



OCT. 30 - NOV. 1

2025
THIRD
PLANNING
MEETING

ALLEN TEMPLE AME CHURCH • CINCINNATI, OH

BISHOP STAFFORD J.N. WICKER, *PRESIDING BISHOP*
REV. DR. CONSTANCE BELIN WICKER, *SUPERVISOR OF MISSIONS*
REV. ALPHONSE ALLEN, *HOST PASTOR*



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THE THIRD EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Celebrates 40 Years

OF MARRIAGE FOR OUR EPISCOPAL LEADERS!



BISHOP STAFFORD J.N. WICKER AND
SUPERVISOR REV. DR. CONSTANCE BELIN WICKER

*Thank you for your dedicated partnership and Transformative ministry.
May the Lord continue to richly bless your union!*

Bishop's Bio

Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker holds an esteemed position in the African Methodist Episcopal Church as the 137th elected and consecrated Bishop. His leadership, and ministerial impact alongside Supervisor Constance Belin Wicker, is distinguished by his strong advocacy for social justice, economic empowerment, and commitment to professional development.

Bishop Wicker's journey in the ministry began with an education rooted in faith and service. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Wilberforce University, followed by a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity from Turner Theological Seminary. His doctoral research was focused on engaging local A.M.E. Church congregations with HIV/AIDS education and prevention, illustrating his dedication to community service and health awareness.

Upon his graduation in 1982, Bishop Wicker received his first pastoral appointment at Turner Chapel A.M.E. Church in Roseland, LA, from Bishop Donald George Kenneth Ming. His leadership was marked by growth and development, with a new church being constructed under his guidance. In 1985, Bishop Wicker married the love of his life, Constance Belin of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. From there, their ministerial journey included assignments in Georgia, where he led the congregations of the Toombsboro Circuit, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in Mansfield, and Mt. Carmel A.M.E. Church in Atlanta. At each stop, then Pastor Wicker demonstrated a commitment to financial stewardship and congregational growth, helping to eliminate debt, increase membership, and enhance facilities.

Bishop Wicker's tenure at Antioch A.M.E. Church in Decatur, GA, marked a significant turning point in his career. Under his leadership, the church congregation expanded significantly, and the church campus in Stone Mountain became the largest A.M.E. church acquisition at the time.

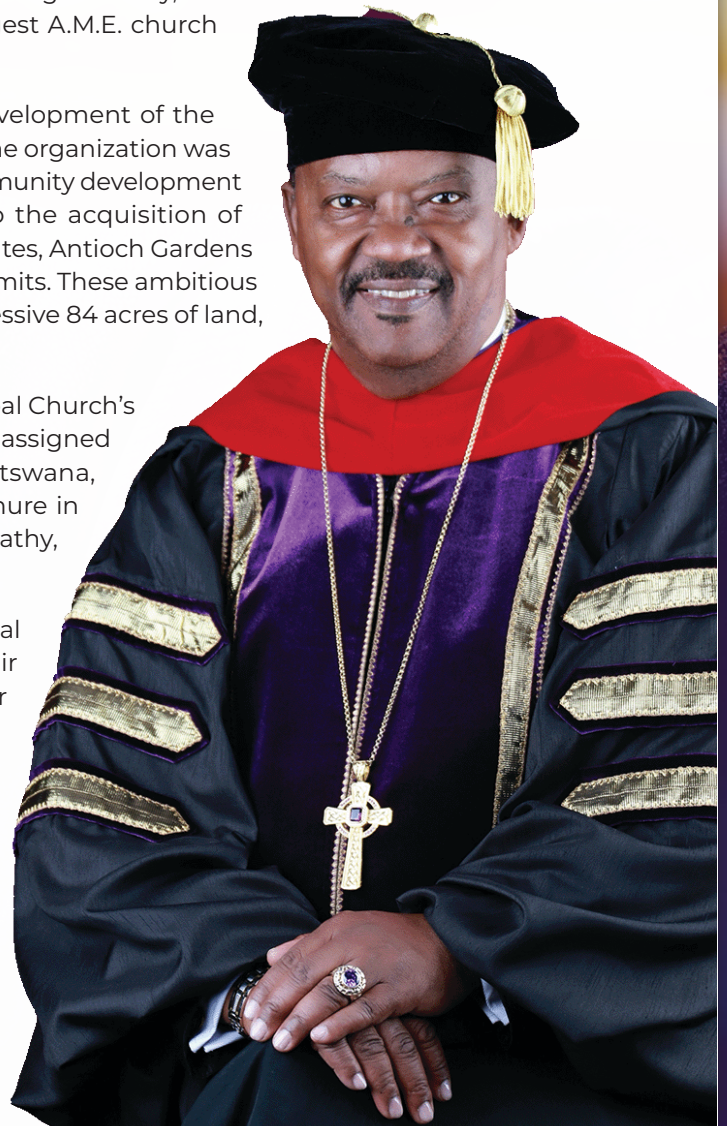
Bishop's vision for community upliftment led to the development of the Antioch Community Development Corporation in 1998. The organization was formed with the objective of fostering economic and community development in Georgia. Bishop Wicker's strategic leadership led to the acquisition of additional lands, the establishment of Antioch Manor Estates, Antioch Gardens and Villas, and plans for the development of Antioch Summits. These ambitious projects have increased the church's portfolio to an impressive 84 acres of land, valued at \$48 million.

During the 50th Session of the African Methodist Episcopal Church's General Conference, Bishop and Supervisor Wicker were assigned to lead the 18th Episcopal District, which included Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, and Swaziland. Their five-year tenure in this role was characterized by extraordinary energy, empathy, and integrity.

