share a spirited and prophetic Episcopal Address. (See Episcopal Address). Bishop Moore presented from the theme: "Take Another Look" taken from 1 King 18:48. The address stated we should:

- o Take another look at the culture.
- o Take another look at the church.
- o Take another look at Christ.

Following the Episcopal Address the Rev. Scot Moore sang, "When I See Jesus, Amen".

The Rev. Dr. Rita Colbert following the Episcopal Address asked the Conference what shall we do with the Bishop's Address. Rev. Dr. Alvin T. Durant moved to receive the Episcopal Address and that it be disseminated to every local church, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Luther McKinney.

Unreadinesses were expressed by:

Rev. Dr. Kathryn G. Brown who asked to amend the motion to receive the video and share the same with their congregations.

|                          |                            |                         |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rev. Dr. Alvin T. Durant | Rev. Jeffrey Ruffin        | Rev. Mark A. Thomas     |
| Rev. Dr. Timothy Freeman | Sis. Katherine Burrell     | Rev. Keen Newsome       |
| Rev. Dr. Wilmer Frazier  | Rev. Dr. Reginald Chandler | Rev. Dr. Paul Hoggard   |
| Rev. Eddie Scarborough   | Sis. Renee Pullen          | Sis. Stephanie Perry    |
| Rev. Frederick Massey    | Rev. Dr. Clarence Cross    | Rev. Dr. Vernon Shannon |

The Conference by a Hallelujah acclamation, carried the motion. Bishop Moore stood to receive the Great Offering of \$100.

**188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore  
Presiding Elder Reports  
Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

**Rev. Lowell A. Williams of the Baltimore District** presented his report electronically. A motion to receive his report was made by the Rev. Dr. Lester A. McCorn, seconded by the Rev. Scot C. Moore. Unreadiness was offered by the Rev. Dr. Wilmer Frazier who presented the Presiding Elder an expression of love. The motion carried.

**Rev. Dr. Myrtle Bowen of the Harrisburg District** presented her report electronically. Following the report the Rev. Dr. Myrtle Bowen having met with the Pastor and members of the Genesis AME Zion Church have met and determined to close the church. Bishop Moore stated that we would still encourage ministry in that area upon the sale of the church. Pastor Daisy Woodard moved that the Genesis Church be closed with some of the proceeds going to re-establish a work in that area. Bishop Moore noted the sacrifices of Sis. Ruby Quick Kaiser as well as Pastor Woodard and the Brown family. The motion carried, and the Genesis church was closed.

A motion to receive her report was made by the Rev. Dr. Thomas Sweatt, seconded by the Rev. Darryl Taylor. Unreadiness was offered by the Rev. Willie Dixon who presented the Presiding Elder an expression of love. The motion carried.

**Rev. Dr. William E. Kelly of the Philadelphia-Eastern Shore District** presented his report electronically. A motion to receive his report was made by the Rev. Dr. Reginald Chandler, seconded by the Rev. Jeffrey Ruffin. Unreadiness was offered by the Rev. Dr. David McClendon who presented the Presiding Elder and Mrs. Kelly an expression of love. The motion carried. Dr. Kelly offered expressions of gratitude to the District and presented to the Conference a new Society – Transformation AME Zion Church which Bishop Moore advised would be dealt with at a later time.

Bishop Moore advised the Conference that we would complete the Presiding Elder's reports in the morning. He acknowledged the following visitors:

|                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Rev. Christopher Eason | Rev. Dr. Edmund and Mrs. Whitley |
| Sis. Timmery Bryant    | Sis. Thelma Dillahunt            |
| Sis. Shelia Johnson    |                                  |

Announcements were received from the Health Ministry (Dr. Darrell Gaskin), Home Missions (Sis. Esther Scarborough), the Home Missions Workers (Dr. Rita Colbert), and the Admissions Committee (Rev. Leslie Barnett Davis). Bishop Moore asked the Conference to reconvene promptly at 7 p.m. to receive our Ecumenical guests.

