

Virginia Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Convening at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump

12042 West Broad Street

Richmond , Virginia 23233

June 19, 2018- June 24, 2018



Quadrennial Theme: “The Freedom Church: Refocusing on Our Purpose, Reviewing Our Practices, Retooling Our People, Reaching our Potential”

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

Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, Missionary Supervisor
Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate

Pre-Conference Activities (Lay Council Session) 1PM

Bro William English Presiding Officer

Greetings from the President Brother English

Opening Selection - Onward Christian Laity

The Affirmation for Laity, followed by prayer from William English.

Presidents Report for the Conference from each district.

Greetings/Remarks from Sister. Catherine Burrell -Director Mid - Atlantic Episcopal District

Election of Officers - Mrs. Katherine Burrell - Director Mid - Atlantic

President - Brother William English

1st VP - Sister Carlee Cash

2nd VP - Sister Glenda Wright

Secretary – Sister Florence Brown

Financial Secretary – Sister Regina Rivera

Treasurer –Sister Paula M. DeBerry

Chaplain - Brother Hurley Daye

Offering- Paula M. DeBerry, Treasurer

Presiding Elder Rev. Dr Vincent Jones - presented Laity Laughs

Comedienne Lena Thomas as "Say-D"

Remarks:

William English

Katherine Burrell

Lay Council Closing Prayer - Hurley Daye, Chaplain

Tuesday Evening (Communion Service)

The Ministers of the Virginia Conference processed into the sanctuary as we sang “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name.” Zion Chester and St. Thomas provided the music for the Communion service. Rev. Dr. Vincent M. Jones, Sr. served as the Worship Leader and led us in the Call to Worship and Invocation. We sang “Victory In Jesus” and Rev. Sharon Hall led the Responsive Reading. Followed by the Gloria Patri with Rev. Samuel Warren leading us in the Apostles’ Creed as we reaffirmed our faith in God and the Christian Church. The Scripture (Exodus 14: 15-25) was read by Rev. Betty Bradley and Rev. Dr. Rebecca Branch-Griffin offered the Evening Prayer and we sang the Prayer Hymn “Hear Our Prayer.” followed by a selection from Zion Chester Choir.

Rev. Charles received the Ministry of Kindness offering and it was blessed with the offertory. Presiding Elder Vincent M. Jones, Sr. presented Bishop W. Darin Moore who introduced the preacher for the Communion sermon, Rev. Dexter Feely. His topic was “We Can’t Stay Here”

Sermon Highlights

1. We must have faith to believe God, even when it looks like to taking backward.
2. We must understand that God has a way of driving the devil crazy.
3. We must always remember that God will get the Glory.

Following this anointed message, Rev. Dexter Feely extended the invitation to Christian Discipleship. The Finance Committee received the Communion Offering and it was blessed with the offertory. Bishop Moore was the Celebrant and the Presiding Elders were con-Celebrants for the communion service. Following the ritual, communion was served. At the conclusion of communion, we sang a hymn “It Is Well” and fellowshiped with one another.

Bishop Moore, 99th Bishop in the line of succession of the AME Zion Church declared that the 152nd annual session of the Virginia Conference was officially opened to conduct the necessary business and all other items coming before this conference.

Wednesday, June 29, 2016

The morning devotion was led by the Evangelistic team followed by greetings from Bishop Moore. He then introduced the Bible teacher, Rev. Joseph Perry, Pastor of the St. Luke Franklin, VA. He taught from the scripture: Acts 16: 25-44. “ **THE CHURCH HAVING POWER TO STILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE** “ Rev. Joseph Perry stated that we must always be ready to pray, and minister: A Christian must be ready to pray. Prayer is communicating with God. Are we living our lives in a way that we are ready anytime?

- We must stay charged up, like a battery,
- Keep a charge on our lives
- Stay connected to Heaven- through prayer

There was great participation from the congregation. was very interactive. Bishop Moore who gave accolades to Rev. Joseph Perry.