In 2021, the Wicker team went on to serve the 8th Episcopal District comprising of Louisiana and Mississippi. In their three-year tenure, the district became debt-free under Bishop Wicker's 8Cs Model Ministry.

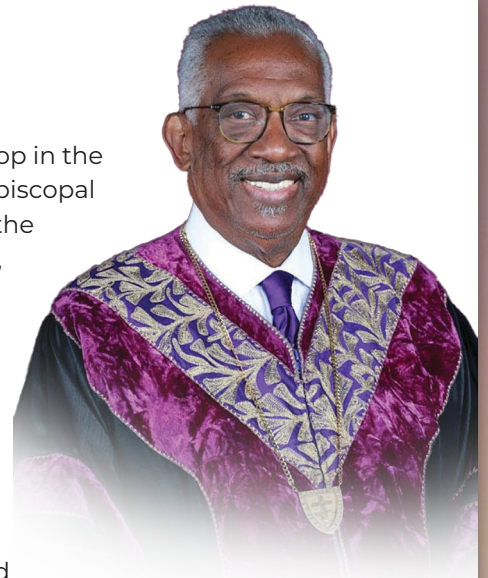
On August 28th, 2024, during the 52nd Session of the African Methodist Episcopal Church's General Conference, Bishop and Supervisor Wicker were assigned to the 3rd Episcopal District. Bishop now serves as Chancellor of Wilberforce University and Chair of the Board of Trustees for Payne Theological Seminary.

Together, they are the proud parents of two daughters, Valencia M. Wicker and Lauren M. Wicker.



About Our Guest Preacher

Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr. was elected and consecrated the 115th Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1996. He was assigned to the 14th Episcopal District, which includes six countries in West Africa. He has served as chair of the Lay Commission, the Health Commission, the Commission on Seminaries, Universities Colleges and Schools, and a member of the World Methodist Council. In 2002, Bishop Richardson was president of the Council of Bishops and Bishop of the 19th Episcopal District, headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa. In 2004, he was assigned to the 2nd Episcopal District which includes Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Washington, DC. For eight years, the District saw phenomenal growth in nearly every category of ministry endeavor, with attention given to social justice and civic engagement. Bishop and Mrs. Richardson took pride in the embrace of youth and young adult ministry. In 2012, Bishop Richardson was elected president of the AMEC's General Board and was assigned to the Eleventh Episcopal District, Florida and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. For nine years, he chaired the Board of Edward Waters University in Jacksonville.



Before his election to the Episcopacy, he was pastor of Bethel AME Church, Tallahassee. For eighteen years, the congregation saw numerical growth, the founding of the Bethel CDC, new and expanded facilities, outreach to the poor and dispossessed, with an active community presence. A ten-acre camp was acquired called Bethel-By-The-Lake. In honor of Bishop and Mrs. Richardson, the well-appointed recreational site was renamed Camp Richardson.

Bishop Richardson began his educational pursuit in the public schools of Tampa. He received the B.A. degree in Philosophy and Religion from Florida A&M University (where he was noted as the head drum major of the famed Marching '100' Band). He earned the Master of Divinity (M.Div) degree from Turner Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center and the Doctor of Sacred Theology (STD) degree at ITC through the Atlanta Theological Association.

He has held faculty posts at the ITC, Morris Brown College in Atlanta, and adjunct instructor at FAMU. He was cited by Tallahassee Magazine as one of the most influential people of that city over the previous 15 years. Bishop Richardson has contributed articles in several publications, including: The African American Devotional Bible, 1997 (Conference of National Black Churches); Ain't That Good News, 1984 (Bishop G. G. M. Ingram, ed.); The Pastor's Manual of the AME Church (Dr. G. L. Champion, ed.). He has authored several manuals for discipleship training. In 2000, he published Headlines to Homilies: Sermons on Political, Commercial and Other Popular Annoyances. With a penchant for writing litanies, in 2012 he published, Let the Church Say Amen: Liturgy, Litany and Homily. In the wake of the massacre at Mother Emanuel in Charleston, he penned the widely circulated litany, The Doors of the Church are Still Open, and After the Vigil, Vigilance.

He is the recipient of honorary doctoral degrees from Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach; Edward Waters University, Jacksonville; and Florida A&M University, Tallahassee. He has traveled to 58 countries and nation states. He and his wife of 55 years, Dr. Connie Speights, are the proud parents of Monique (an elected County Judge) and Trey (a radiographer with Master's degrees in Music Theory and Classical Saxophone Performance).

In 2021, Bishop Richardson was assigned to the 10th Episcopal District, embracing the great state of Texas and serves on the Board of the Conference of National Black Churches. He has also chaired Boards at the ITC and Paul Quinn College in Dallas, Texas. He was inducted to the prestigious Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College. Now retired, he is the immediate past Senior Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

About Our WIM Praise Breakfast Speaker

Rev. Teresa L. Fry Brown, PhD, is the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (2022-present) and Bandy Professor of Preaching (2015-present) at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Additionally, she served as the fourteenth Historiographer, the editor of the A.M.E. Review, Executive Director of Research and Scholarship from 2012 to 2024, and President of the General Officers' Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Church from 2021 to 2024. Dr. Fry Brown was Director of Black Church Studies at Candler (2007-2015). Dr. Fry Brown obtained a Doctor of Philosophy in Religious and Theological Studies from the Iliff School of Theology and the University of Denver, with an emphasis in Religion and Social Transformation (1996). She earned a Juris Masters (2025) Emory University School of Law (Health Care Law, Policy, and Regulation), a Master of Divinity from Iliff School of Theology (1988), a Master of Science degree (1975) and a Bachelor of Science degree (1973) in Speech Pathology and Audiology from the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri.



