2023 THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE

NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Veries of Annual Conferences



THEME:

A Call for Prophetic Visions

MICAH 6:8

THE RIGHT REVEREND HARRY L. SEAWRIGHT PRESIDING PRELATE, NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

REVEREND SHERITA MOON SEAWRIGHT WMS EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR, NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

The Ninth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church God Our Creator, Christ Our Redeemer, The Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family



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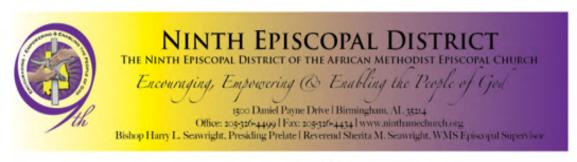
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Our Episcopal Leaders



Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate Reverend Sherita Moon Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor



August 11, 2023

Dear 9th Episcopal District Family,

Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus the Christ!

It is with deep gratitude, tinged with a measure of sadness, that I approach this 8th series of Annual Conferences with the knowledge that this will be the final time for me to have this experience in the 9th District. From meeting each of you face-to-face for the first time to meeting in virtual settings to returning to in-person worship, God blessed us. As we embark on this 8th series of meetings, I look forward to seeing your smiling faces again!

This year's Annual Conferences' theme "A Call for Prophetic Visions" is based in Micah 6: 8—
"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act
justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (NIV). Although the global
pandemic ended, because of what appears to be a lack of decency and civility in our society, our
work as servants in God's Kingdom is more crucial than ever. God always shows us what is
right, and more importantly, what is expected of those who call him, "Lord". When it comes to
ministering to and leading God's people effectively, the mandate takes on more power. As we
journey through the 2023 Annual Conferences, I pray that pastors and parishioners will be
inspired by a new and fresh anointing that prepares churches to accept the challenge of being the
prophets God calls us to be.

Thank you for the love you have shown to Rev. Sherita and our family during my tenure. The State of Alabama is a wonderful blessing to The Seawrights; I pray you share similar sentiments for what our presence means to you. In seeking to finish strongly, may God's inspiration help each of you fulfill the Lord's mission. Let us meet each day with anticipation of being used as instruments of God's divine will!

Because of Christ, I am,

Hay LS At

Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate 9th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Bishops of the AME Church

<u>DISTRICTS</u>	ELECTED	<u>BISHOPS</u>
1sт	129	Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr.
2 _{ND}	123	James Levert Davis
3 _{RD}	127	E. Earl McCloud, Jr.
4 тн	130	John Franklin White
5 тн	131	Clement W. Fugh
6 тн	132	Reginald T. Jackson
7 тн	125	Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.
8 тн	137	Stafford J. N. Wicker (President, Bishops Council)
9тн	133	Harry Lee Seawright
10тн	115	Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.
11 тн	138	Frank Madison Reid, III
12 _{TH}	134	Michael Leon Mitchell
13тн	135	E. Anne Henning-Byfield
14 тн	121	Paul J. M. Kawimbe
15тн	139	Silvester S. Beaman
16 тн	140	Marvin Clyde Zanders, II
17 _{TH}	124	David Rwhynica Daniels, Jr.
18тн	141	Francine A. Brookins
19 тн	136	Ronnie E. Brailsford, Sr.
20 тн	142	Frederick Allen Wright
ECUMENICAL OFFICER	128	Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath
& URBAN AFFAIRS		
LOCATED	120	Wilfred Jacobus Messiah

The Retired Bishops

<u>BISHOPS</u>	<u>No.</u>
FREDERICK CALHOUN JAMES	93
FRANK CURTIS CUMMINGS	95
PHILIP ROBERT COUSIN, SR.	96
HENRY ALLEN BELIN, JR.	104
JOHN RICHARD BRYANT	106
ROBERT VAUGHN WEBSTER	110
THEODORE LARRY KIRKLAND	114
VASHTI MURPHY McKENZIE	117
GREGORY G. M. INGRAM	118
PRESTON WARREN WILLIAMS, II	119
CAROLYN TYLER-GUIDRY	122

The Bishops who have served the Ninth Episcopal District In Retrospect & Respect

BISHOPS SERVED

JOHN MIFFLIN BROWN 1868 - 1872 THOMAS M. D. WARD 1872 - 1878 J. P. CAMPBELL 1878 – 1880 ALEXANDER WASHINGTON WAYMAN 1880 - 1884 DANIEL ALEXANDER PAYNE 1884 – 1888 WESLEY JOHN GAINES 1888 - 1892 ABRAM GRANT 1892 - 1896 HENRY MCNEAL TURNER 1896 – 1900 WESLEY JOHN GAINES 1900 - 1904 LEVI JENKINS COPPIN 1904 - 1908 HENRY B. PARKS 1908 JOSHUA H. JONES 1908 - 1916 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LEE 1916 - 1924 WILLIAM A. FOUNTAIN 1924 – 1928 ROBERT A. GRANT 1928 - 1936 DAVID H. SIMS 1936 - 1940 DECATUR W. NICHOLS 1940 - 1948 SHERMAN L. GREENE 1948 - 1951 **WILLIAM A. FOUNTAIN 1951 – 1952** ISAIAH H. BONNER 1952 – 1956 CAREY A. GIBBS 1956 - 1960 ISAIAH H. BONNER 1960 - 1968 HUBERT N. ROBINSON 1968 - 1972 VINTON R. ANDERSON 1972 - 1976 PHILIP R. COUSIN, SR. 1976 - 1984 FRANK M. REID, JR. 1984 - 1989 CORNELIOUS E. THOMAS 1989 - 1996 ZEDEKIAH L. GRADY 1996 - 2002 THEODORE L. KIRKLAND, SR. 2002 - 2008 JAMES LEVERT DAVIS 2008 - 2016 HARRY LEE SEAWRIGHT 2016 -

General Officers of the AME Church

Mr. Marcus T. Henderson, Sr.
TREASURER/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AME FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Rev. Dr. James F. Miller EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES

Rev. Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper, Sr. GENERAL SECRETARY/CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER/SENIOR GENERAL OFFICER

Rev. Dr. Roderick D. Belin
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER AME SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

Rev. Dr. John F. Green
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Marcellus A. Norris
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Fry-Brown
HISTORIOGRAPHER/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. John Thomas, III
EDITOR, THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER

Rev. Dr. Garland F. Pierce
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Retired General Officers

Dr. Johnny Barbour, Jr.
Dr. Paulette Coleman
Rev. Dennis C. Dickerson, Ph.D.
Dr. Kenneth H. Hill
Dr. Daryl B. Ingram
Dr. Hercules T. Miles
Dr. Calvin H. Sydnor, III
Dr. Richard Allen Lewis
Dr. George F. Flowers
Dr. James C. Wade

Dr. Jerome V. Harris



ALABAMA RIVER REGION CONFERENCE

Montgomery Selma District

Presiding Elder Jacquelyn Denson Rev. Willie Denson (Spouse)

NORTHWEST ALABAMA CONFERENCE

Birmingham-Florence-Tuscaloosa District

Presiding Elder Dwight E. Dillard Mrs. Christine Dillard (Spouse)

South Birmingham-Huntsville-Tuscaloosa District

Presiding Elder Bruce W. Hunter Mrs. M. Gail Hunter (Spouse)

West Birmingham-Ensley-Greensboro District

Presiding Elder Gloria Hall (President of Presiding Elders Council) Rev. Joseph Hall (Spouse)

SOUTHEAST ALABAMA CONFERENCE

Ozark-Troy District

Presiding Elder Willie E. Marshall Mrs. Kimberly Marshall (Spouse)

Dothan-Eufaula District

Presiding Elder Frederick Sherrod Dr. D. Michelle Cochran-Sherrod (Spouse)

NORTHEAST ALABAMA CONFERENCE

Phenix City District

Presiding Elder Johnny Rutledge Mrs. Patricia Rutledge (Spouse)

Tuskegee District

Presiding Elder Letitia Watford Mr. Thomas Watford (Spouse)

SOUTHWEST ALABAMA CONFERENCE

Mobile District

Presiding Elder Charles Lewis Rev. Dr. G. Dianne Lewis (Spouse)

Camden District

Presiding Elder Antonio Thomas

2023 Ninth Episcopal District Organizational List

Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate
Reverend Sherita Moon Seawright, WMS - Supervisor
Ms. Nell Hayes, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop
Reverend Alvelyn Sanders Swafford, Executive Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Denise Searcy, Staff Assistant

Mr. Brandon Cleveland, Executive Director, Daniel Payne College Legacy Village Foundation, Inc.