Bishop Moore called for the Report of the Rules Committee:

Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Arrington presented the following report:

- 1) The first 5 rows across the front would constitute the bar of the conference.
- 2) That we would follow the official printed program of the Annual Conference with necessary changes as directed by our Bishop.
- 3) That we would be governed by the Holy Bible, the 2016 edition of the AME Zion Discipline and Robert’s Rules of Order.
- 4) That all cell phones would be placed on vibration mode or turned off while we are in session.
- 5) That we would display Christian behavior at all times while we are here.

Rev. Christopher Eason offered a motion that the report of the Rules committee be received and adopted; Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins seconded and the motion was carried.

Report of Credential Committee

Newport News Credentials

Greater Walters Dorothy Lattimore
Zion Southampton – Mary Butts

David Temple – Robert Smith
Beulah Land – Catherine Jordan
Mars Hill – Christine Hill
O’ Berry – Brenda Whitehead
St Mark – Sallie B. Person
St. Luke – Cheryl Jackson
Hickory Grove – Claressa Strawn
Piney Grove – Beverly D. Jones
St. Mary – Jean Griffin
Walters Temple – Cynthia Forman
New Life – Ann Hammond

Norfolk Credentials

Church	Delegate
Metropolitan	Mary T. Jacobs
St. Thomas	Cynthia White
St. John	Marva Bond
Greater Metropolitan	Carolyn Simmons
Gabriel Chapel	Meta Miller
Brighton Rock	Sue Wilkerson
St. Joseph	Patricia Griffin
Wesley Union	Elizabeth Evans
Walton Grove	Natasha Bryant
Hood Chapel	Florence Brown
Providence	Jodianne Loveless
Gilmerton Star	Ray Barber
Sycamore Hill	Dorothy Beamon
Red Oak Grove	Betty Steward
New Foreman Temple	Angel Eason
St. Thomas Chesapeake	Shalaura Griffin

Petersburg Credentials

Church	Delegate
Blackwell Temple	Dawn Saunders
Greater Faith	Larry Wayne, Alt
Hood Temple	Jacquelyn B. Kidd
Madisonn Temple	Valerie Marks
Mt Zion	William Cooper
New Covenant	Regina D. Wilson
Oak Street	Carroll Marshall

Paradise
St Paul
Taylor's Chapel
White Rock
Zion Chester

Elizabeth Wilsn
Gracie Hardy
Mattie Walker
McArthur Hicks
Thomas Mosley
Faye Boisseau

Nominating Committee Report

Secretary –Adrienne Brooks

Assistant Secretaries- Linda Stevenson, Patricia Conwell

Marshall- Rev. Kenneth L. Zollicoffer

Statistician- Wilmers Williams

Assistant Statisticians – Sheryl Murdaugh, Linda Stevenson, Samuel Warren

Chief of Protocol and Aid to the Bishop – John Conwell

Aide to the Missionary Supervisor –Sandra Crowder

Musicians- Brandon Praileau and Kendra Zollicoffer (drummer)

Reporter- Montina Jones

Administrative Assistant- Neicey Chapman

Rev. Darwin Little offered a motion to receive the report of the Nominating committee; seconded by Rev. Joseph Perry and the motion was carried.

Roll Call done by the Conference Secretary. Rev. Dr. Laura Brown and Bro. Lafayette Jefferson, Jr. have been dropped and will be notified of the same by letter and given the opportunity to appeal. Other areas of the conference Roll were corrected from the floor.

Annual Conference 2019- June 11-16 Newport News District to host

Annual Conference 2020- June 23-28 Norfolk District to host

Presiding Elder Crowder offered a motion to receive the recommendations for the locations of the next 2 Annual Conferences; seconded by Rev. Samuel Warren and the motion was carried.

Dates of the 2018-19 Check-up Meeting

1st Checkup Meeting- September 29- Brighton Rock. Rev. Lorenza Meekins offered a motion to receive the recommendation for the site check-

up meeting; seconded by Rev. Kenneth Arrington and the motion was carried.

2nd Checkup Meeting- December 8- Cyber Meeting (Ohio)

3rd Checkup Meeting- March 23, 2019 Hood Temple. Rev. Christopher Eason offered a motion to receive the recommendation for the site check-up meeting; seconded Rev. Alma Coles Charles and the motion was carried.