Rev. Dr. Evalina Huggins, Secretary

Rev. Dr. Tina Nelson, Assistant Secretary

**188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore  
Ecumenical Service  
Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

The Conference Praise Team began worship at 7:10 p.m. After a brief praise period Dr. Barbara Shaw presented Rev. Dr. Myrtle Bowen to preside over the Ecumenical Service. The following ecumenical guests brought greetings:

Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker Smith – Bread for the World

Rev. Nate Butler – Collective Empowerment Group

Youth for Christ Dance Ministry – Union Wesley AME Zion

Dr. George Holmes – Chaplain, National Clergy Leadership Group

Dr. Pernessa Seele, CEO – The Balm in Gilead

Presiding Elder Cordell Hunter - for Bishop James L. Davis of the AME Church

Dr. Paul Lawrence Brown, Sr. – President of Dean Phillips School of Theology on behalf of  
Bishop James B. Walker of the CME Church

Rev. Willie Dixon of the Harrisburg District responded to our ecumenical guests as we transition at 8:12 p.m. from the ecumenical service into Evening Worship.

The Rev. Dr. Monica Hargrove the Presiding Elder of the Northern Virginia District, serving as the Worship Leader made adjustments to the program and abbreviated the evening program per the direction of Bishop W. Darin Moore. Program participants included: Rev. Dr. Edgar S. Bankhead, Rev. Sandra Reed, and the Rev. Dr. Darrell Gaskins. The music was provided by the Clinton AME Zion Church choir and guest Psalmist for the evening Sis. Keneisha “Nee Cee” Trott of Delaware, MD.

Bishop W. Darin Moore introduced the preacher the Rev. Alyce Walker Johnson to preach the Annual Sermon. Rev. Johnson stood to proclaim the word, acknowledging the presence of the Bishop Moore and those persons who have poured into her life and ministry. Rev. Johnson taking her text from I Samuel 17: 26-29 and using the subject: “Is There Not A Cause”, lifted up the following points:

1. There is a “Giant” crisis in the land; and sometimes in our lives
2. There is a “Gutzy” confrontation
3. There is a “Grand” celebration

The Invitation to Discipleship and Altar call was extended by the preacher. The Rev. Dr. Alvin T. Durant received the evening offering. The announcements were provided from the secretariat. Persons were asked to support our Psalmist, both the Conference Choir Rehearsal and the Admissions Committee will meet on Thursday following the worship service. Bishop Moore asked persons to support Sis. Katherine Burrell as she runs for office in the Connectional Lay Council as they departed the sanctuary. The Rev. Alyce Walker Johnson pronounced the benediction at 10:40 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Evalina Huggins, Secretary

Rev. Dr. Tina Nelson, Assistant Secretary



**188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore  
Thursday Morning Bible Study – Rev. Dr. Bernard Richardson  
Thursday, May 25, 2017**

The Wednesday Morning Session began with the singing of “Blessed Assurance” and prayer by the Rev. Marlon Carter. Following devotion Bishop W. Darin Moore presented Dr. Bernard Richardson, Dean of the Howard University School of Divinity. Dr. Richardson greeted the Conference again, and shared that he would speak briefly on the absence of God after sharing in discussion with Dr. Vernon Shannon. Dean Richardson began with a collective meditation entitled “I Had to Love You Differently”. Dean Richardson began his presentation talking of the absence of God. Dean Richardson noted in his presentation:

- We have to grow in our understanding of God, using as a scriptural launching pad Acts 17:26 – 28a
- Sometimes we must pray the scriptures because we cannot always feel the presence of God when we pray. It’s not a bad thing, it’s a natural thing. God does this so we can purify ourselves and go deeper in God, to grope after God.
- We must be careful not to limit the ways God speaks to us, and we must learn how to live in the moment, and not miss what is happening now by looking ahead.
- There are times when God will call us to do something new. It doesn’t require us to leave or have a drastic change. We can be in our place of calling and miss it because we want what others have. It requires changing our understanding of God and who God is.
- When we don’t feel the presence of God in our lives we need to reflect. In the darkness and silence we sometimes see and hear God clearer.

Following the morning Bible Study, Bishop Moore asked Rev. Dr. Rita Colbert to proceed with the business of the conference to include the Presiding Elder’s reports. **Rev. Dr. Monica Hargrove of the Northern Virginia District** presented her report electronically. A motion to receive her report was made by the Rev. Samuel Whittaker, seconded by the Rev. Edgar S. Bankhead. Unreadiness was offered by the Rev. Samuel Whittaker and the Rev. Karen Kennedy who presented the Presiding Elder an expression of love. The motion carried.