Dr. Fry Brown has extensive experience in teaching and preaching in national, international, academic, and ecumenical settings. A prolific author, Dr. Fry Brown's books include *Delivering the Sermon: Voice, Body and Animation in Proclamation*, Fortress Press (2008); *Can A Sister Get a Little Help: Advice and Encouragement for Black Women in Ministry*, Pilgrim Press (2008); *God Don't Like Ugly: African American Women Handing on Spiritual Values* Abingdon Press (2000); *Weary Throats and New Song: Black Women Proclaiming God's Word* Abingdon Press (2003) and the 2006 African American History Devotional, Abingdon Press (2006). Additionally, she has published sixty other reviews, chapters, and commentaries.

Dr. Fry Brown is a member of the American Academy of Religion (Steering Committee of Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group 2018-2024), Society for the Study of Black Religion, and the Academy of Homiletics First Vice President (2021-2022; President, December 2022-2023). She was honored for her academic achievements at the Eighteenth Annual Black Religious Scholar Group Consultation at the American Academy of Religion (2015), Emory-Williams Distinguished Teaching Award (2017), Samuel Dewitt Proctor Beautiful Are the Feet Award (2019), and Turner Theological Seminary Lifetime Achievement Award (2021). She is an ordained Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and an Associate Minister at New Bethel A.M.E. Church, Lithonia, Georgia.

A native of Independence, Missouri, Dr. Fry Brown is the second oldest of seven children of (late) William M. Fry Sr. and (late) Naomi Parks Fry. She is the mother of Veronica Perry and a proud "Fab G" to Jonathan David Perry. She is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The words of the Prophet Isaiah guide Dr. Fry Brown's life: "Those whose hope is in the Lord gain new strength," and Zora Neale Hurston's words, "There are years that ask questions and years that answer."

BIOS OF AME3'S PASTOR OF THE YEAR AND RETIREES

PASTOR OF THE YEAR

Reverend David Ellery Wade, son of the late Luther Edward Wade Sr. and Nancy Mann Jackson Wade, is 64 years of age and has been married to Latisha Phenice Wade, his wonderful wife, for seven years.

They reside in Huntington, WV, and have five (5) children, nine (9) grandchildren, and one (1) great-grandchild. He and his wife are lifelong members of Young Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Huntington, WV, where he has been the lead pastor for two years.

Reverend Wade is a graduate of Marshall University with a Regents Bachelor of Arts Degree. David is a 4-year Letterman at Marshall University where he played basketball and is in the Marshall University Athletic Hall of Fame.

Reverend Wade received his license to preach as a Licentiate in the African Methodist Episcopal Church on March 11, 2017; and was ordained as an Itinerant Deacon on November 11, 2021.

He is a member of the Board of Examiners Ministerial Institute and proudly received his Master of Divinity degree, graduating Cum Laude from Payne Theological Seminary on May 9, 2025. He is scheduled to be robed an Itinerant Elder by Bishop Wicker Stafford on Friday, November 1, 2025.

His favorite passages of scripture for years has been Psalm 27:4 "One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple"; along with Proverbs 27:17 "As Iron sharpens Iron, so one person sharpens another", but due to recent life trials with illness and health, Reverend Wade has shifted his favorite scripture to Isaiah 40:31. "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles: they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint". Reverend Wade also enjoys ministering through song and has written and produced many songs. He is most proud of his songs "I Wanna Thank you Momma" and "My God will see you through".

RETIREES

Rev. Victor L. Davis, pastor, teach, and activist, was born in the city of Hamilton Ohio. He is the son of Charles and Alluster Tipton and is one of 10 children. He attended Hamilton City schools and

graduated from Garfield Senior high school where he was on the football and track team. He was also the president of Black Student Union. His student activism started in school when he led walkouts his junior and senior year. Upon graduating from high school, he attended Central State University of Ohio and was elected to the student senate and dorm council. During his freshman year, he led his dormitory in soliciting and accomplishing the first open visitation for Hughes Hall dormitory. After singing in the choir for over twenty years and serving as a trustee, Rev. Davis answered the call to preach in 1996 under the pastorate of the Rev. Elmer S. Martin at Payne Chapel AME church in Hamilton Ohio. He was licensed by Presiding Elder William Gazaway. He was ordained a Deacon under Bishop Henry A. Belin, Jr. Bishop Robert V. Webster appointed him to his first church, Delaney Chapel Georgetown, Ohio.

In addition to being a pastor, Rev. Davis is a trainer and motivational speaker having provided training throughout Ohio and the region. Davis has earned several awards: Booker T. Washington Community Center "Hall of Fame", South East Civic Association "Advocacy Award", South East Civic Association: "Walk of Fame", University of Cincinnati "Black Man Think Tank Pyramid Award".

Rev. Davis is married to Roxanne Davis and the proud parents of daughters Shani and Rashida, nine grandchildren, three great grandchildren, a special granddaughter and two special grandchildren.

Rev. Jacqueline L. Randolph

Pastor Randolph was licensed in 1992, and ordained several years later. She was born, rooted, scolded and molded for God's service in New North Street AME Church. She is the longest serving Pastor of that church, and has been there from birth until retirement at age 75.

She would tell you her education isn't steeped in degrees. Experience has been her teacher, thriving even when the odds were against her.

Pastor Randolph completed the ATEP program under Rev. Dr. Charles Holmes. She also has an Associate of Theology, Diploma in Christian Counseling, and a Bachelors of Pastoral Ministry from Kingsway Theological Seminary.

Her life motto is: "If I can help somebody

as I pass along, then my living will not be in vain."

Favorite scripture: Psalm 27 "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear, the Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid."