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

Ministry of Kindness- Rev. Alma Coles Charles

Conference Report- Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lamb, Sr.

Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins offered a motion that Joseph Lamb serve as Conference treasurer for the next year; seconded by Rev. Darwin Little and the motion was carried.

Noonday Worship

The Evangelistic Committee led the worship service. Bishop W. Darin Moore introduced the noonday preacher, Rev. Randy Kiah, pastor of Taylor's Chapel. We sang " You Deserve The Glory". Rev. Kiah preached an anointed sermon entitled "If We Where One" (Genesis 11: 1-9)

Sermon Highlights

There lies strength in the number one. The Army used the slogan an Army of one. How many times have you heard anyone brag about being the number two? Noah was the only one that God could trust.

1. Unity is Power
2. Commonalities

Rev. Randy Kiah extended the invitation to Christian Discipleship. The finance Committee received the offering and it was blessed with the offertory. Bishop Moore then introduced Rev. Dr. Joseph Crocket, CEO and Publisher Friendship Press. Following the announcements Rev. Randy Kiah offered the Benediction.

Bishop Moore declared a recess so the ministers could dress in clergy attire in preparation for the Episcopal Address.

The Evangelistic Committee opened the service with songs of praise and worship. Rev. Alma Coles Charles led the prayer followed by a Selection: "Faithful."

Episcopal Address

Presiding Elder Kenneth Crowder presided for the Episcopal Address. Scripture - (John: 1-8) read by Presiding Elder T. K. Venable, Prayer by Rev. Dr. Edmond H. Whitley, Presiding Elder Emeritus, Presiding Elder – Rev. Dr. Vincent Jones, presented the 99th Bishop in the line of succession in the AME Zion Church, The Right Rev. W. Darin Moore who gave the following anointed message:

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

To Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, the Missionary Supervisor of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District and my partner in both life and ministry; to Presiding Elders Vincent M. Jones, Sr.; Kenneth W. Crowder, and T. Kenneth Venable; to our ministers, General, Connectional, Conference, and District Officers, Lay Leaders, Delegates, and visitors to this the 152nd Session of the Virginia Annual Conference. I greet each of you in the only Name that eternally matters; the Name of Jesus Christ!

INTRODUCTION

This conference year has been both amazing and agonizing. We've experienced heights of unbelievable joy and yet, depths of profound grief. Our hearts have

rejoiced as we traveled throughout the Episcopal District and witnessed the Lord transform lives, revitalize congregations, bring vision to reality, and restore to health many of our Zion family members. Yet, we've also mourned the deaths of some of our most beloved friends, colleagues, and family. The Virginia Conference and the AME Zion Church will always cherish the memory of the Rev. Dr. Kathryn G. Brown. This year truly touched us with the full range of emotions, joy and pain, sunshine and rain. **But nevertheless, we persisted!**

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AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SIN

The 3 evils Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. confronted and condemned - racism, militarism, and poverty, continue to rob this nation of its potential. Racism remains the single most malignant and resilient disease infecting the soul of America. My friend, Jim Wallis has termed it, "America's original sin."

A report published in April in the New York Times says there has been no progress for Black Americans on homeownership, unemployment, and incarceration in 50 years. This week, a study done by UCLA, Harvard and Berkeley researchers concluded that young people of color in the United States have dramatically more years stripped from their lives due to police violence than white people. African Americans are incarcerated at more than

5 times the rate of whites.

In twelve states, more than half of the prison populations is black: Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Maryland, whose prison population is 72% African American, tops the nation.

The imprisonment rate for African American women is twice that of white women.

Nationwide, African American children represent 32% of children who are arrested, 42% of children who are detained, and 52% of children whose cases are judicially waived to criminal court.

These statistics represent real people and are a stark reminder that racial inequality is still a painful reality in America. When you consider that 73 civilians have been killed by police bullets since 2015 and 70 of those 73 were African American men, this is a national disgrace!