**Rev. Dr. Rita J. Colbert** presented her report electronically. A motion to receive her report was made by the Rev. Dr. Alvin T. Durant, seconded by the Rev. W. Ray Douglas. Unreadiness was offered by the Rev. Mark Thomas and Rev. Dr. Timothy Freeman who presented the Presiding Elder an expression of love, and an phone watch. The motion carried.

Bishop Moore asked the Missionary Supervisor, Mrs. Georgia Thompson, the Presiding Elders and the Conference to assist him in sending a video message to Rev. Dr. Lewis M. Anthony.

**188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore  
Thursday Mid-Morning Business  
Thursday, May 25, 2017**

Bishop W. Darin Moore, presiding over the mid-morning business session called for the Pastors and Delegates and asked them to provide a praise report and a prayer request. The Districts were called respectively:

- **The Baltimore District.** A motion to receive and refer the reports was made by the Rev. Lowell Williams, seconded by Rev. Roland Edwards to receive the reports. Motion carried.
- **The Harrisburg District.** A motion to receive and refer the reports was made by the Rev. Dr. Myrtle Bowen, seconded by Rev. Thomas Sweatt. The motion carried.

Bishop Moore asked the Rev. Scot Moore and the conference to stand and sing, “Down At thee Cross” as we prepared for the noon-day worship experience. Bishop Moore presented the Rev. Cynthia D. Summers, the Pastor of the Harris AME Zion Church. In preparation for the message the conference sang, “Lord Prepare Me, To Be A Sanctuary”. Rev. Summers preached from the text: , 2 Corinthians 13:1-6 using the subject “Check Your Personal Inventory”. Rev. Summers lifted up:

1. We can nothing without the power of God
2. The power of God comes through the Holy Spirit
3. We have stuff in our inventory we need to purge, and re-stock with hope, faith and love.

**School of the Prophets  
Thursday Afternoon  
Thursday, May 25, 2017**

The Rev. Scot Moore led the conference in singing followed by Bishop W. Darin Moore noting that only the Philadelphia and Baltimore has three resident Bishops (Bishop Marshall Strickland, Bishop Warren Brown and Bishop Dennis Proctor). Bishop Moore invited Bishop Marshall H. Strickland to greet the conference. Bishop Strickland noted that there is a shift in the land, and that the greatest show on earth is not over. He stated our task was to transform culture, but we have allowed culture to transform us. We must be the voice of the voiceless.

Bishop Moore acknowledged that Bishop Strickland is a National Treasure. Following Bishop Strickland Bishop Moore acknowledged Mrs. Aurelia Brown and presented Bishop Warren M. Brown. Bishop Brown thanked Bishop Strickland for his thought provoking thoughts about culture and the church. Bishop Brown stated that after reflecting there were things he wished he could apologize for and about. However, there is much in life he will not apologize for, including his heritage in the AME Zion Church and his calling. Bishop Moore expressed his appreciation for the words of wisdom and insight from our retired Bishops.

## School of the Prophets Thursday Afternoon

Bishop expressed his love for preaching, not empty preaching but prophetic, passionate and substantive preaching. Bishop Moore presented the Rev. Dr. Jerry Carter, who has intellect and anointing. (See program for official bio). The conference received Dr. Carter with a warm applause.

Rev. Dr. Jerry Carter - “Purposeful Preaching”

Preaching involves some roots (the subterranean portion of our preaching), what is the foundation of our preaching. As a springboard Dr. Carter used the text I Kings 19:7-; presenting from the subject: “A Pregnant Silence: Disconnecting in Order to Connect”. He stated that technology draws us towards something but takes us away from something as well. In this age, we can never be absent any more. We are more comfortable with technology than each other. We are disconnected from solitude and silence, due to technology.

Elijah discovered at Horeb how pregnant and powerful silence can be. The silence was:

1. Pregnant with an encounter with a presence – the silence in Elijah’s life made more noise than the wind, earthquake or fire, and prepared Elijah for a connection with the Holy. There is a call on the preacher to spend time in silence and solitude.
2. Strength for the pilgrimage – silence calls Elijah out to the mouth of the cave and the Lord tells him to go back the way he came, which was a way of deserts and mountains, which shows the Lord gave Elijah strength before he gives him a solution.
3. A reaffirmation of purpose – just when we are ready to quit, God reaffirms our purpose in moments of silence. “Garden time gets us ready for Calvary time...”

We were challenged to recommit ourselves to silence and solitude with the Lord. Dr. Carter recommended the following readings: Michael Harris – The End of Absence

Transitioning to the afternoon Business Session, Bishop W. Darin Moore, called for the Pastors and Delegates of the Northern Virginia District, requesting a praise and prayer report from each church.