Rev. Dwight E. Smith

Rev. Dwight E. Smith's faith formation began in the African Methodist Episcopal Church at an early age, attending Coppin Chapel AMEC in Indianapolis. He was a member of the YPD and regularly attended Sunday School and Church School Conventions.

Smith later hesitated to answer his formal call to ministry, because of the belief that he could never be good enough to serve and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. That changed when he heard a sermon preached at a Church School Convention about God's Grace.

Rev. Smith's secular career was in broadcast journalism. He was a television reporter and worked in several cities, including Indianapolis, Baltimore and Dayton, Ohio.

One week after moving his wife and two young boys to Louisville, the broadcast company where he was to be employed went up for sale. His position was eliminated. Even through unemployment, the Smith Family never went hungry and never missed a mortgage payment. There must be a God somewhere! Upon returning to Dayton, Rev. Smith answered his call to ministry at Wayman AMEC.

Psalm 37:25 became his "signature scripture": "I once was young and now I am old, but I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed, go begging for food."

Rev. Smith was ordained by Bishop Henry A. Belin, Jr.

He earned degrees from Indiana University, University of Dayton and Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, before working 15 years for Premier Health as a staff chaplain in Troy, Ohio and Dayton Ohio.

Over his 27-year ministry, Smith was the proud pastor of St. Paul AME Church Cedarville, Trinity AMEC in Springfield, and Central Chapel AMEC Yellow Springs, Ohio.

BISHOPS OF THE AME CHURCH

BISHOP	ASSIGNMENT	RETIREMENT YEAR
Bishop Wilfred J. Messiah	19th Episcopal District	2028
Bishop Paul J.M. Kawimbe	14th Episcopal District	2036
Bishop James L. Davis	7th Episcopal District	2028
Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr.	Ecumenical Officer/Endorsing Agent	2032
Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.	1st Episcopal District	2036
Bishop Jeffery N. Leath, Sr.	16th Episcopal District	2032
Bishop Reginald T. Jackson	2nd Episcopal District	2028
Bishop Harry L. Seawright	13th Episcopal District	2032
Bishop Michael L. Mitchell	6th Episcopal District	2036
Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford	10th Episcopal District	2032
Bishop Stafford J. N. Wicker	3rd Episcopal District	2036
Bishop Silvester S. Beaman	12th Episcopal District	2036
Bishop Marvin C. Zanders II	11th Episcopal District	2040
Bishop Francine A. Brookins	5th Episcopal District	2048
Bishop Frederick A. Wright	4th Episcopal District	2032
Bishop Erika D. Crawford	8th Episcopal District	2048
Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.	9th Episcopal District	2044
Bishop Vernon R. Byrd, Jr.	17th Episcopal District	2032
Bishop Henry A. Belin III	15th Episcopal District	2040
Bishop Jeffrey B. Cooper II	18th Episcopal District	2032
Bishop Gregory V. Eason	20th Episcopal District	2036
Bishop E. Earl Mccloud, Jr.	Located	2028

Retired BISHOPS OF THE AME CHURCH

*Bishop Frank Curtis Cummings (95th)
 Bishop Philip Robert Cousin, Sr. (96th)
 Bishop John Richard Bryant (106th)
 *Bishop Robert Vaughn Webster (110th)
 Bishop Theodore Larry Kirkland (114th)
 Bishop Adam J. Richardson Jr. (115th)
 Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie (117th)
 Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram (118th)

Bishop Preston Warren Williams II (119th)
 *Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry (122nd)
 Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr. (129th)
 Bishop John Franklin White (130th)
 Bishop Clement W. Fugh (131st)
 *Bishop E. Anne Henning-Byfield (135th)
 Bishop Frank Madison Reid III (138th)
 (*Deceased)



GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE AME CHURCH

Reverend Dr. Roderick D. Belin

President/Publisher, Sunday School Union

Dr. John Thomas III

Editor, The Christian Recorder

Reverend Dr. Marcellus A. Norris

Executive Director, Church Growth and Development

Reverend Tyronda Burgess

General Secretary/Chief Information Officer

Reverend Dr. Mark Tyler

Historiographer/Executive Director, Department of Research and Scholarship

Reverend Dr. Garland F. Pierce

Executive Director, Department of Christian Education

Reverend Dr. John F. Green

Executive Director, Global Witness and Ministry

Dr. Marcus T. Henderson, Sr.

Treasurer/CFO, AME Finance Department

Reverend Brian A. Blackwell

Executive Director, Department of Retirement Service

Retired GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE AME CHURCH

Dr. Paulette Coleman

Dr. Kenneth H. Hill

Rev. Dennis C. Dickerson, Ph.D.

Dr. Daryl B. Ingram

Dr. Johnny Barbour Jr.

Dr. Calvin Sydnor III

Dr. Richard Allen Lewis

Dr. George F. Flowers

Dr. James C. Wade

Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown

Rev. Dr. James F. Miller



CONNECTIONAL OFFICERS OF THE AME CHURCH

Dr. Deborah Taylor-King, President

Women's Missionary Society

Rev. Leodis Strong, President

Connectional Council

Mrs. Jacqueline Dupont-Walker, Consultant

Social Action Commission

Ms. Anita M. Brannon, President

CONN-M-SWAWO+PK's

Mrs. Ora L. Easley, Administrator

Clergy Family Information Center

Mr. Jeremy D. Satterwhite, President

Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYA C)