Dismantling systemic racism and confronting injustice in our society isn't "extra- credit Christianity." It is central to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To follow Christ is to follow him into the heart of the world's brokenness armed with the Gospel of grace and liberation that consumes and transforms. The Freedom Church must never suffer from complacency or laryngitis. We must powerfully witness to and work for our Savior who proclaimed; *"The Spirit*

of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that

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captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD's favor has come.” (Luke 4:18-19 NLT)

On April 4th of this year, the fiftieth year since the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, the National Council of Churches, of which I am privileged to serve as Chair of the Governing Board, launched a multi-year initiative entitled; ACT Now: Uniting to End Racism. Tens of thousands gathered on the National Mall in Washington, DC representing 38 denominations and other faith communities to give a bold and public witness to our shared commitment to work together to do the hard work of truth-telling, confronting racist structures both within the church and throughout society. White privilege is the immoral root of which racism is the poisonous fruit and we must name it and work to eradicate it.

I was deeply moved and greatly inspired by the thousands of members of our AME Zion Church Family who mobilized to join us on the Mall for this historic gathering. The pastors and laity of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District led the way in organizing, programing, and hosting the rally.

So, the AME Zion Church has come together to lift our voices and commit our energies to continue the struggle of our founders against racism. We are the heirs of Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, of Frederick Douglass and James Walker Hood, of Julia Foote and Coretta Scott King. We serve notice on:

- Steve Bannon and the white nationalists
 - David Duke and the new KKK movements
 - Richard Spenser and the neo-Nazis
 - Franklin Graham, Jerry Falwell, Jr, and Paula White and the white cultural evangelicals
- But we don't stop there, Paul Ryan, Mitch McConnell and the spineless members of the Republican Party whose continuing complicity has enabled this White House to become the most corrupt, divisive, and destructive administration in

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American history, we want you to know that The Freedom Church is reporting for duty.

OUR THEME

Our Quadrennial Theme states the following: ***“The Freedom Church: Refocusing On Our Purpose, Reviewing Our Practices, Retooling Our People,***

Reaching Our Potential.” This theme is a declaration of our priorities but it is also a call to action. Last year, our emphasis was - refocusing on our purpose. In other words, we have to keep the main thing the main thing! Throughout the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District, we’ve been reminded that our “Mission is the Great Commission,” that we are in the disciple-making business. Using Bishop Robert Schnase’s insightful book; “The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations,” we outlined the five practices that every congregation should make a priority, including radical hospitality and passionate worship. I applaud those pastors and congregations who are studying and implementing these vital principles in your church.

We are witnessing seeds of vitality and renewal taking root in some of our churches in the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District; however, I’ve come to the sad recognition that many in our beloved Zion are immobilized by the challenges, much like the paralyzed man that Jesus encountered by the Pool of Bethesda, Let me remind you of the story:

“Soon another Feast came around and Jesus was back in Jerusalem. Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there was a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, with five alcoves. Hundreds of sick people—blind, crippled, paralyzed—were in these alcoves. One man had been an invalid there for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him stretched out by the pool and knew how long he had been there, he

said, “Do you want to get well?”

The sick man said, “Sir, when the water is stirred, I don’t have anybody to put me in the pool. By the time I get there, somebody else is already in.” Jesus said, “Get up, take your bedroll, start walking.” The man was healed on the spot. He picked up his bedroll and walked off. (John 5:1-8 MSG)

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Jesus’ question: “Do you want to be healed?” has intrigued preachers, this one included, for years. Who doesn’t want to be healed? But in all the times you’ve read this passage, have you ever stopped to consider the fact that the man never answered Jesus’ question? He could have said yes or no, but instead he took that opportunity to pour out his sad story of loneliness and disappointment and despair.

Jesus asked Him, “Do you want to be healed?” and he went into a long litany of excuses. Why didn’t he shout out, “Yes, Jesus! I desperately want to be healed!” Had he lost hope? Had he settled down into a kind of negative despair? Or consider this possibility; or was he content in his illness because to be healed would mean he would have to take responsibility to actually do something; in that he would have to begin to make some changes? It’s always easier to complain about what others are not doing than to take responsibility for your own condition.