Rev. Alfonzo Colvin, Building Engineer/Staff, Daniel Payne Community Plaza

Presiding Elder Gloria Hall, President, Presiding Elders Council

Rev. Dr. Frederick Sherrod, Secretary, Presiding Elders Council

Presiding Elder Gloria Hall, Treasurer

Rev. Maurice Wright, II, Chair of Finance

Rev. Brian Blackwell, Comptroller

Mrs. Susie Jones Bonner, President, WMS

Mrs. Debra Weatherspoon, Director, YPD

Ms. Kierra Giles, President, YPD

Mr. Robert L. Turner, President, Lay Organization

Mr. Terry Jones Co-Coordinator, Sons of Allen

Mr. Robert L. Turner, Co-Coordinator, Sons of Allen

Mrs. Kimberly Marshall, President, Ministers' Spouses

Mrs. Hattie Nathan, Director, Christian Education

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Chair, Board of Examiners

Rev. Alvelyn Sanders-Swafford, Dean, Board of Examiners

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Dean, Nichols-Thomas-Grady Clergy Institute

Mrs. Sherryl Whiting, Coordinator, Christian Debutante-Masters Commission

Rev. Grandville Anderson, Director, Evangelism Ministry

Rev. Dr. Carmen Avery Walker, President, Women in Ministry

Rev. Brandon Thornton, President, Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)

Rev. Ulysses Kincey, Jr., Mr. Donald Clemons, Co-Directors, Social Action

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Co-Director, Prayer Ministry

Rev. Raymond B. Swafford, Co-Director, Prayer Ministry

Rev. Maurice Wright, II, Director, 9th District Music & Christian Arts Ministry (MCAM)

Rev. Harry Matthew Seawright, Assistant Director, Music Ministry

Rev. Roosevelt Williams, III, Director of Public Relations

Mrs. Marge Simmons, Mass Email Coordinator

Mrs. Ann Clemons, District Liaison, The Christian Recorder

Ms. Tammy Davis, Coordinator of Health Ministry

Rev. Warren Anderson, Chief Marshall

Rev. Roosevelt Williams, III, Co-Director, Technology

Rev. Eugene Johnson, Co-Director, Technology

Ms. Nell Hayes, Reporter of Clergy Information

Vacant, Chair, Scholarship Committee

Connectional Officers

Dr. Monica Dillihunt, Connectional Historiographer/Statistician, WMS

Dr. Djuana Duncombe-Paden, Connectional Worship Director, WMS

Mrs. Dianne H. Battle, Connectional Lay Organization Director of Public Relations

Rev. Maurice Wright, Director, MCAM, Music and Christian Arts Ministry

Mrs. Rosemary Range, Recording Secretary, Fellowship of Church Educators

Mrs. Sherryl Whiting, Assistant Recording Secretary, Christian Debutante-Masters Commission

Rev. Leodis Strong, President, Connectional Council

Presiding Elder Dwight E. Dillard, Treasurer, Connectional Presiding Elder's Council & Connectional Council

Rev. Dr. G. Dianne Lewis, President, AME Chaplains Association

Mrs. Johnnita Bryant, Corresponding Secretary of MSWAWO+PKS

Ms. Tra'Nyce Jones, YPD Communications Secretary

The Legacy of the AME Church in the State of Alabama

Alabama River Region Annual Conference

Historical Reflections of the Alabama River Region Conference By Presiding Elder Jacquelyn L. Denson

In 1830, slaves in Selma, Alabama attended the First Methodist Episcopal Church, today known as Church Street Methodist Church, with their white slave masters. After the Union won the Civil War and President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, the black parishioners, moved to the basement of a building on Broad Street in 1866. That basement later became the Colored A.M.E. Church of South Selma, which later became The Albert Hotel. The church's emphasis was on preaching the Gospel, Sunday School, and Mission. The Colored A. M. E Church of Selma was admitted to the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1867.

In May 1868, Bishop John Mifflin Brown, an ordained Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and a key activist in the Underground Railroad, was elected and consecrated the 11th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was assigned to serve a district that was composed of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. Bishop Brown organized and held the first Alabama Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church on July 25, 1868, at the Colored A.M. E. Church in Selma, Alabama. The Alabama Conference is historically recorded by the A.M.E. Church, as the first conference established in the great state of Alabama. Later, the Colored A. M. E. Church was named Brown Chapel in honor of Bishop John Mifflin Brown.







Due to the redistricting of the 9th Episcopal District in 2009, The Alabama Conference, also referred to as the "Old Alabama Conference", became the Alabama River Region Conference. The Montgomery Selma District is the only Presiding Elder's District assigned to the Alabama River Region Conference, formerly known as the "Alabama Conference". We are the proud Presiding Elder's District to Historic Brown Chapel AME Church (site of the "Bloody Sunday" March), Selma, AL, St. Paul AME Church (home church of Mother Rosa Parks), Montgomery, AL, St. John's AME Church, downtown Montgomery, AL, St. John's AME Church (Capitol Hill), Montgomery, AL, Campbell Chapel AME Church (home church of Bishop Frank C. Cummings), Minter, AL and twenty-two other outstanding churches. The Alabama River Region Conference, formally known as the Alabama Conference, is called the "Mother Conference". Brown Chapel is affectionately called the "Mother Church" and the "Citadel of African Methodism" in the State of Alabama.

Many bishops, presiding elders, pastors, and laity have served the conference and the church well. Bishops serving the redistricted Alabama Region Conferences are Bishop James L. Davis and our present Bishop Harry L. Seawright. All Presiding Elders of the Old Alabama Conference made significant contributions with two in particular, Presiding Elder Ananias Perry, Jr. and Presiding Elder Leo Brock, Sr. The Presiding Elders who have served the Alabama River Region are the Revs. Albert L. H. Hyche, James E. Arnell, and Rev. Dr. Farrell J. Duncombe. The present Presiding Elder, the first female to serve in the total history of the conference, is the Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson.

As we celebrate the 14th Session of the Alabama River Region Annual Conference, we Commemorate the 155 years and one month, to the date, of the establishment of the Alabama Conference. To God be the Glory!

The Legacy of the AME Church in the State of Alabama...continued

Northwest Alabama Annual Conference North Alabama Conference-West Alabama Conference

The North Alabama Conference was organized December 11, 1878 at Florence, Alabama, in the courthouse, with Bishop Jabez Pitt Campbell presiding. Bishop led hymn #249, "Let Zion's Watchmen All Awake and Take the Alarm They Give." The scripture lesson was Joel 2nd chapter, after which the Rev. Charles L. Harris was elected secretary. On December 5, 1898, the North Alabama Annual Conference met at St. John, Huntsville, with Bishop Henry McNeal Turner presiding. At that time, the following Presiding Elder Districts were in operation: Birmingham District - Presiding Elder W. H. Mixon; Florence District-Presiding Elder N. L. Edmonson; Blocton District-Presiding Elder A. W. Atwater; Montevallo District-Presiding Elder W. W. Warren; Anniston District-Presiding Elder P. G. Simmons; Jasper District-Presiding Elder S. L. Covington. Were the North Alabama Conference still in effect, this would mark the 143rd year of it's existence.

In 1922, Bishop William A. Fountain was assigned to the Ninth Episcopal District. The West Alabama Conference was first organized in that year in Centreville, Alabama, at Mount Sanai AME Church. In 1924, the West Alabama Conference re-organized in Greensboro, Alabama at Saint Matthew AME Church. Rev. A. L. Tooson served as the secretary at this Annual Conference. Bishop Fountain elevated to Presiding Elder Dr. General Randall Polk and commissioned him to build the West Alabama Conference. Were the West Conference still in effect today it would be in it's 101st year of existence.

In 2008, the Conference Boundaries Committee was formed consisting of eight persons from each Presiding Elder District to study realignment of the Annual Conferences in the state of Alabama. New boundaries were redrawn using municipal hub centers and county lines. In 2009, the North Alabama Conference and the West Alabama Conference met in joint session at the Sheraton Hotel, Birmingham, Alabama, with Bishop James Levert Davis presiding. During this joint meeting, the Conference Boundaries Committee gave its report. Rev. F. D. Parker presented the North Conference resolution on the Northwest Conference boundaries. The motion to adopt was made by Rev. Joseph A. Hall and seconded by Rev. J. Arthur Rumph. The motion was carried by the North Conference. The resolution from the West Conference on the new Northwest Conference boundaries was presented by Mrs. Betty West. The motion to adopt the resolution was made by Rev. R. J. Rumley and seconded by Presiding Elder Myers Hawkins. The motion was carried and the Northwest Alabama Conference, consisting of three Presiding Elders districts was born. The three Presiding Elders appointed were: Rev. Dwight E. Dillard, Birmingham-Florence-Tuscaloosa District; Rev. Oliver Allen, South Birmingham-Huntsville-Bessemer District; Rev. Willis N. Huggins, West Birmingham-Ensley-Greensboro District.