Mrs. Lyndajo A. Jones Watson, Administrator

Christian Debutante-Master

Judge Tania E. Wright, President

Judicial Council

Attorney Douglass P. Selby

AME Church General Counsel

Rev. Michele Goodloe, President

Presiding Elder's Council

Rev. Maurice Wright, Director

Music and Christian Arts Ministry

Mrs. Richelle Fry Skinner, Connectional Director

Young People's Division-WMS

Matikane Abednego Makiti, President

Connectional Lay Organization

Rev. Dr. Natalie Mitchem, M.Div., RDN

Executive Director, Health Commission

Rev. Miriam J. Burnett, M.D., M.Div., MPH

Medical Director, Health Commission

Ms. Joyce Johnson, Connectional President

Young People's Division - WMS

Rev. Dr. Joy Gallmon, President

Women in Ministry

Chaplain G. Dianne Lewis, President

AME Church Chaplains Association

Mr. Monroe Miller, President

Sons of Allen

Mr. Robert Nicolas, Executive Director

AME SADA (Service and Development Agency)

Mrs. Robin Porter Smith, Chair

Fellowship of Church Educators

Rev. Dr. Missiouri McPhee, Director

Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts, Boy Scouts

Ms. Michele L. Neal, Director

Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts, Girl Scouts



AME3 PRESIDING ELDERS

▶ NORTH OHIO

Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Wesley Reid
Cleveland District

Presiding Elder Louise V. Jackson, D.Min
Youngstown District

▶ OHIO-SOUTH OHIO

Presiding Elder Betty W. Holley, Ph.D.
Dayton District

Presiding Elder LaCreta Rutledge Clark, Ph.D.
Cincinnati District

Presiding Elder Aimee Anderson, D.Min
Columbus District

▶ PITTSBURGH-WEST VIRGINIA

Presiding Elder Timothy Storms, D.Min
South Pennsylvania District

Presiding Elder Rev. Alton Dillard
West Virginia District

Presiding Elder James Harris, D.Min
Allegheny-Scranton District

CONNECTIONAL OFFICERS OF AME3

Dr. Derek Anderson

Judge, The African Methodist Episcopal Church's Judicial Council

Rev. Dr. Mila Cooper

1st Vice President for The Connectional Women in Ministry

Presiding Elder Betty W. Holley, Ph.D.

1st Vice-President, The Connectional Presiding Elder's Council

Sonuel Ivery-Smith

Connectional Foundational Board Member, The Women's Missionary Society

Adrienne Morris

Connectional WMS Chief Protocol Commissioner

Carolyn Walker-Kimbrow

Connectional Lay Organization Financial Secretary



AME3 OFFICERS

Mr. Jaylen Hocker

President, Young People's Division

Ms. Sheila Floyd

Director, Young People's Division

Presiding Elder James Harris

President, Presiding Elders' Council

Mrs. LaDonna Moore Liggins

President, Women's Missionary Society

Rev. Emma Barnes

President, Women In Ministry

Rev. DeBora Duckett

Director, Board of Christian Education

Rev. Karen Schaeffer, PhD.

Assist. Director, Board of Christian Ed

Rev. Dr. Alphonse Allen, Jr.

Chair, Board of Examiners

Mr. Marvin Harris

President, Episcopal District Lay Organization

Rev. Thomas Fant

President, Sons of Allen

Rev. LaCreta Rutledge Clark, Ph.D.

Social Justice/Prison Ministry

Ms. Erin Youngue

President, District Richard Allen Young Adult Council

Reverend Dr. Constance Belin Wicker

Supervisor of Missions

Rt. Reverend Stafford J.N. Wicker

Presiding Bishop



2025 PLANNING MEETING

ALLEN TEMPLE AME CHURCH • CINCINNATI, OH

OCT. 30 - NOV. 1

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

BISHOP STAFFORD J.N. WICKER, *PRESIDING BISHOP*

REV. DR. CONSTANCE BELIN WICKER, *SUPERVISOR OF MISSIONS*

REV. ALPHONSE ALLEN, *HOST PASTOR*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025

8:45AM - 11:45AM SESSION I: LITERARY REPORTS

- Faith and Technology
- Living Well-Life Balance
- State of the Church
- State of the Country
- State of the State
- Social Justice/Prison
- Social Action

12:00PM - 1:45PM • Lunch on Your Own

1:45PM - 5:30PM • **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
TEACHING AND TRAINING
SESSIONS**

5:30PM • DINNER ON YOUR OWN

7:00PM • OPENING WORSHIP

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025

7:30AM • Breakfast on Your Own

8:00AM - 8:30 AM • Christian Education Report
& Updates

8:30AM - 11:30AM

- Lay Organization
- Board of Examiners
- Trustees
- Economic Development
- Sons of Allen
- DMC

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025

12:00 PM • NOON DAY WORSHIP:
**RETIREMENT CELEBRATION +
PASTOR OF THE YEAR**

1:30 PM • LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

3:00PM - 5:30PM

- WMS/YPD
- WIM
- RAYAC
- Clergy Family Organization

5:30PM • DINNER ON YOUR OWN

6:00PM • TRUNK OR TREAT

7:00PM • WORSHIP

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025

7:00AM - 8:45AM • WIM Breakfast

8:45AM • AME3 YPD Meeting and Elections

10:00AM • Ordination & Commissioning Service

3RDDISTRICTAME.COM



OPENING WORSHIP

Reverend LaCreta R. Clark, PhD., Worship Leader
Host Presiding Elder, Cincinnati District

THE PRAISE MEDLEY..... The Musicians

THE DEVOTION..... The Episcopal Board of Examiners

THE PRELUDE..... The Musicians

The Introit

The Procession

THE DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (Hymn #647)

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Reverend Dr. Alphonse Allen
Host Pastor, Allen Temple AME Church

THE OPENING HYMN

“To God Be The Glory”

Reverend Emma Drummer-Barnes

*To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life and atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.*

continued on next page...