Just as the Lord asked the question of that man, I ask it of us this afternoon; “Zion, do you want to be healed?” If your first response is to make excuses; we’re in a bad neighborhood, people are moving away, our members are mostly seniors, the church a few blocks away are taking all the young people, and so on, then you will remain invalid.

Something is deeply flawed in us if we look out at our congregations each Sunday and see empty pews and are not disturbed by it; if our churches are failing to connect with youth and young adults and we are not disturbed by it. Something is wrong if we can go week after week conducting Sunday morning worship services and no lives are being transformed in our congregation and in the community.

If the fact that disciples aren’t being made, that our congregations aren’t healthy, that our neighborhoods are in crisis doesn’t disturb you, then I’m curious what does. Do we really want healthy congregations? Do we want ministry that transforms lives? Do we want to reach young people with the Gospel of Christ? Then Jesus is commanding us to “Take up your beds and start moving.”

Transformative leaders understand that whenever something is not working or is out of order in the church, it may not be your fault, but it is your responsibility. Leadership is about possessing the right attitude and ability to respond when faced with a challenge.

I had a school mate when I lived in New York who built remote-controlled model airplanes. He showed me one that he was especially proud of. It would fly several feet in the air and I was impressed. One day he told me that he wanted to show me his new airplane. When he brought it out, I immediately recognized it as the same one he flew the last time. “That’s the same plane,” I said. But he explained that this plane could fly twice as high as the old one. He used the same frame, but he had to retro-fit the engine, the wings, and the flaps so it could reach higher heights.

The AME Zion Church has a strong framework and a rich legacy. We have inherited powerful tools from our fore-parents; however, if we are going to reach higher heights, we must review our practices and retro-fit those practices that are no longer effective. Let me suggest a few for our prayerful consideration:

- Do we conduct worship services that create expectancy, that move people to experience a fresh encounter with the Holy Spirit or are we content on our beds of sameness and lameness just going through the motions of worship? Transformative leaders understand that people are searching for worship that is authentic, alive, creative, and enthusiastic. [SEP]
- Do we help our members to identify their spiritual gifts

and align them with ministry in the local church that matches those gifts or are we relying on our beds of appointing people to positions they no longer have a passion for or were never gifted for? [L] [SEP]

- Do we focus our ministry efforts and church programs outside the church walls extending radical hospitality to the community or are we reclining on our beds of comfort, wondering why people don't come into our churches rather than us going out to them? [L] [SEP]
- Do we actually teach our members to be intentionally invitational, to become so excited about their love for Jesus and their church that they invite family, friends, co-workers, and community members to worship with them on a regular basis, or are we laying on beds of stagnation and decline? [L] [SEP]

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PRACTICE WHAT WE PREACH

Our country and our church is facing a crisis of leadership. The current climate in politics is tragically mirrored in the church. We equate power with arrogance and intimidation and we've rejected the teaching of Jesus about servant leadership as weak and timid. How tragic that Christian leaders are behaving more like Caesar than like Christ.

Humility doesn't demand or expect applause, positions, or recognition. It manifests the love one possesses for GOD and others in acts of service that enrich others. The essence of genuine humility isn't thinking less of ourselves but thinking of ourselves less. Our culture equates strong leadership with narcissism, huge egos, and treating followers as subjects rather than bearers of the Imago Dei, the image of GOD. Humility recognizes that we are all created in GOD's image and therefore must treat every person like they matter, because to GOD they do matter.

I frequently hear it said that what we're doing isn't working. But could it be that what we're doing works for why we're doing it but not for why we should be doing it?

If we are simply holding positions for personal recognition or job security maybe what we're doing works. If we are satisfied just holding meetings and collecting assessments then what we're doing works at least for the short term. However, if we are committed to lives being transformed and people growing as disciples of Jesus, then something must change.

As Christian leaders we must examine ourselves honestly and continually to ensure that our motives are holy. The Church must review our practices with the goal of remaining focused and faithful to our mission. The church doesn't just have a mission. The church is mission. Our fundamental being is based on the presumption that we

are witnesses to a Christ who is known only through witnesses. To be a witness means you bear the marks of Christ so that your life gives life to others. I can't imagine Christians who are not fundamentally in mission as constitutive of their very being – because you don't know who Christ is except by someone else telling you who Christ is. This is the work of the Holy Spirit and the mission of the church. This is the calling upon every Christian.