The Northwest Conference is composed of sixty-eight (68) churches in the following counties: Jefferson, Morgan, Lauderdale, Colbert, Walker, Tuscaloosa, Madison, Jackson, Etowah, Marshall, Calhoun, and Hale. Gaines Chapel, Anniston and Oak Grove, Newell were added from the old East Alabama Conference. Other Presiding Elders who have or are now serving in the Northwest Alabama Conference are: Rev. Willis N. Huggins, Sr., West Birmingham-Ensley-Greensboro District; Rev. Cleophas A. Guice, West Birmingham-Ensley-Greensboro District; Rev. Albert Lee Hezekiah Hyche, South Birmingham-Huntsville-Bessemer District; Rev. Dwight E. Dillard, Birmingham-Florence-Tuscaloosa District; Rev. Bruce W. Hunter, South Birmingham-Huntsville-Bessemer District; and Rev. Gloria A. Hall, West Birmingham-Ensley-Greensboro District.

Resource material:

Nixon, Rev. W. H. History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Alabama. AME Church Sunday School Union, 1902.

African Methodist Episcopal Church History, Ninth Episcopal District, 1868-2018. 150th Anniversary Edition, 2018.

The Legacy of the AME Church in the State of Alabama...continued

Southeast Alabama Annual Conference South Conference

The South Alabama Annual Conference was established in 1914. In 2009, Bishop James Levert Davis presided over the South Alabama Annual Conference, as the name was changed to the Southeast Alabama Conference. The Southeast Alabama Conference includes the following two districts: Dothan-Eufaula District and the Ozark-Troy District.

The South Alabama Conference was organized in Enterprise, AL at Johns Chapel A.M.E.C in 1914. Bishop Joshua H. Jones was the Presiding Prelate. Reverend W. M. Pyles was the Host Pastor. Rev. Ingrahan was the first Secretary of the conference. Many of the churches in the South Alabama Conference were built in the late 1800s, by former slaves. Zions, such as Cherry Street Dothan, Johns Chapel Enterprise, Mt. Moriah Sconiersville, Mt. Zion Eufaula, New Zion Enterprise, St. Luke Eufaula, St. Paul Brundidge, St. Paul Troy; just to name a few.

These churches were simply known as the colored Methodist church in their inception and were the foundation of many African American's success. The boundary lines in the conference were also changed to include and to exclude a number of churches into the revised Southeast Alabama Conference.

The Dothan-Eufaula District is located in Southeast Alabama and is comprised of five counties and ten cities. There are 23 churches on the Dothan-Eufaula District with a reported membership of 1,792. The Dothan-Eufaula District was part of the Old "Solid" South Alabama Annual Conference which was reorganized under the leadership of Bishop T. Larry Kirkland in the year of 2002. Prior to 2002 the "Solid" South Alabama Annual Conference was the only Conference in the State of Alabama that had three districts (Ozark, Dothan-Eufaula and Troy). When Bishop Kirkland directed the reorganization it was decided and adopted by the "Solid" South Alabama Annual Conference that our annual conference would become two districts (Ozark-Troy and Dothan-Eufaula).

The Dothan-Eufaula District remained and other churches were assigned from the Ozark and Troy Districts to the Dothan-Eufaula District in the merger. In the year 2010, under the leadership of Bishop James Levert Davis, the boundaries of the "Solid" South Alabama Annual Conference were revisited and it was adopted and passed by the "Solid" South Alabama Annual Conference and ratified by the General Conference in 2012. This is when the "Solid" Southeast Alabama Annual Conference was born.

Presiding Elders who have served the Dothan-Eufaula District are: Reverends E.C. Hatcher; S. D. Hamilton; R. R. Rhodes; R.A Daily; J.C. Jarrett, served 10 years; G.W. Shaw, served 31 years; J. D. Sanders, served 8 years; David E. Reddick, served 18 years; Frederick D. Sherrod III, is presently serving.

The Ozark-Troy District of the South Alabama Conference was organized in 2002 under the leadership of Bishop T. Larry Kirkland. It is a product of the majority of the Troy District merging with the Ozark District, while a small few churches merged into the Dothan Eufaula District. Therefore, the three districts: Ozark District, Troy District and Dothan Eufaula District were merged into two districts. Presiding Elders who have served the Troy District are: Reverends H.W. Pouncey; Randolph Grubbs; J.D. Sanders; Jerome Harris; David E. Reddick.

Presiding Elders who have served the Ozark District are: Reverends J.C. Jarrett; J.F. McCloud. Presiding Elders who have served the Ozark Troy District are: Reverends J.F. McCloud; Willis Huggins; Samuel Smith; Cleophus Guice; Andrew Holtz; Johnny Rutledge; with Dr. Willie Eugene Marshall presently serving.

The Legacy of the AME Church in the State of Alabama...continued

Northeast Alabama Annual Conference East Conference

Welcome to the 14th Session of the Northeast Alabama Annual Conference, which was established in 2009, under the servant leadership of Bishop James Levert Davis. Currently, this Conference comprises the Phenix City and Tuskegee Districts, with 20-22 churches in each district. Churches across this Conference are located in Chambers, Russell, Lee, Macon, Bullock and wee bit of Barbour Counties.

However, in its prior iteration the Northeast Alabama Annual Conference was known as the East Alabama Conference, comprising four Districts; namely, the Union Springs, Montevallo, Anniston, and Opelika Districts. The old East Alabama Conference was organized in 1904, when Bishop Levi J. Coppin was assigned to preside over the old Seventh Episcopal District (Alabama and South Carolina) At its height, this Conference included approximately 121 Churches, many of which were established in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Among the first of these was St. Luke AME in Opelika, AL, which was formally organized in 1873; having met since the late 1860s under a brush arbor. St. Luke was brought into the AME Connection in 1880, by Bishop Henry McNeal Turner. The first session of the East Alabama Conference was held at Wayman Chapel, Union Springs, AL.

In 1980, the East Alabama Conference was reorganized, with the four districts collapsing into three: Montevallo, Anniston, Opelika and Union Springs Districts. In 1983, the three districts collapsed into two, namely the Phenix City and Tuskegee Districts. With the reorganizing yet again in 2009, Bullock County Churches merged with those in Chambers, Lee, Macon and the Hurtsboro Churches of Russell County to become the new Tuskegee District, with the remainder of the Russell County Churches comprising the new Phenix City District of the new Northeast Alabama Annual Conference.

Some notable stalwarts of the AME Church serving as Presiding Elders of the old East Alabama Conference were Elders Holmes, Walker, Fortson, Harris, Boddie, Newman, Treadwell, and Neal. At the time of the 2009 reorganization and shortly thereafter, Elders Joseph Hall and Ralph Neal served the Phenix City and Tuskegee Districts, respectively. Their immediate successors were Elders Samuel Smith (Phenix City) and Thomas Crossley (Tuskegee). As of this writing, Elder Johnny Rutledge serves the Phenix City District, and Elder Letitia Watford serves the Tuskegee District.

While the year 2023 marks the 14th session of the NE Alabama Annual Conference, it in fact marks the 119th session of what in essence was a major portion of the old East Alabama Annual Conference.

The Legacy of the AME Church in the State of Alabama...continued

Southwest Alabama Annual Conference Central Alabama Conference

The Southwest Alabama Conference, which evolved from what was formerly the Central Alabama Conference, was originally organized in 1892, in Demopolis, Alabama due to the growth of African Methodism in the state. The first conference was comprised of seven Presiding Elders' Districts: Selma, Mobile, Camden, Greensborough, Demopolis, Thomasville and Greenville. The Right Reverend Abraham Grant was assigned to preside over the district. Were the Central Alabama Conference still in effect today, this would represent the 130th session.

<u>The Presiding Elders were assigned as follows:</u> Selma District – Rev. F. B. Moreland; Mobile District – Rev. D. Brown; Greensborough District – Rev. R. D. Brooks; Camden District – Rev. L. Gardner; Demopolis District – Rev. E. L. Martin; Thomasville District – Rev. G. W. Watson; Greenville District – Rev. J. H. McGhee

Early history of Annual Conferences is as follows: The second session of the Central Alabama Conference was held at Emanuel African Methodist Church, Mobile, AL on November 22 to November 26, 1893. The Third session was held at Quinn Chapel in Uniontown, Alabama on November 28- to December 1, 1894. The fourth session was held in Selma, Alabama on December 4 to December 8, 1895. The fifth session was held in Greensborough, Alabama on November 18 to November 22, 1896. The Right Reverend H. M. Turner presided over the district. The sixth session was held in Mobile, Alabama at Bethel in December 1897. In 1898, the Central Alabama Conference assembled in Marion, Alabama. The eighth session was held in 1899 in Selma, Alabama. The ninth session was convened at Emanuel in Mobile, Alabama on November 7 to November 13, 1900. The tenth session was held in Demopolis, Alabama on November 14 to November 18, 1901. The Right Rev. W. J. Gaines was the presiding bishop.