- **The Northern Virginia District.** A motion to receive and refer the reports was made by the Dr. Monica Hargrove, seconded by Ingrid Gant to receive the reports. The motion carried.
- **The Philadelphia and Eastern Shore District.** A motion to receive and refer the reports was made by the Dr. William E. Kelly, seconded by Dr. David McClendon and Diana Carver. The motion carried.
- **The Washington District.** A motion to receive and refer the reports was made by the Rev. Dr. Rita Colbert, seconded by Rev. Mark Thomas. The motion carried.

Bishop Moore asked Sis. Ruth Ifill who just received her Master’s Degree to share with the Conference the findings of her study. Bishop advised that we will begin service at 7:30 and asked Bishop Brown to give the benediction.

We dismissed at 6:13 p.m.

**Christian Education Worship Service**  
**Thursday Night**  
**Thursday, May 25, 2017**

The Rev. Jeremiah Hicks the Worship Leader for the evening began worship at 7:40 p.m. The Rev. Gracher Selby of the Harrisburg District served as the worship leader for the evening following the program as printed (abbreviated). The program participants were: Rev. Delmar Lytle, Sis. Jenna Wright, Dr. Dewey Wiseman, Dr. Kathryn G. Brown and Bro. Eric Smith. The Report of the Conference Director of Christian Education gave her report. A motion by Thomas Williams to receive the report was made, seconded by Dr. Paul Hoggard. Unreadinesses were offered by The General Secretary of Christian Education, Dr. Kathryn G. Brown and Yvonne Smith representing the District Directors who offered expressions of gratitude. Bishop Moore asked the Conference to stand and give the Director a round of applause.

Bishop introduced one of the most respected voices in the church and the government, Rev. Dr. Fredrick Douglas Haynes, III. After the singing of Sis. Miranda Curtis, the Pastor of the Friendship Baptist Church, Dallas, TX, stood to preach. Dr. Haynes read from John 14:12- (NLT), using the subject “I Shook Up the World”.

Dr. Haynes lifted up several poignant points to include:

1. We can’t walk by faith and be boxed in a comfort zone.
2. The Freedom Church is called shake up the world
3. What Jesus did in his body we as the body of Christ can now do greater things. We are challenged to go into belief mode.
4. Like Harriett Tubman, as the Freedom Church we must go back to our neighborhoods, back to the hood, and back to the community like Harriett went back for her people.

Following the sermon, Bishop Moore prayed that we would go back to our communities and work, The offering was received as the Judah Temple AME Zion Church rendered the music.

**Visitors:**

|                       |                    |                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Dr. Vincent Jones     | Dr. Martina Jones  | Dr. Sandi Hutchinson |
| Dr. Kenneth Arrington | Rev. Glenn Grayson | Bro. Leon Hutchinson |
| Dr. Audrey Jones      | Rev. Yolanda Buck  | Dr. George McKain    |

Bishop Moore acknowledged all of the Missionary Supervisors present as well as past WHOMS General Officers. The secretariat made several announcements and the Judah Temple AME Zion Church offered a closing selection.

The benediction was pronounced at 10:36 p.m. by Bishop Warren M. Brown.

The 188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore  
Missionary Prayer Breakfast  
Friday, May 26, 2017

The Missionary Prayer breakfast began 8:05 a.m. with Sis. Barbara Murray as the Worship Leader. The Missionaries followed the program as printed. Persons participating on the program were: Sis. Mildred Shannon, Sis. Linda Jones, Sis. Linda Sweatt, Sis. Thomasena Watkins, Sis. Rachel Means, Sis. Darlene Counts, Rev. Brenda Clark, Sis. Georgia Woodruff.

The 188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore  
Missionary Convocation  
Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, Missionary Supervisor Presiding

The Missionary Convocation began at 10:11 a.m. with Sis. Wilhelmina Frazier, WHOMS President of the Washington District. Sis. Kimber Eubanks sang “A Secret Place”, followed by the reading of Romans 12:1-2 by Sis. Donna Gainey. The prayer was offered by Sis. Annette Chisolm. Sis. Keith Wiggins-Kennedy, WHOMS President of the Philadelphia-Eastern Shore District presented the Missionary Supervisor, Mrs. Devieta C. Moore. The Missionary Supervisor shared:

1. Her observation that most women love to dress up. But, when God look at us he sees our potential beneath our exterior appearance and invites us to transform.
2. Personal transformation is about changing from the inside out. We allow the beauty of Christ to transform us.
3. The Holy Spirit dresses us in accessories of: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Love is the key.
4. Let’s grow up, and dress like Christ!