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Our local churches must cultivate ministry programs that produce healthy disciples, not just church members. We must become dynamic communities of believers who are passionate enough about Jesus that we share the Gospel with others.

However, in order for our local churches to be healthy, we need our pastors to be healthy disciples of Jesus. The crisis of leadership in the local church impacts the crisis of leadership in our ministry and the crisis of leadership in our ministry impacts the crisis of leadership in the local church.

To effectively address these concerns, the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District will commit to engaging in practices that foster healthy ministers and growing churches. As a part of our strategy for attaining these goals, we will:

1. Challenge every Presiding Elder District to plant one new church during the next conference year.
2. Develop a conference Pastoral Care Ministry that offers resources and counseling services to assist pastors and their families to navigate the unique challenges of ministry.
3.
Establish the Dr. Lewis Anthony Ministry Scholars - this program will seek applications from throughout the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District from ministers forty and under who will receive scholarship assistance, be assigned a ministry mentor, and who will become participants in selected ecumenical events.

CONCLUSION

Zion, Do you want to be healed? Do we still fervently believe that Jesus Christ is the hope for the world? Do we truly believe that the Church as His body is Christ's instrument to reach and transform the world for Christ? If this is what we believe then it should be visible in how we behave.

The hope of the world is not government, academia, or business, but the hope of the world is Jesus Christ and that message is what only the Church offers. Whether they realize it or not, the world needs the Church! America needs the Church! Our

cities and towns need the Church! Our communities need the Church! Our families need the Church! But they need a church that is dynamic and relevant. They need a church and Christians who are passionate about telling the Good News of the love of GOD, the hope in the Resurrected Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives.

The good news for us today is the same for the invalid man laying by the Pool of Bethesda. Jesus keeps showing up and speaking a word into our lives. Get up Church! Take up your beds and start walking into your future.

Get up Church because the world needs your witness of the love of Jesus! Get up Church because the Freedom Church still has much work to do! Get up Church because we're tired of laying on beds of complacency and lethargy!

Get up Church because we serve a Savior who tells the weary and lame to get up!

Get up Church because we follow Jesus who after they counted Him out and declared Him done, on the third day, He got up!

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;

No turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow; though

**none go with me, I still will follow; though none go
with me, I still will follow; No turning back, no
turning back.**

**The world behind me, the cross before me; the world
behind me, the cross before me; the world behind me,
the cross before me;**

No turning back, no turning back.

Respectfully submitted;

 Your fellow servant of the Gospel,

+ W. Darin Moore, 99th Bishop in line of succession of

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Following the Episcopal Address, a motion was made by Rev. Darwin Little that this inspirational, thought provoking, futuristic address be received with thanks. Seconded by Rev. Adrienne Brooks. There were several unreadiness; Presiding Elder Vincent Jones, Presiding Elder T.K. Venable, Presiding Elder Emeritus Edmond Whitney, Rev. Darwin Little, Rev. Sandi Hutchinson, Mrs. Sandra Crowder, Rev. Joseph Lamb, Bro. William English and Rev. James McMillian. All remarks were in the form of thankfulness. The motion was carried and the session was closed by Bishop Moore

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Bishop called for the finance committee. Rev. Darwin Little lead the conference in receiving the Great Offering and it was blessed with the offertory.

Wednesday Afternoon Business Session

Following Praise and Worship from Rev. Yolanda Buck and the Evangelism Committee, Bishop Moore called for the report of the Presiding Elders.

Newport News District

Presiding Elder Vincent Jones presented a video/power point presentation of activities of the Newport News District for the past year. Following the presentation, Presiding Elder Kenneth Crowder offered a motion to receive the report of Presiding Elder Vincent Jones; seconded by Presiding Elder T. Kenneth Venable. Unreadiness expressed by Rev. Kenneth Zollicoffer. Gifts, expressions of thanks and an honorarium were presented to Presiding Elder Jones and Rev. Dr. Montana Jones by Rev. Betty Bradley. The motion was carried.