Other Presiding Elders who have served in the Selma, Camden, and Mobile districts were: The Reverends Allison Walker, M. H. Leath, R. H. Manuel, M. F. Nichols, L. G. Duncan, L. V. Starkey, C. L. Wright, A. E. Williams, J.T. L. Dandridge, B. F. Howze, A.R. Ray, W. E. LeSuer, James Jackson, H.O. Swanson, E. A. Rouse, Johnnie Bryant, Dr. Jacqueline Denson, and presently, the Rev. Charles A. Lewis, Mobile District and the Rev. Antonio Thomas, Camden District.

In 2009, during the Episcopal District's Planning Meeting, a resolution was approved for conference boundary restructuring in conference accordance with the mandate of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to redraw conference boundaries. The Right Rev. James L. Davis was the Presiding Bishop. The Central Alabama Conference became the Southwest Alabama Conference. All churches, charges, stations, and circuits whose physical address was located in the respective counties of Washington, Escambia, Wilcox, Clark, Monroe, Marengo, Baldwin, Mobile, Choctaw, and Conecuh were aligned with the new conference. Presently, the Southwest Alabama Conference is comprised of two districts – the Mobile District (18 churches) and the Camden District (31 churches). The Rt. Rev. Harry L. Seawright is the Presiding Bishop.

Resource material:

Nixon, Rev. W. H. History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Alabama. AME Church Sunday School Union, 1902.

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT **Alabama River Region Annual Conference**

August 23 - 25, 2023

Reverend Roosevelt Williams, III, Host Pastor, St. John's AME Church, Montgomery Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson, Host Presiding Elder 807 Madison Avenue Montgomery, AL 36104

Hotel Information for 2023: Homewood Suites, 7800 EastChase Parkway, Montgomery, AL 36117, Phone (334) 277-9383

Hampton Inn & Suites, 7651 East Chase Parkway, Montgomery, AL 36117 Phone (334) 277-1818 or (334) 277-1560

SERMONS AND SERVICES SCHEDULE

Pastor, Historic Ward Chapel AME Church, Prattville, AL OPENING ANNUAL WORSHIP SERVICE WEDNESDAY (10:30am)

Wednesday Afternoon Business Session (2:45pm - 5:45pm) WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE-SONS OF ALLEN (6:00pm) THURSDAY CONFERENCE INSTITUTE (8:30am - 9:30am) THURSDAY BUSINESS SESSION (9:30am - 12noon)

HOUR OF POWER (12noon)

THIRD YEAR

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION (2:45pm - 6:00pm)

THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE-LAY ORGANIZATION (6:30pm)

FRIDAY BUSINESS SESSION (8:30am - 3:00pm)

FRIDAY COMMISSIONING AND CLOSING SERVICE (3:00pm)

BOARD OF EXAMINERS

All Conference Presiding Elders serve as Advisors to the Board

CHAIR..... Rev. Dr. Agnes M. Lover DEAN Rev. Roosevelt Williams. III Rev. Ruby-Heard-Bustamonte SECRETARY Rev. Dr. Cathey Bruce ADMISSIONS Rev. Darryl Ervin FIRST YEAR Rev. Valtoria Jackson SECOND YEAR

FOURTH YEAR Rev. Ruby Heard-Bustamonte

ADVISOR: Presiding Elder Jacquelyn L. Denson

MEMORIALS: Revs. Alfonzo Colvin, Loretta Fuller and G. LeBron Townsend, Sisters Verleta Baker, Nettie Brown, Barbara Kelly and Barbara Teague, Brother Afrid Lott

MINISTERIAL EFFICIENCY: Revs. Dr. Agnes M. Lover, Sandra Anderson, Ruby Heard-Bustamonte, Darryl Ervin, Cynthia McDaniel, Leodis Strong and Roosevelt Williams, III.

JUDICIARY: Revs. Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson, Darryl Ervin, Dr. Agnes M. Lover, Leodis Strong, and Roosevelt Williams, III

Rev. Yvonne Howze

EMPLOYEE SECURITY COMMITTEE: Revs. Leodis Strong, Eugene Johnson and Horace Winters, **Sisters** Joyce O'Neal and Rhonda Carstarphen, Brothers Gregory Palmer, and Jesse Barnes

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Alabama River Region Annual Conference

CONFERENCE TRUSTEES: Revs. Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson, Dr. Agnes M. Lover, Horace Winters, Sister Joyce O'Neal,

Brother Wendell Saxon

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Rev. Dr. Agnes M. Lover and **Brother** Dale Gamble

FINANCE COMMITTEE: To Be Elected

DEEDS, ABSTRACTS AND ABANDONED PROPERTY: Revs. Horace Winters, Sandra Anderson, Brenda Burns, Yvonne Howze,

and Alfonzo Colvin, Sisters Memendra Harris and Barbara Motley, Brothers Dale Gamble and James Barnett

CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES: Revs. Eugene Johnson, Dexter Patterson, Dr. Pamela Higgins and Loretta Fuller, Sisters

Maggie Koroma ,Delois Smith and Yvonne Kelly, Brothers Don Clemons and Douglas Brown

PRESIDING ELDERS' ASSESSMENT: Revs. Roosevelt Williams, III, Dr. Agnes M. Lover, James McCoy, Leodis Strong and Darryl Ervin, **Sisters** Gussie Boyd, Ora Cummings and Joyce O'Neal, **Brother** Kenneth Strong

DANIEL PAYNE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Revs. Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson, Dr. Agnes M. Lover and Leodis Strong, **Sister** Juanda Maxwell, **Brothers** Anthony Brock and Don Clemons

MISSIONS, CIRCUITS AND STATIONS: Revs. Sandra Anderson, Cynthia McDaniel, Alfonzo Colvin and Kenneth Rhodes, Sisters Arizona Cheeks and Idonyia McCoy, Brothers Allan Greyson and Jesse Barnes

CHURCH GROWTH: Revs. Dexter Patterson, Valtoria Jackson, and Shannon Fletcher, Sisters Ruby Fields, Melinda Page and Phyllis Houser, Brothers LeKedric Taylor and James Ekuyndayo

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Revs. Yvonne Howze, Ruby Heard-Bustamonte and Brenda Burns, **Sisters** Delois Smith, Doris Gant, and Janice Winborn, **Brothers** Rodney Arnold, and James Salter

CHURCH SCHOOL: Brothers Don Clemons and Ira Simmons

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY: Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, Sisters Mattie Frizzell, Hazel Bellamy and E. Ann Clemons,

Brother Kaleb Wade

LITERARY COMMITTEES

STATE OF THE CHURCH: Revs. Yvonne Howze, Darryl Ervin, James McCoy, Horace Winters, and Lenise Wright, **Sisters** Melinda Page, Barbara Teague and Christeen Sears, **Brothers** Clarence Seay and Henry L. Myers

STATE OF THE COUNTRY: Revs. Ruby Heard-Bustamonte, LeBron Townsend, and Kenneth Rhodes, **Sisters** E. Ann Clemons, and Linda Lowery, **Brothers** Kenneth Strong and Gregory Palmer

ECOLOGY, TEMPERANCE, AND HEALTH: Revs. Valtoria Jackson, Shelia Williams, and Brenda Burns, Sisters Patricia Walker, Linda Floyd, Claudette Dubose, Brother Carlos Dillard

SOCIAL, CIVIL AND POLITICAL ACTION: Revs. Dr. Cathy Bruce, Dexter Patterson and Dr. Pamela Higgins, **Sisters** E. Ann Clemons, Lynda Lowery, Yvonne Saxon and Janice Winborn, **Brothers** Don Clemons, and Leslie Burns

The first name of each committee represents the Committee Chair, who is responsible for organizing.