OPENING WORSHIP

Reverend LaCreta R. Clark, PhD., Worship Leader
Host Presiding Elder, Cincinnati District

THE OPENING HYMN

“To God Be The Glory”

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son.

And give Him the glory, great things he hath done.

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,

To every believer the promise of God;

The vilest offender who truly believes,

That moment from Jesus a pardon receive.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,

And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;

But purer, and higher, and greater will be

Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

THE OPENING PRAYER Reverend Dr. Louise V. Jackson
Presiding Elder, Youngstown District

THE PRAYER RESPONSE..... “Lord Keep Me Everyday”

Lord, keep me day by day, in a pure and perfect way.

I want to live, I want to live on in a building not made by hand.

Lord, keep my body strong, so that I can do no wrong,

Lord, give me grace just to run this Christian race to a building not made by hand.

I’m just a stranger here, traveling through this barren land.

Lord, I know there’s a building somewhere, a building not made by hand.



OPENING WORSHIP

Reverend LaCreta R. Clark, PhD., *Worship Leader*
Host Presiding Elder, Cincinnati District

THE WELCOME Reverend LaCreta R. Clark
Presiding Elder, Cincinnati District

THE SELECTION.....The Episcopal Choir

THE SCRIPTURES

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON.....Isaiah 40:28–31..... Reverend Rodric Reid
Pastor, Lee Memorial AME Church, Cleveland, OH

THE EPISTLE LESSON.....2 Timothy 4:1–8.....Reverend Vanessa Cummings
Pastor, Payne Chapel AMEC, Hamilton, OH

THE GOSPEL LESSON.....Philippians 3:7–16Rev. Dr. Dale Synder
Pastor, Bethel AME Church, Pittsburgh

THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE

“From All That Dwells Below the Skies” (Hymn #69)

*From all that dwell below the skies, let the creator’s praise arise;
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung, through every land by every tongue.*

THE SUMMARY OF THE DECALOGUE....Reverend Dr. Aimee Hurst Anderson
Presiding Elder, Columbus District

THE SELECTION..... The Episcopal Choir

THE OFFERING OF MISSIONS.....Rev. Gayle Simmons
Pastor, Trinity AME Church, Springfield, OH

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BISHOP

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER..... Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker
Presiding Prelate, Third Episcopal District



OPENING WORSHIP

Reverend LaCreta R. Clark, PhD., Worship Leader
Host Presiding Elder, Cincinnati District

The Sermonic Selection The Episcopal Choir

THE SERMON Rev. Dr. Wesley I Reid
Retired Cleveland District Third Episcopal District

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
Reverend Dr. Jermaine D. Covington
Pastor, Quinn Chapel AME Church, Forrest Park, OH

THE WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING Reverend Dr. Timothy Storms
*Presiding Elder, Southwest Pennsylvania District
AME3 Finance Committee*

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS Reverend Dr. Alphonse Allen
Host Pastor, Allen Temple AME Church, Cincinnati, OH

THE DOXOLOGY *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (Hymn #647)*

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

THE BENEDICTION



SONS OF ALLEN WORSHIP

Reverend Dr. James Harris, *Worship Leader*
Presiding Elder, Allegheny Scranton District
President of the Presiding Elder Council

THE PRAISE MEDLEY..... The Musicians

THE PRELUDE..... The Musicians

The Introit

THE DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (Hymn #647)

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Reverend John Sylvia
Pastor, St. Paul AME Church, Charleston, WV

THE OPENING HYMN Reverend Arnett Thorton
Pastor, St. Paul AME Church, Charleston, WV

THE OPENING PRAYER Reverend Dr. Kary Williams
Pastor, St. Paul AME Church, Charleston, WV

THE PRAYER RESPONSE The Episcopal Choir

THE SCRIPTURES

THE OLD TESTAMENT..... Isaiah 55:6-11..... Reverend Tracy Cross
Pastor, St. Paul AME Church, Lima, OH

THE EPISTLE..... James 5:13-16..... Mr. John Covington
Sons of Allen Coordinator Youngstown District

THE GOSPEL..... Luke 18:10-14..... Reverend Darryl Lowe
Pastor, First AME Church, Clairton, PA

Presentation of Pastor of the Year Award



SONS OF ALLEN WORSHIP

Reverend Dr. James Harris, *Worship Leader*

Presiding Elder, Allegheny Scranton District

President of the Presiding Elder Council

THE SELECTION..... The Episcopal Choir

THE MISSIONS OFFERING.....Reverend Dr. Elmer Martin
Pastor, Greater Allen AME Church, Dayton, OH

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER.....Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker
Presiding Prelate, Third Episcopal District of the AME Church

The Sermonic Selection
The Episcopal Choir

THE SERMON..... Reverend Alphonse Allen, Jr.
Host Pastor, Allen Chapel AME Church, Cincinnati, OH

THE INVITATION OF DISCIPLESHIP.....Reverend William Roberts, II
Pastor, Bethel AME Church, Middletown, OH

The Worship Offering

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Reverend Alphonse Allen, Jr.
Host Pastor, Allen Chapel AME Church, Cincinnati, OH



LAY ORGANIZATION WORSHIP

Kim Brooks, Worship Leader
3rd District 1st Vice President

THE PRAISE MEDLEY..... The Musicians

THE PRELUDE..... The Musicians

The Introit

THE DOXOLOGY..... Ms. Stephenie Bruce
North Ohio Conference Lay President

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (Hymn #647)

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Ms. Verna Gaskins
Ohio South Ohio Lay Conference President

THE OPENING HYMN..... “Great is Thy Faithfulness” Brother Marvin L. Harris
3rd District Lay President