Following the Supervisor’s Address Sis. Georgia Woodruff sang, “Change”. Our Missionary Supervisor asked, “How Do We Change Our Society?” She introduced Tamika D. Mallory who worked with the Obama Administration to address justice disparities across the country. Sis. Mallory informed persons in attendance that we must have those difficult conversations to address some of the attacks facing us as women and the destruction of some of the liberties we now enjoy. She lifted up:

**The Health Care Bill** – she noted that insurance providers have the liberty to decide and define a pre-existing condition. The bill has a tremendous impact on women and women related issues. The proposed cut to Medicaid, will impact all of us as the mentally ill hit the streets. Our young people going to college being impacted.

**Police Brutality** – Sis. Mallory spoke of current police killings and brutality that police are still inflicting upon African Americans. Black men, women and children are under attack. The political climate is inciting the kinds of attacks we are seeing. We must mobilize as a people. We must avoid disconnecting. We have run out of disconnect space, we have pointed enough fingers, we are in a state of emergency.

The 188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore  
Missionary Convocation  
Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, Missionary Supervisor Presiding

The black church should be a threat to injustice and oppression. We may never accomplish anything on a grand scale, but we must do something. We must pay attention to what is happening in the world around us. We are the living resources needed to make our communities whole.

At 11:28 a.m. the Missionary Supervisor, Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, called for the district reports of the Missionaries, who theatrical conveyed they've been "Working for the Lord, All Day Long" as each department shared its ministry activities. The Missionary Supervisor asked the conference after hearing the report of the districts, what shall we do. Dr. Barbara Shaw moved that we accept the extraordinary presentation from the five districts, and Sis. Patricia Griffin seconded the motion. Unreadiness was expressed by Sis. Kimber Eubanks in the form of expressions of gratitude and appreciation to Sis. Renee Pullen, Sis. Aurelia Brown, Dr. Barbara Shaw, Sis. Charlotte Umoja, Sis. Loveleen "Dee" Perkins, Sis. Glady's Felton, Sis. Sandra Crowder, Sis. Georgia Thompson and our very own Missionary Supervisor Sis. Devieta C. Moore.

The Baltimore District, Harrisburg District, Northern Virginia District, Washington District, and the Philadelphia-Eastern Shore District who each expressed gratitude to their District Directors. A special presentation was made by Bro. Walter Kennedy to Sis. Keith Kennedy. The Missionary Supervisor presented to each of her District Presidents a token of appreciation. The motion carried. The offering was received in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. The Missionary Supervisor acknowledged our guests from the Norfolk District (Virginia Conference), Sis. Sandra Crowder. Mrs. Aurelia Brown, extended greetings and expressed her delight at seeing the Missionaries move forward.

We dismissed from the convocation at 12:10 p.m. with the Missionary Benediction

Rev. Dr. Evalina Huggins, Secretary

Rev. Dr. Tina Nelson, Assistant Secretary

The 188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore  
Noon Day Worship  
Friday, May 26, 2017

Rev. Eddie Scarborough leading the noon day worship called for the Rev. Damon Carver to read the scripture taken from Ecclesiastes 2:1-11. The prayer was given by the Rev. Melvin Thomas, Jr. Bishop W. Darin Moore introduced the preacher the Rev. Ranesa Mayo as the noonday preacher. Following the singing of "I am Thine O Lord". Rev. Ranesa Mayo stood to proclaim the word using the text: Ecclesiastes 9:10 using subject: "*Doing the Most*". Rev. Mayo exhorted the congregation to:

1. Use our hands to do some good, works for the lord
2. Find your "It" and do it mightily
3. Do the most because of who we serve

Rev. Ranesa Mayo extended the Invitation to Christian Discipleship and offered prayer. Bishop W. Darin Moore, in an unusual way honored our ancestors through recalling the historical nature of the libation offering as persons came forward with an offering in denominations of seven (7) to honor someone who has poured into their lives.

We were dismissed by Bishop Warren M. Brown at 1:35 p.m. followed by the singing of the grace.