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Northwest Alabama Annual Conference

September 6 - 8, 2023

Reverend Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Host Pastor, Saint John AME Church, Birmingham Reverend Dwight E. Dillard, Sr., Host Presiding Elder Reverend Bruce W. Hunter, Associate Host Presiding Elder Reverend Gloria A. Hall, Associate Host Presiding Elder 708 15TH STREET NORTH Birmingham, AL 35203

Hotel Information for 2023: Hilton Downtown Birmingham @ UAB 808 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35206, Phone: (205) 933-9000

SERMONS AND SERVICES SCHEDULE

Annual Sermon				The F	Reverend	L. Nicol	e Slater
	Pastor,	Pavne	Chapel.	AME	Church-	Birmingh	am, AL

OPENING ANNUAL WORSHIP SERVICE WEDNESDAY (10:30am)
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION (2:45pm - 5:45pm)
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE-SONS OF ALLEN (6:00pm)
THURSDAY CONFERENCE INSTITUTE (8:30am - 9:30am)
THURSDAY BUSINESS SESSION (9:30am - 12noon)
HOUR OF POWER (12noon)
THURSDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION (2:45pm - 6:00pm)
THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE-LAY ORGANIZATION (6:30pm)
FRIDAY BUSINESS SESSION (8:30am - 3:00pm)
FRIDAY COMMISSIONING AND CLOSING SERVICE (3:00pm)

BOARD OF EXAMINERS

All Conference Presiding Elders serve as Advisors to the Board

CHAIR	Rev. Dr. Carmen A. Walker
DEAN	Rev. Dr. T. Eric Nathan
SECRETARY	Rev. Sheryl G. Shipman
ADMISSIONS	Revs. L Nicole Slater, Dr. Raymond Mayes, Dr. Marques Wheeler,
	Irvin Leonard
FIRST YEAR	Revs. L Nicole Slater, Maurice Wright, II
	Revs. Brian K. Blackwell, Vicki L. Mayberry, Eric D. Walker
SECOND YEAR	Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Revs. Damien R. Littlejohn
THIRD YEAR	Revs. Jerry W. Smith, Sammie Nelms, Antonio James,
	Dr. Curtis Marie Smalls,
FOURTH YEAR	Rev. Dr. Carmen A. Walker, Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Sumbry,
	Rev. Wm. Jermaine Richardson

MEMORIALS: Revs. Glenn E. Smiley, Debra A. Ballard, Erroll Brantley, Sr., Myers Hawkins, Jr., Willis N. Huggins, Sr., Fredrick D. Parker, Roland U. Brown, Randy Rhodes, Nancy H. Seay, Michael Miller, and Sharon Hearns, **Sisters** Rebecca Buggs and Mildred Hampton, **Brother** Cliff Miller, Zion Phillips

MINISTERIAL EFFICIENCY: Revs. Dr. Marques Wheeler, II, Revs. Robert C. Freeman, Sr., L. Nicole Slater, Vicki L. Mayberry, William Slade, Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Wm. Jermaine Richardson, Maurice Wright, II., Damien Littlejohn, and Irvin Leonard

JUDICIARY: Presiding Elders Dwight E. Dillard, Gloria A. Hall, and Bruce W. Hunter, Revs. Anre' D. Faush, Dr. T. Eric Nathan, Wm. Jermaine Richardson, Richard L. Davis, and Chris D. Walker

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Northwest Alabama Annual Conference

EMPLOYEE SECURITY COMMITTEE: Revs. Damien R. Littlejohn, John L. Russell, Levi A. Billups, III, Dr. T. Eric Nathan, Dr. Raymond Mayes, Jerry W. Smith, Jo Ann Sumbry, Zachary Watkins, and Michael L. Rountree, **Sisters** Shirley Osborne, and Marcy C. Pruitt, **Brothers** Larry Searcy, Perry Washington and Garry Evans

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Revs. Brian K. Blackwell, Maurice Wright, II, Presiding Elder Presiding Elder Gloria Hall, Revs. Wm. Jermaine Richardson, Arthur Washington, and Eric D. Walker, **Sisters** Joy D. Foster, Shirley A. Mitchell and Willa Oates, **Brother** James C. Bonner

CONFERENCE TRUSTEES: BISHOP Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Elders Dwight E. Dillard, Bruce W. Hunter, and Gloria A. Hall, Revs. Dr. T. Eric Nathan, Maurice Wright, II, Damien Littlejohn; Raymond Mayes and Brian K. Blackwell, **Sisters** Brenda Clayton, Alma W. Jones, Michelle Parker and Dr. Jeanette Jones, **Brother** Dr. Simpson Berry

FINANCE COMMITTEE: To Be Elected

DEEDS, ABSTRACTS AND ABANDONED PROPERTY: Revs. Wm. Jermaine Richardson, Venita Farness, Chris D. Walker, Steve R. Caver, Tony W. Latham, Dr. Raymond E. Mayes, Sharon J. Hearns, Sammie Nelms, Jerry Wilder, and Sandra E. Cole, **Sisters** Phyllis Shepherd, Mattie Bonds, Rosemary Range, Doris Vaughn, Wanda Shaw, LaDonna Amos, and Jacqueline Dennis, **Brothers** Frankie Davidson, and Ben Colston

CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES: Revs. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Dr. T. Eric Nathan, Venita Farness, Richard L. Davis, and Roland U. Brown, **Sisters** Rebecca Buggs, Tomeka McGinnis, LueEllen McCrary, Glenda Bates, and Latasha Harris, **Brothers** Edward Green and Doeist Moore

Presiding Elders' Assessment: Revs. Maurice Wright, II, Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Brian K. Blackwell, L. Nicole Slater, Zachary Watkins and Dewayne Hendon, **Sisters** Willa Oates, Rita Goodson, Priscilla Chism and Loretta Martin, **Brothers** Edward Scott and Lawyer Brown, Jr.

DANIEL PAYNE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Presiding Elder Dwight E. Dillard, Revs. Brian K. Blackwell, and Maurice Wright, II, **Sister** Shirley A. Mitchell, Rose Edwards **Brothers** James C. Bonner, Jr., Thomas Jackson, and Edward Scott

MISSIONS, CIRCUITS AND STATIONS: Revs. Damien R. Littlejohn, Sammie Nelms, Michael Miller, Laurel J. Thornton, Sheryl Shipman and Jerry W. Smith, Sisters Mable McQueen, Shirley Patterson, Sadie Harris, Patricia Watkins, Mary White, Rose Edwards, Lanora Cooper and Linda Lewis-Reese, Brothers Garry Evans, James Campbell, Abdul Harris, Tony Tolbert, James Robinson and Donnie Wright

Сниясн Growтн: Revs. Maurice Wright, II, Dr. Charles M. Holsey, Dr. Jo Ann Sumbry, A. Devonta Anderson, and Tony W. Latham, **Sisters** Bridge Sims, Lavernice Garrett, Cheryl Ervin, Wilma Nelson, Patricia Wilson, Patricia C. Watkins and Beverly Graham, **Brother** Abram Hoyett

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Revs. Sheryl G. Shipman, Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Levi A. Billups, III, Michelle P. Jefferson, Randy Rhodes, Eric D. Walker, and Joretha Wright, **Sisters** Rosemary Range, Joy D. Foster, Brenda Dawson, Loretta Martin, and Dr. Thalia Love, **Brothers** Derrick Franklin, Marcus Hatchett, and Forest Rutledge

Church School: Dr. Simpson Berry, Sr., Sister Mildred Sims, Brother Willie Sandifer

MISSIONARY SOCIETY: Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, Sisters Susie J. Bonner, Thomasine Jackson, Christine E. Dillard, M. Gail Hunter, Dr. Monica Dillihunt, Kim Sterling, LaVarne McReynolds, Patricia R. Smith, Michelle Latham and Patricia Wilson

LITERARY COMMITTEES

STATE OF THE CHURCH: Revs. Irvin Leonard, Wm. Jermaine Richardson, Roland U. Brown, Lasagne Smith, Glenn Smiley, LaSondra Stanford, Dr. Carmen A. Walker and Dr. Curtis Marie Smalls, **Sisters** Konda Broyles, Jessie Moore, Shirley Osborn, Megan Spears, Janita Tolbert, Mary Wells-Porter, Linda Kimbrough, Michelle Reed, and Vernell Thomas, **Brothers** Jacob Ransom, Anthony Spaulding, and Donnie Wright

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Northwest Alabama Annual Conference

LITERARY COMMITTEES...CONTINUED

STATE OF THE COUNTRY: Revs. William C. Slade, Dr. Jacqueline Long, Roderick Callins, Sandra E. Cole, Richard L. Davis, William Hamilton and Sharon Hearns, **Sisters** Glenda Bates, Fatima Carter, Alma Gamble, Cheryl McNealy, Rosemary Buffer, Wanda Walker, Mattie Bonds, Cynthia Ingram and Melissa Grayson, **Brothers** Jack Jackson, Peter Kimbrough and Quinton Thompson