Norfolk District

Norfolk District Presiding Elder Kenneth Crowder presented his annual report to the conference via video. He highlighted the accomplishments of the Norfolk District throughout the year. Presiding Elder T. Kenneth Venable offered a motion that the report would be received; it was seconded by Presiding Elder Vincent Jones. Unreadiness expressed by Rev. Darwin Little in the form of expressions of thanks along with honorariums given to Presiding Elder Kenneth and Sis. Sandra Crowder by Sis. Avelyn Chambers. The motion was carried.

Petersburg District

Presiding Elder T. Kenneth Venable presented a video/PowerPoint of the activities for the Petersburg District for the past year. Following the presentation, Presiding Elder Vincent Jones offered a motion to receive the report; it was seconded by Presiding Elder Kenneth Crowder. Unreadiness expressed by Rev. Alma Coles Charles and Mrs. Kiah. Expressions of thanks along with an honorarium were presented to Presiding Elder T. Kenneth Venable and Mrs. Jean Venable. The motion was carried. Bishop Moore in his remarks said that Rev. Rebecca Griffin sent him a message. She was out of surgery and in her room recuperating.

Bishop Moore called for all Visitors :

Rev. Michael King, Presiding Elder Philadelphia District/Philadelphia Baltimore Conference

Rev. Mark Thomas / Philadelphia Baltimore Conference

Rev. Andre Green/ Philadelphia Baltimore Conference

Rev. Paul Logan/Baltimore District/ Philadelphia Baltimore Conference
Rev. Jeffrey Moore/ Philadelphia Baltimore Conference
Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker, Sr. /Ohio Annual Conference / Cleveland District
Rev. William B. Rankin/ Ohio Annual Conference/ Akron District
Rev. Amos Goodwin, Jr./Ohio Annual Conference/Akron District
Rev. Ronald Reed / Ohio Annual Conference/ Akron District

The closing prayer and blessing of dinner was done by Rev. Leon Hutchinson.

Wednesday Evening Service 7:00 P.M (Ecumenical Service)

Bro Warren Pitchford presided over the Ecumenical Service. The Petersburg District Amplified Praise Children Choir gave a selection. Brother Pitchford read a letter from Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax. We heard remarks from Deputy County Manager, Randy Silver, Pernessa Steele, Balm in Gilead, Senator Roslyn Dance, and Senator Henry L. Marsh. Another selection from Amplified Praise from the Petersburg District closed the program. Rev. Dr. Kenneth Arrington gave remarks of thanks and Presiding Elder T. K. Venable thanked all of the guests for their presence.

We then transitioned into the Annual Worship Service. Presiding Elder Kenneth Crowder served as the presiding officer for the evening service. Hood Temple/ Metropolitan AME Zion churches provided the music for the service. The music ministry of Jeremiah Hicks was also presented. Bishop Moore introduced the preacher for the evening, Rev. Dr. Darwin Little, Pastor of Metropolitan AME. Zion Church

Highlights of the sermon:

Text: Isaiah 6:1-5

Topic: The Impact of a Worship Encounter

Worship is an impactor. We are to leave here telling everyone I just had an encounter. For worship is our front-line weapon against the enemy. We can fight the enemy when we learn how to worship in spirit and truth.

1. We can see the presence of the Lord when we give more power to God than the things we are going.
2. We can feel the presence of the Lord when the glory comes in. God is getting ready to turn our woes to wows.

3. When the presence of the Lord comes in we can finally be purged. God has a way of taking areas of our life and turning them around for his Glory. So if you don't shift you will never make it to where you are trying to go. You have to make a shift in the right direction. You have to make a shift when you are in the presence of God. Because God is getting ready to take, you to where you need to be. Following the message Rev. Dr. Darwin Little gave the invitation to Christian discipleship. The Finance Committee received the evening offering and it was blessed with the offertory.

“All Things Come of Thee, O Lord”

Following the announcements, Rev. Dr. Little gave the closing prayer and benediction.