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SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS  
Friday, May 26, 2017

At 2:50 p.m. the Rev. Scot Moore led the conference in praise and worship. Bishop W. Darin Moore presented the Rev. Jerry Carter for the School of Prophets. Dr. Carter reminded us that the roots of preaching impacts the fruit of preaching. Dr. Carter opened with his desire to share what preaching looks like in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (II Chronicles 20:14).

**Dr. Jerry Carter, Presenter**

**Theme: Standing in the Assembly: A Reconsideration of the Place and Future of Preaching**

Paul admonishes that there is no hearing without a preacher. The question before us is, is preaching still relevant. Has preaching in the black church been eclipsed by praise and worship? Large churches used to signify good preaching. Scholars believe preaching has run its course and that it was relevant when we were a Word-based culture. The future of preaching may be dependent or contingent upon five concepts:

1. Authenticity – people want to see that the preacher has clay feet. The brokenness of the preacher resonates with the brokenness of the people.
2. Authority – The preacher must have a humble authority. We are connected to a network that we can't see... we have "exousia".

## SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS

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3. Variety – the preacher cannot be enslaved to one particular style or approach. Preachers are using multi-sensory preaching.
4. Contextuality – the preacher must preach with a consciousness of the world around him/her. We must not reflect the world, we must offer people something different.
5. Spirituality – we must preach with the influence of the spirit. God works through our feeble and fractured words when the spirit shows up.

Bishop Moore challenged the conference to put the root and fruit of preaching together, and thanked Dr. Carter for pouring into the Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference. Recommended reading - Jeffrey Steven: The Future of Preaching

### The 188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore Afternoon Business Session Friday, May 26, 2017

Bishop Moore called for the Conference Evangelists Reports. They were instructed to come forward to give one praise report and one prayer request. The Districts reported respectively in the following order: Baltimore District, Harrisburg District, Northern Virginia District, Philadelphia and Eastern Shore, and Washington District. A motion to receive and refer the reports was made by Rev. Lowell A. Williams, seconded by Dr. Myrtle Bowen.

The Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference Trustees reported. A motion to receive the report was made by Dr. Alvin T. Durant, seconded by Dr. William Kelly. The motion carried.

Prior to the Admissions Report, Bishop Moore that the committee chairperson is new as a result of Dr. Anthony's illness. The Admissions Committee reported with the following actions.

- Sis. Qutanna D. Brown was admitted on trial and placed in 3<sup>rd</sup> year studies.
- Bishop Moore shared with the conference that all background checks should be done prior to issuing a local preachers license. Those being presented at this conference will need to have their background checks prior to the first checkup meeting.
- Bro. George H. Lucky was presented to be admitted on trial although the committee reported he had not submitted his educational documentation. Bishop Moore advised the conference that persons must attend an accredited theological institution. We recognize school from the Association of Theological Schools. Bishop Moore decided to delay Bro. Lucky's admission until the first checkup meeting.

A motion to receive on trial those persons the Admissions Committee recommended was made by Dr. Myrtle Bowen, seconded by Dr. Luther McKinney. The motion carried.



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Dr. Adrian Nelson gave the report of the Conference Examiners. Bishop Moore conveyed that he excused Sis. Jeanette Banks. A motion to approve the Examiners report was made by Rev. Lowell Williams, seconded by Dr. Myrtle Bowen. The motion carried.

Bishop Moore shared his belief that the Admissions Committee must ensure that persons address prescribed questions while Examiners deal only with curriculum. Holy Orders deals with the ordained life. Bishop Moore stated that he prefers the Examiners deal with their studies, and then refer them back to the Admissions Committee to address questions of regarding persons ministry journey.

The Admissions Committee recommended that Rev. Marlon Carter, Sis. Carolyn McGee, Sis. Beverly Jones and Bro. Marvin Spriggs be admitted into full connection. Bishop Marshall H. Strickland spoke to the candidates about their entering an itinerant ministry. Bishop Moore informed the candidates that over time we develop a sense of entitlement, and we forget our first love. The candidates were asked the questions in Chapter Two – The Reception of Preachers and Ministers, part II, paragraph 196 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.

A motion to admit the aforementioned persons into full connection was made by Dr. Monica Hargrove, seconded by Dr. Bowen. The motion carried. The right hand of fellowship was extended by Bishops W. Darin Moore, Bishop Marshall H. Strickland, Bishop Warren M. Brown and the Presiding Elders of the Philadelphia and Baltimore District.