ECOLOGY, TEMPERANCE AND HEALTH: Sister Tammy Davis, **Revs.** Jessica Durr, Debra A. Ballard, Jaqueline Long, Vicki L. Mayberry, Michael E. Stanford and Robert C. Freeman, **Sisters** Shirley McCoy, Francis Joseph, Sharon Rainey, Priscilla Chism, Linda Kimbrough, Nicketa Robinson, Karen Alexander, Mamie Buffet Cook, and Joyce Ray, **Brothers** Ricardo Winston, Lynnie Buffer, Tony Tolbert, Don Green and James Robinson

SOCIAL, CIVIL AND POLITICAL ACTION: Revs. John L. Russell, Levi A. Billups III, Richard L. Davis, Lasagne Smith, Jerry Wilder, Zackary Watkins, Darrell W. Andrews and Dewayne Hendon, **Sisters** Diane Carey, Alma W. Jones, Lorna Cooper, Melva Henderson, Alethea Walker, Johnnie Dollerson, Shirley Mitchell, Ella Houston, Wanda Shaw, Rosemary Buffer, Patricia Roper and Belinda Bates, **Brothers** Otis Penick and Larry Searcy

The first name of each committee represents the Committee Chair, who is responsible for organizing.

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Southeast Alabama Annual Conference

September 20 -22, 2023

Reverend Paul Horn, Host Pastor, Hines Chapel AME Church, Dothan, AL Reverend Dr. Frederick D. Sherrod III, Host Presiding Elder Reverend Dr. Willie Eugene Marshall, Associate Presiding Elder 912 Dellwood Avenue Dothan, AL 36303

Hotel Information for 2023:

Hilton Garden Inn, 171 Hospitality Lane, Dothan, AL 36303, Phone: (334) 671-7676 Towne Place Suites, 201 Retail Drive, Dothan, AL, Phone: (334) 944-6400

SERMONS AND SERVICES SCHEDULE

1 5 337 1 11 1

ANNUAL SERMON	I ne Reverend Dr. wenden Jones
	Pastor, Greater St Paul AME Church, Troy, AL
OPENING ANNUAL WORSHIP SERVICE WEDNESI	DAY (10:30am)

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION (2:45pm - 5:45pm) WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE-SONS OF ALLEN (6:00pm) THURSDAY CONFERENCE INSTITUTE (8:30am - 9:30am) THURSDAY BUSINESS SESSION (9:30am - 12noon)

HOUR OF POWER (12noon)

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION (2:45pm - 6:00pm) THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE-LAY ORGANIZATION (6:30pm)

FRIDAY BUSINESS SESSION (8:30am - 3:00pm)

FRIDAY COMMISSIONING AND CLOSING SERVICE (3:00pm)

BOARD OF EXAMINERS

All Conference Presiding Elders serve as Advisors to the Board

CHAIR..... SECRETARY Rev. Willie White, Jr. ADMISSIONS Rev. Dr. Lyntesha Henley FIRST YEAR Rev. Carlton Worthen SECOND YEAR Rev. Tracy Horn THIRD YEAR Rev. Fred Flowers FOURTH YEAR Rev. Dr. Wendell Jones

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD Revs. Ulysses Kincey, Jr., Paul Horn, Celeste Adams

MEMORIALS: Revs. Melissa Smith, Lisa Cade, Johnathan Baker, Dwight Ingram, Wendy Morgan, Sisters Christine Caldwell, Joyce Jones, Sarah Mays, and Beverly Smith, Brothers Jim Guilford and Adolphus Thompson

MINISTERIAL EFFICIENCY: Revs. Dr. Wendell Jones, James Redding, Melissa Smith, Willie White, Jr. and Carlton Worthen

JUDICIARY: (To Be Elected)

EMPLOYEE SECURITY COMMITTEE: Revs. Ulysses Kincey, Jr., Warren Anderson, James Booth, Lynntesha Henley, Timothy Holmes, Jonathan Baker and Presiding Elder Dr. Willie E. Marshall, Sisters Barbara McNealy, Helen Nichols, and Glenda Skipper, Brothers Franklin Simmons and Thornton Warmack

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Revs. Ulysses Kincey, Jr., Fred Flowers, Wendy Morgan, Ms. Fernisa "Nikki" Mills (Young Adult) and Vera McCarter, Brother Johnny Knight

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Southeast Alabama Annual Conference

CONFERENCE TRUSTEES: BISHOP Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Elder Dr. Frederick Sherrod, Presiding Elder Dr. Willie E. Marshall, Revs. Fred Flowers, Celeste Adams, James Redding, and Dr. Wendell Jones, Sisters Mary Alice Walker and Sherryl Whiting, Brother Lonnie Hawkins

DEEDS, ABSTRACTS AND ABANDONED PROPERTY: Revs. James Redding, James Booth, Pamela Edwards, James Williams, Annie Mays and Frances Crittenden, **Sisters** Betty Johnson, Janet Pray, Linda Simpson and Beverly Smith, **Brothers** Lorenzo Hammonds and Marvin Martin

CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES: Revs. Celeste Adams, Tony Price and Annie Mays, **Sisters** Constance Brown, and Kathleen Forbish, **Brothers** Robert Campbell and Adolphus Thompson

PRESIDING ELDERS' ASSESSMENT: Revs. Willie White, Jr., Fred Flowers, Paul Horn, Dr. Wendell Jones and Carlton Worthen, Sisters Kristie Balcom, Helen Grant, Emma Shaw and Sherryl Whiting, Brothers Zack Allen and Jim Guilford

DANIEL PAYNE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Presiding Elder Dr. Willie E. Marshall, Presiding Elder Dr. Frederick Sherrod and Dr. Wendell Jones, **Sisters** Willean Jones and Geraldine Sanders, **Brothers** Adolphus Thompson and Dr. Stafford Thompson

MISSIONS, CIRCUITS AND STATIONS: Revs. Fred Flowers, Timothy Holmes and Joshua Mann, **Sisters** Helen Grant, Sherryl Whiting, Geraldine Sanders, Marge Simmons, and Mary Walker, **Brother** Lonnie Hawkins

CHURCH GROWTH: Revs. Carlton Worthen, Johnathan Baker, Joshua Mann, Paul Horn and Melissa Smith, **Sisters** Elaine Flowers and Jewel Woodard, **Brothers**, Myron Grimsley, S. M. McLeod, and David White

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Revs. Carlton Worthen Gregory Huff, Dr. Wendell Jones and Fred Flowers, **Sisters** Lela Baker, Liz Flowers, Dr. D. Michelle Sherrod, Evadna Moment and Takisha Whitehurst, **Brother** Kenny Jackson

CHURCH SCHOOL: Sisters Faye McLeod, Brenda Guice and Mary Walker

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY: Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, **Sisters** Susie J. Bonner, Martha Roseboro, and Kimberly Marshall

LITERARY COMMITTEES

STATE OF THE CHURCH: Revs. Willie White, Jr., Paul Horn, Marcus Sims, Joshua Mann, Presiding Elder Dr. Willie E. Marshall and Melissa M. Smith, Sisters Laura Burnell, Mary Fleming and Betty Jackson, Brother Ray Thomas

STATE OF THE COUNTRY: Revs. Joshua Mann, Celeste Adams, Dwight Ingram, James Williams and Willie White, Jr., Sisters Annie McClain, Lakiesha Rankin and Jewel Woodard, Brother Thornton Warmack

ECOLOGY, TEMPERANCE AND HEALTH: Revs. James Redding, James Booth, Deborah Butler, Pamela Edwards, Gregory Huff, Joshua Mann, and Annie Mays, **Sisters** Mary Ann Davis, Dorothy James, Geraldine Sanders and Sherryl Whiting, **Brother** Adolphus Thompson

SOCIAL, CIVIL AND POLITICAL ACTION: Revs. Ulysses Kincey, Jr., James Booth, J. T. Hines, A. J. Jones, Wendy Morgan, Tony Price, Johnathan Baker, and Marcus Sims, **Sisters** Lauree Cowart, Gwen Lampley, Beverly Smith and Jewel Woodard, **Brother** Lonnie Hawkins

The first name of each committee represents the Committee Chair, who is responsible for organizing.

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Northeast Alabama Annual Conference

October 4 - 6, 2023

Please Note: This Annual Conference Will Convene on Central Standard Time

Reverend Dr. Isaac N. Hudson, Jr., Host Pastor, Washington Chapel AME Church - Tuskegee, AL Reverend Dr. Letitia Watford, Presiding Elder Reverend Johnny Rutledge, Associate Host Presiding Elder

Hotel Information for 2023: Holiday Inn Express and Suites, Auburn University Area 2013 South College Street, Auburn, AL 36832, Phone: (334) 502-1090

SERMONS AND SERVICES SCHEDULE

Annual Sermon	The Reverend Mattie Edwards
	Pastor, Lee Chapel AME Church, Auburn, Al

OPENING ANNUAL WORSHIP SERVICE WEDNESDAY (10:30am)

Wednesday Afternoon Business Session (2:45pm - 5:45pm)

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE-SONS OF ALLEN (6:00pm)

THURSDAY CONFERENCE INSTITUTE (8:30am - 9:30am)

THURSDAY BUSINESS SESSION (9:30am - 12noon)

HOUR OF POWER (12noon)

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION (2:45pm - 6:00pm)

THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE-LAY ORGANIZATION (6:30pm)

FRIDAY BUSINESS SESSION (8:30am - 3:00pm)

FRIDAY COMMISSIONING AND CLOSING SERVICE (3:00pm)

BOARD OF EXAMINERS

All Conference Presiding Elders serve as Advisors to the Board

CHAIR	REV. Dr. Isaac N. Hudson, Jr.
DEAN	Rev. Raymond Swafford
SECRETARY	Rev. James A. Platt
Admissions	Rev. James A. Platt
FIRST YEAR	Rev. Richard Carter
SECOND YEAR	Rev. Samuel Smith
THIRD YEAR	Rev. Wayne L. Baker, Sr.
FOURTH YEAR	Rev. Dr. Isaac N. Hudson, Jr.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD: Revs. Dr. Mary Hudson, Jonathan Benton, Christopher Reeves, Alvelyn Sanders-Swafford and Mattie Edwards

MEMORIALS: Revs. Willie Lyles, John Cofield, Miriam Harlan, Herbert Newsome, and James Parker, Sisters Ida Davis, Tracy Day, and Eva Byrd-France, **Brothers** Roger Harris and James Hamilton

MINISTERIAL EFFICIENCY: Revs. Dr. Isaac N. Hudson, Jr., Alvelyn Sanders-Swafford, Ronald Smith, James A. Platt and Patricia Walton

JUDICIARY: Revs. Dr. Isaac N. Hudson, Jr., Nathaniel Copeland, Raymond Swafford, Samuel Smith, Presiding Elder Dr. Letitia Watford and Presiding Elder Johnny Rutledge

EMPLOYEE SECURITY COMMITTEE: Revs. Jessie Grooms, Mattie Edwards, Kendra Jacobs and Dr. Mary Hudson, Sister Doris Foster, **Brother** Dexter Jackson

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Revs. Samuel Smith and Mattie Edwards, **Sisters** Dr. Cordelia Moffett, and Roberta Benton (Young Adult)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: To Be Elected

Conference Trustees: Bishop Harry Seawright, Rev. Dr. Isaac N. Hudson, Jr., Presiding Elder Dr. Letitia Watford,

Presiding Elder Johnny Rutledge, Rev. Wayne Baker, Rev. Jonathan Benton, Rev. Granville Anderson. Sisters Jewel Harris and Rae Patrick,

Brothers Kenneth Burton and Robert Turner

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Northeast Alabama Annual Conference

DEEDS, ABSTRACTS AND ABANDONED PROPERTY: Revs. Jessie Grooms, Wayne Baker and Christopher Reeves, **Sisters** Cattie Epps, and Katherine Smith Williams, **Brothers** Willie Crawford, Robert Turner and Eddie Willis

CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES: Revs. Jonathan Benton, Debbie Dowdell, Grandville Anderson and Christine Thomas, **Sister** Barbara Mitchell, **Brothers** Edward Turner, Richard Ankrom, Odies Perry and Bernard Thomas

Presiding Elders' Assessment: Revs. Nathaniel Copeland, Brandon Thornton, Christopher Reeves, Jesse Grooms, Dr. Isaac N. Hudson, Jr., Cynthia Johnson, Willie Lyles and Samuel Smith, **Sister** Dr. Cordelia Moffett, **Brothers** Kenneth Burton, Lenell Harris and George Hughley

DANIEL PAYNE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Rev. Nathaniel Copeland, **Sisters** Barbara Mitchell and Dr. Cordelia B. Moffett, **Brothers** Ernest Harris and James H. Patrick

Missions, Circuits and Stations: Revs. Nathaniel Copeland, Eric Graves, Hurbert Newsome, and Patricia Walton, Sister Linda Murry, Brother Ronnie Bell

CHURCH GROWTH & EVANGELISM: Revs. Granville Anderson, Brandon Thornton, Jonathan Benton, Dr. Mary Hudson and Monique Summers, **Sisters** Clara Jackson and Jankata Holmes, **Brothers** Calvin Sanders and Kenneth Burton

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Sister Hattie Nathan, **Revs.** Sarah Calhoun, Constance Bishop, Christine Thomas, and Patricia Walton, **Sisters** Shirlyka Scott, Linda Murry, and Denise Word, **Brother** James Washington

CHURCH SCHOOL: Sisters Jewel Harris and Gloria Woods, **Brother** Winston Felton

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY: Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, **Sisters** Susie J. Bonner, Elaine Burton, Helen Crossley, Pat Bell, Cattie Epps, Irene James and Valerie Wright

LITERARY COMMITTEES

STATE OF THE CHURCH: Revs. James A. Platt, Cynthia Johnson, Miriam Harlan, **Sisters** Ann Thomas, Patricia Goodwin and Helen Herring, **Brothers** Winston Felton, Ennon Hayden, Stanford None and Robert Turner

STATE OF THE COUNTRY: Revs. Monique Summers, Dr. Isaac N. Hudson, Jr., Christine Thomas, Granville Anderson and Debbie Dowdell, **Sisters** Alice Mahone and Gwen Moore, **Brothers** Eugene Holmes, M. L. Fortson and Willie Washington

Ecology, Temperance and Health: Revs. Ronald Smith, Eric Graves, Cynthia Johnson, James Parker, and Lawrence O'Neal, **Sisters** Elaine Burton, and Cathy Calhoun, **Brothers** Jimmy Brown and Kenneth Burton

Social, Civil and Political Action: Revs. Kendra Jacobs, Sarah Calhoun, Alvelyn Sanders-Swafford, Keith Baker, Brandon Thornton, and Dr. Clementine Warren, **Sisters** Dr. Cordelia Moffett and Shirlyka Scott, **Brothers** Artie Jenkins and William Laney

The first name of each committee represents the Committee Chair, who is responsible for organizing.

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Southwest Alabama Annual Conference

October 18-20, 2023

Reverend Trevor E. Wooolridge, Host Pastor, Bethel AME Church - Mobile Reverend Charles A. Lewis, Presiding Elder Reverend Antonio Thomas, Associate Host Presiding Elder 714 Savannah Street Mobile, AL 36603

Hotel Information for 2023: Marriott, 3101 Airport Boulevard Mobile, AL 36606, Phone: (251) 476-6400

SERMONS AND SERVICES SCHEDULE

OPENING ANNUAL WORSHIP SERVICE WEDNESDAY (10:30am)

Wednesday Afternoon Business Session (2:45pm - 5:45pm)

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE-SONS OF ALLEN (6:00pm)

THURSDAY CONFERENCE INSTITUTE (8:30am - 9:30am)

THURSDAY BUSINESS SESSION (9:30am - 12noon)

HOUR OF POWER (12noon)

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION (2:45pm - 6:00pm)

THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE-LAY ORGANIZATION (6:30pm)

FRIDAY BUSINESS SESSION (8:30am - 3:00pm)

FRIDAY COMMISSIONING AND CLOSING SERVICE (3:00pm)

BOARD OF EXAMINERS All Conference Presiding Elders serve as Advisors to the Board

ADMISSIONS Revs. Mia Cole, Samantha Lightner

FIRST YEAR Rev. Charles Reeves

SECOND YEAR Revs. John L. Dees, Charles Reeves

THIRD YEAR Rev. Kimberly Martin

FOURTH YEAR Revs. Cleitis Walker, Trevor E. Woolridge

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD Revs. L. C. Green and Ivory James

MEMORIALS: Revs. Rosalind Amos, Lydia Pallin, Franklin Robinson, Carl L. Greene, Sr. and Willie Burns, **Sisters** Hattie Boglin, Judy Kidd, Wanda McCall and Maari Powell

MINISTERIAL EFFICIENCY: Revs. Trevor Woolridge, Rosalind Amos, Kimberly Martin, Vernon McLeod and W.W. Nixon