A motion to elect Sis. Beverly Jones, Sis. Carolyn McGee and Bro. Marvin Spriggs to the office of Deacon. A motion was made by the Rev. Dr. Alvin T. Durant, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Heath Cheek. The motion carried.

Dr. Alvin T. Durant inquired about Rev. Carla Nelson who received Local Deacons orders is listed on the report. Bishop asked Rev. Carla Nelson Chambers to come forward. Bishop received a motion from Rev. Leslie Barnett Davis to remove Local from Rev. Nelson's Deacons order, seconded by Dr. Evalina Huggins. The motion carried.

The Committee presented Rev. Lisa Brock, Rev. Carla Nelson Chambers, Rev. Karen Kennedy, Rev. Michael Otinda, Rev. Shawnta Privette, Rev. Michael Stanley and Rev. Marlon Carter to be elected to the office of Elder in the life of the church. Bishop Moore advised the candidates and conference that ordination is not earned, it is a gift of the church. Therefore, if one chooses to leave the church, one's credentials must be returned to the church.

The 188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore  
Afternoon Business Session  
continued

A motion to receive those being recommended to be elected to the office of Elder was made by the Rev. Dr. Frances Toni Draper and seconded, by Rev. Samuel Whittaker. The motion carried.

A local Deacon and local Elder can be ordained without being admitted into the Annual Conference. A local Deacon can only administer the sacraments within their local churches. A local Elder can consecrate the elements only within the local church. A traveling minister usually does not have “local” status.

Bishop called for the announcements, which the secretariat provided. Bishop asked that all Pastors invite the local church trustees to a meeting on tomorrow morning.

Rev. Dr. Evalina Huggins, Secretary

Rev. Dr. Tina Nelson, Assistant Secretary

The 188<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia and Baltimore  
MISSIONARY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE  
Friday, May 26, 2017

The Missionary procession began at 7:20 p.m. with the singing of “Siyahamb’e kukha nyenkwen khos. Missionary Supervisor, Mrs. Devieta C. Moore presided over the program that was followed as printed. Participants on the program were Sis. Patricia Scott, Sis. Loveleen “Dee” Perkins, Sis. Loretta Guff, Sis. Brenda Durant, Sis. Pamela Reddick, Sis. Reachell Chambers, Sis. Melva P. Wright, Sis. Diana Carver, Sis. Nia Berry and Sis. Evelyn Eason. The music was provided by the Patterson Asbury Choir. The Stoling Ceremony was conducted by the Life Members representatives from the various districts.

Bishop Moore acknowledged the Patterson Asbury Choir, and the Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church Choir. He acknowledged a very special guest in the house, our Psalmist for the evening Ms. Nicole E. Phifer who sang under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Bishop Moore, introduced the Rev. Dr. Lester A. McCorn, Pastor of the Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church. The Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church choir sang the sermonic selection.

Dr. Lester A. McCorn mounting the pulpit began with prayer. He brought greetings and proceeded to take his text from Luke 10:30-37, and preaching from the subject “Our Lives Matter”. Dr. McCorn gave attention to the text contextually, paralleling the biblical text with the circumstances of today’s culture for Black Americans. Dr. McCorn highlighted three reasons “Our Lives Matter”.

1. We have internal worth simply because we are children of God and we must know this despite the new Jim Crow.
2. We have external wealth. We are existentially connected.
3. We have eternal value. We must praise and protest until every institution, politician, news station knows that our lives matter. Our matter to Jesus Christ.

Dr. McCorn extended the Invitation to Christian Discipleship. Following the Invitation, Bishop Moore called for the offering that was received by Districts. The Penny Brigade offering was \$8,931.00. The districts collected respectively:

|                        |                       |                                |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Baltimore \$3,041.56   | Harrisburg \$3,001.80 | Phila-Eastern Shore \$3,600.00 |
| N. Virginia \$1,500.00 | Washington \$5,000.00 | <b>Totaling \$16,143.36</b>    |

As the offering was being received, Bishop Moore acknowledged those visitors sharing with us to include:

|                            |                     |                      |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Dr. Rebecca Branch Griffin | Rev. Amos Goodwine  | Rev. Wilmer Williams |
| Sis. Sandra Crowder        | Rev. Tony Henderson | Sis. Gene Venable    |

We adjourned at 10:57 p.m. with the Missionary benediction.

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