JUDICIARY: Revs. John L. Dees, Dr. G. Dianne Lewis, L.C. Green, Trevor Woolridge and W.W. Nixon

EMPLOYEE SECURITY COMMITTEE: Revs. Cleitis Walker, James Allen, Gladys Figures, W. W. Nixon, and Charles Reeves, **Sisters** Jean Daffin and Dian Thomas, **Brothers** Richard Boykins and Gary Hart

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Revs. Cleitis Walker and Benjamin Lightner, Sisters Kenesia T. Cade and Anika Riley

CONFERENCE TRUSTEES: BISHOP Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Elders Charles Lewis and Antonio Thomas, **Revs**. Charles Reeves, Vernon McLeod, Trevor E. Woolridge, LaDarrell Thames and Ivory James, **Sisters** Betty Davis and Kenesia T. Cade, **Brother** Robert Beasley

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FOURTEENTH SESSION OF NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Southwest Alabama Annual Conference

FINANCE COMMITTEE: To Be Elected

DEEDS, ABSTRACTS AND ABANDONED PROPERTY: Revs. LaDarrell Thames, Albert Robinson, Jr., Ivory James, Benjamin Lightner and Charles Reeves, **Sisters** Urla Boggin and Cassaundra Hughley, **Brother** John Wright

CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES: Revs. W. W. Nixon, Trevor Woolridge, Donna James and Emma Constant, **Sisters** Gwendolyn Washington and Melwetha Chandler, **Brother** Rhondell Rhone

PRESIDING ELDERS' ASSESSMENT: Revs. Trevor Woolridge, Kimberly Martin, James Harris, Ivory James, and Vernon McLeod, Sisters Debra Weatherspoon, Tiffani Rodgers and Raven Whittaker, Brothers Bradley Craig and Curtis Malone

DANIEL PAYNE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Revs. Trevor Woolridge, Samantha Lightner and Cleitis Walker, **Sisters** Betty Davis and Mary Simon

MISSIONS, CIRCUITS AND STATIONS: Revs. Willie Burns, Mia Cole and Gladys Figures, Sister Denise Robinson, Brothers Gary Hart and Burrell Bonner

CHURCH GROWTH & EVANGELISM: Revs. Rosalind Amos, Emma F. Constant, and Charles Reeves, **Sisters** Sharon Kennedy and Katie Hawthorne, **Brother** Burrell Bonner

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Revs. Charles Reeves, Emma F. Constant and Mia Cole, **Sisters** Kenesia T. Cade, Francine Davis, Sharon Kennedy, Brenda Hunter and Raven H. Robinson

CHURCH SCHOOL: Sisters Leontyne Jones, Mary Turner and Loretta Witherspoon

MISSIONARY SOCIETY: Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, Sisters Susie J. Bonner, Rosemary Lamar, Sylvia Montgomery, Mary James and Michelle Wilson

LITERARY COMMITTEES

STATE OF THE CHURCH: Revs. Samantha Lightner, Albert Robinson and Gladys Figures, **Sisters** Brenda Hunter and Loretta Witherspoon, **Brother** Shedrick Thomas

STATE OF THE COUNTRY: Revs. Tommy Dorsey, L. C. Green, Dr. Melvin Hitchens, Sr. and Donna James, **Sisters** Chenika Hill, Camilla Phillis and Lynda Westry, **Brother** Mitchell Hudson

ECOLOGY, TEMPERANCE AND HEALTH: Revs. Franklin Robinson, Willie Burns, Chico Thompson, Leo Taylor and Richard Collins, **Sisters** Wanda McCall and Joyce Jemison, **Brother** Calvin Lucas

SOCIAL, CIVIL AND POLITICAL ACTION: Revs. Vernon McLeod, James Allen, Lydia Pallin and Charles Reeves, **Sisters** Ann Walker, Mary Taylor, Mary Simon and Sarah Johnson

Resolution: Revs. Charles Reeves, Donna James, Emma F. Constant, Benjamin Lightner and Mia Cole

The first name of each committee represents the Committee Chair, who is responsible for organizing



Ninth Episcopal District Planning Meeting

Planning Meeting November 2 – 4, 2023 Daniel Payne Community Plaza 1500 Daniel Payne Drive, Birmingham, AL 35214

NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2023 Annual Conference Series

2023 Conference Agenda & Daily Schedule

Monday Bishop Seawright will travel to conferences (except NWAC) on Monday

evenings

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Bishop meets with Presiding Elders
Noon Bishop meets with Finance Committee

Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. Bishop meets with Board of Examiners

3:00 p.m. Bishop meets with Pastors

Please request an appointment through Sis. Nell Hayes via email at office.ninthdistrictame@gmail.com

6:30 p.m. Reception hosted by Conference

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Official Opening of the 14th Session of the Annual Conference

Roll Call Transfers Organization

Conference Boundary Adoption of the Agenda

Presiding Elder's Summary Report

10:30 a.m. Opening Worship Service Annual Sermon

(All ordained clergy wear black robes.)

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Lunch

2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Devotion

2:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Business Session (Including Pastors' Reports)

Pastor's 2 minutes/Delegates 1 minute

6:00 p.m. Worship Service – Sons of Allen

2023 Conference Agenda & Daily Schedule

Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 8:25 a.m. Devotion / Bible Study

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Conference Institute

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Reading of the Minutes

10:00 a.m. − 11:00 a.m. Conference Workshop #1

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Pastor's Reports - continued

Noon – 1:30 p.m. Hour of Power Worship Service

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Lunch

2:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Clergy and the Lay Electoral College Meet Separately to

Elect Delegates to the 2024 General Conference

5:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. Board of Examiners Report

Ministerial Efficiency Report Conference Component Reports Women's Missionary Society

Young People's and Children's Division

Lay Organization Christian Education

Sons of Allen Evangelism

Women in Ministry

Social and Political Action

Richard Allen Young Adult Council

Health Ministry M-SWAWO+PKs

Christian Debutante-Masters Commission

Prayer Ministry

6:30 p.m. Worship Service – Lay Organization

2023 Conference Agenda & Daily Schedule

Friday

8:00 a.m. - 8:25 a.m. Devotion / Bible Study

8:30 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. Reading of the Minutes

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Component Report & Administrative Reports - Continued

Administrative Committee Reports (3 minutes)

Conference Trustees

Deeds, Abstracts, and Abandoned Property

Conference Boundaries Employee Security

Presiding Elder's Assessment Missions, Circuits, and Stations

Church Growth Church School

Daniel Payne Legacy Village Foundation, Inc.

Ministry of Economic Development

The Disciplinary Questions

Motion to Adjourn

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Conference Workshop #2

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Lunch

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Church School (Summary)

3:00 p.m. Memorial and Retirement Service

Commissioning and Closing Worship Service

(All ordained clergy wear black robes.)

The Resolutions

The Statistician's Report The Finance Report Commissioning Service Presentation of Certificates Reading of Appointments

Benediction

Ordinations will be done at the 9th District Planning Meeting

• Please Note: This conference agenda is subject to change

- The Disciplinary Questions 1. Who are the preachers admitted on trial? 2. Who remain on trial? 3. Who are admitted or readmitted to full connection? 4. Who have been elected and ordained deacons? 5. Who have been elected and ordained elders? 6. Who have been located this year?
 - 7. Who have been elected by the General Conference to exercise the Episcopal Office and to superintend the African Methodist Episcopal Church?
 - 8. Who are the supernumerary preachers?
 - 9. Who are the superannuated preachers?
 - 10. Who have been expelled from the Connection by this Conference?
 - 11. Who have withdrawn this year from this Conference and the Connection?
 - 12. Are all the preachers blameless in life and conversation?
 - 13. What members of the Conference have died this year?
 - 14. Have all the preachers subscribed to *The Christian Recorder* and also to *The A. M. E. Church Review*, *The* Voice of Missions, The Journal of Christian Education, The Secret Chamber, or The Missionary Magazine?
 - 15. What preachers are indebted to any of the departments or the church publications?
 - 16. Lay Organization:
 - (A) Does each station, circuit, or mission in this Annual Conference have a Lay Organization?
 - (B) If not, what stations, circuits, or missions do not have a Lay Organization?
 - 17. Women's Missionary Society:
 - (A) Does each station, circuit, or mission in this Annual Conference have a Women's Missionary Society?
 - (B) If not, what stations, circuits, or missions do not have a Women's Missionary Society?
 - 18. When shall this Annual Conference next meet?
 - 19. Where shall your next Annual Conference be held?
 - 20. Where are the preachers stationed this year?

Notes

Please Note: "This confere	nce agenda is subjec	ct to change as conf	erence needs change"	