THE OPENING PRAYER Brother Michael Goss
Chaplain, 3rd District Lay

THE PRAYER RESPONSE..... The Episcopal Choir

THE SCRIPTURES

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON..... Psalms 71:14-18..... Sister Twyla Glasgow
Third District Director of Lay Activities

THE EPISTLE LESSON..... Hebrews 6:9-12..... Sister Linda West
Member of AME3 Lay

THE GOSPEL LESSON..... Philippians 3:7-16 Sister Sonya Nelson
Pittsburgh/West Virginia Lay President



LAY ORGANIZATION WORSHIP

Kim Brooks, Worship Leader
3rd District 1st Vice President

THE SELECTION..... The Episcopal Choir

THE MISSIONS OFFERING..... Brother Stephen Conners
3rd District Young Adult Representative

THE MISSIONS OFFERING..... Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker
Presiding Prelate, Third Episcopal District

THE RETIREMENT SERVICE

THE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE..... Reverend Dr. Otis Gordon, Jr.

In the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, let us enter into this service of the retirement of preachers from active work in the ministry of the church. Let us pray.

THE INVOCATION..... Reverend Madonna Gray

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with Your most gracious favor, and further us with Your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in You, we may glorify Your Holy Name, and finally by Your mercy obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRESENTATION OF PREACHER(S)..... Reverend Marilyn Fisher- PWV
Reverend Vanessa Cummings - OSO
Reverend Pamela Slayton - NO

The secretaries of the Annual Conference of the Third Episcopal District will now present the preacher(s) who are at this session, retiring from active service.

Bishop Wicker, the _____ Annual Conference desires formally to recognize the completion of the active service of (state number of its ministers). As secretary of the Annual Conference, I present to you this/these faithful minister(s) for this service of recognition and honor, in appreciation of their untiring labors in the Christian ministry.

(The Secretary will then call the names of those to be read, pausing between each name while the person shall rise and present himself or herself before the bishop.)



LAY ORGANIZATION WORSHIP

Kim Brooks, Worship Leader
3rd District 1st Vice President

THE RETIREMENT SERVICE

THE RESPONSE Reverend Veronica Watkins

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. Psalm 126:6

THE MESSAGE OF TRIBUTE..... Reverend Barrett Spencer

People, the record of your active ministry is written. It is written in the record of God. Your Church is deeply grateful for your ministry and for the care, which you have exercised in faithfully fulfilling your vows of ordination. May the precious memories of your years of sacrificial service and fruitful labor be blessed and hallowed.

And now, as you yield your official responsibilities in the active ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, be assured that the years that are yet to be, may be filled with good works and become the crown of all your ministry, bringing glory and honor to you and to the church. The congregation of which you will be a member will look to you for spiritual guidance and godly example. Your colleagues in the ministry will continue to seek and respect your counsel. They will annually listen for your answer to the “Roll Call” of the Conference.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BISHOP Judge Derek Anderson *AMEC, Judicial Council Member*

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER..... Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker *Presiding Prelate of the Third Episcopal District*



LAY ORGANIZATION WORSHIP

Kim Brooks, Worship Leader
3rd District 1st Vice President

The Sermonic Selection

- THE SERMON**..... Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker
Presiding Prelate of the Third Episcopal District
- THE INVITATION OF DISCIPLESHIP**..... Reverend Dr. James Harris
Third District, President of the Presiding Elders' Council
- THE WORSHIP OFFERING**..... Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker
Presiding Prelate of the Third Episcopal District
- THE ANNOUNCEMENTS**..... Reverend Alphonse Allen, Jr.
Host Pastor, Allen Chapel AME Church, Cincinnati, OH

The Moment of Greeting and Fellowship with the Retirees

THE DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (Hymn #647)

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

THE BENEDICTION



CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., Worship Leader
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

THE PRELUDE..... The Musicians

The Introit

THE PROCESSION..... The Musicians

THE DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (Hymn #647)

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Reverend Dr. Aimee H. Anderson
Presiding Elder, Columbus District

MINISTER: God calls us to worship with committed excitement because His mercies are new every day. We have come to give God excited praise because of what He has done in the past, is doing in the present, and the even greater blessings we anticipate in the future. Will you worship today with the expectancy of new blessings by welcoming the presence of The Holy Spirit?

ALL: Yes, we will worship, believe in, and acknowledge the awesomeness of God and that it is He who has made us and not we ourselves.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE Reverend DeBora Duckett
Pastor, Lee Central Chapel AME Church, Yellow Springs, OH

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION..... Reverend Alton Dillard
Presiding Elder, West Virginia District

THE CHORAL RESPONSE..... “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

*We give thee but thine own, whate’er the gift may be
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.*



CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., *Worship Leader*
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

THE SCRIPTURES

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON..... Psalm 100:1-5..... Reverend George Russell
Pastor, St. James AME Church, Cleveland, OH

THE EPISTLE LESSON..... 2 Timothy 4:1-5..... Reverend Deborah Avery-Widget
Pastor, Ebenezer AME Church, Aliquippa, PA

THE GOSPEL LESSON..... Luke 4:18-19 Reverend Nigel Felder
Pastor, Shorter AME Church, Greenfield, OH

THE MISSIONS OFFERING..... Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker
Presiding Prelate, Third Episcopal District

THE SELECTION The Episcopal Choir

The Order to Change from Local to Itinerant Ministry *(A Liturgy By Adam Jefferson Richardson, 115:)*

BISHOP: By the grace of God, and the vote of the Pittsburgh West Virginia Annual Conference, Ohio South Ohio Annual Conference, and the North Ohio Annual Conference, you have been granted the privilege and opportunity to move from Local (Elder/Deacon) status, with its limitations of function and service in the congregation, to Itinerant ministry and a broader field of function and service in the Church and Annual Conference.

Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to this place of ministry in the Church?

Candidate: I do believe so.

BISHOP: Do you willingly and fully accept the responsibility of Itinerant ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, to travel and, as need may require, to pastor the flock of Christ, and to perform other such ministries as your gifts and graces may demand and opportunity may afford?

Candidate: I will do so, The Lord being my helper.

BISHOP: Will you reaffirm your vows as a Deacon/an Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church?

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CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., *Worship Leader*
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

FOR DEACONS

Candidate: I will faithfully assist the Elder in Divine Service; to assist with the distribution of the Holy Communion when requested; to read, study, and expound the Scriptures; to instruct the youths; to engage in ministries of compassion and outreach; and in the absence of the Elder to baptize.

FOR ELDERS

Candidate: I will faithfully fulfill the vows of an Itinerant Elder in Divine Service in the Church; to serve the priestly and prophetic duties of Itinerant ministry in the Church, to consecrate and distribute the Elements of the Holy Communion; to baptize, to bury the dead, to read, study, and expound the Scriptures; to instruct the youths; and to engage in ministries of compassion and outreach.

BISHOP: Will you reverently submit to the godly judgment of them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonition?

Candidate: I will do so, by the help of The Lord.

BISHOP: May this change in ministerial status inspire and encourage you to be of greater usefulness in the Church of Jesus Christ.

Congratulations. God bless you in Itinerant ministry. Amen. Amen. Amen

THE CANDIDATES FOR DIACONATE ORDERS

ELDER: Reverend Reverend Alphonse Allen
Dean, Third Episcopal District Board of Examiners

Bishop, I present to you these person(s) to be ordained deacon(s).

BISHOP: Take heed that the persons whom you present to us be apt and meet, by their godly conversation, to exercise their ministry duly to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church.

ELDER: Reverend Reverend Alphonse Allen
I have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and think them so to be.
The name(s) being read aloud, the bishop shall say to the people:

BISHOP: Members of the Conference, these are they whom we propose, God willing, this day to ordain elders; for after due examination we find not the contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same.



CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., *Worship Leader*
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ELDERS ORDERS

ELDER: Reverend Kevin Cooper, Sr.
Bishop Wicker, I present to you this person/these persons to be ordained elder(s).

BISHOP: Take heed that the person(s) whom you present to us be apt and meet, by their godly conversation, to exercise their ministry duly to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church.

ELDER: Reverend D'Lynn Harrison
I have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and think them so to be.

The name(s) being read aloud, the bishop shall say to the people:

BISHOP: Members of the Conference, these are they whom we propose, God willing, this day to ordain elders; for after due examination we find not the contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same.

But if there be any of you who knows any impediment or crime in any of them, for which they ought not be received into this holy ministry, let them come forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

THE COLLECT FOR DEACONS..... Reverend Shane Floyd, PhD.

Pastor, Grace AME Church, Warren, OH

Almighty God, who by your Divine Providence has appointed diverse orders of ministers of your Church, and did inspire your Apostles, to choose to the order of deacons the first martyr, St. Stephen, with others, mercifully behold these your servants now called to the like office and administration; replenish them so with the truth of your doctrine and adorn them with the innocence of life that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve you in this office to the glory of your holy name, and the edification of your Church, through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.



CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., Worship Leader
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

THE COLLECT FOR ELDERS..... Reverend Debra Smoot

Pastor, St. Matthews AME Church, Beckley, WV

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by the Holy Spirit has appointed diverse orders of ministers in your Church, mercifully behold these your servants now called to the office of Elder and replenish them with the innocence of life, that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve you this office to the glory of your name and the edification of your Church, through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

THE CHORAL SELECTION

"We Need to Hear from You"

We need to hear from you. We need a word from you.

If we don't hear from you, what will we do?

Wanting you more each day; Show us your perfect way

There is no other way that we can live.

THE EPISTLE FOR DEACONS Reverend Dr. Stephen Chifunda

Pastor, St. Paul AME Church, Akron, OH

Deacons likewise must be serious, not double tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; they must hold fast to the mystery of faith with a clear conscience. And let them first be tested; if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. Let deacons be married only once, and let them manage their children and households well; for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (I Timothy 3:8)



CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., Worship Leader
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

THE EPISTLE FOR ELDERS Reverend Dr. Norma Lynn Felts

Pastor, Lee Chapel AME Church, Cincinnati, OH

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.' (When it says, 'He ascended,' what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. (Ephesians 4:7-13)

After this shall be read for the gospel, St. John 10: 1 – 16, the people standing if able.

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CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., *Worship Leader*
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

THE GOSPEL Reverend Dr. Henry Curtis

Pastor, St. John AME Church, Cleveland, OH

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. (John 10:1-16)



ALLEN TEMPLE AME CHURCH • CINCINNATI, OH

CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., *Worship Leader*
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP Reverend Dr. Morné Meyer

Pastor, St. Paul AME Church, Columbus, OH

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker

Presiding Prelate of the Third Episcopal District

THE SERMONIC SELECTION The Episcopal Choir

THE ORDINATION SERMON Bishop Adams Jefferson Richardson

THE INVITATION OF DISCIPLESHIP Reverend John Sylvia

Pastor, St. Paul AME Church, Charleston, WV

The Act of Ordination of Deacons

Diaconate ordinands return to the altar.

*Then shall the bishop examine every one that is to be ordained,
in the presence of the people, in the following manner:*

BISHOP: Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to take upon you the Office of the Ministry in the Church of Christ, to serve God for the promotion of his glory, and the edifying of his people?

Candidate: I trust so.

BISHOP: Do you believe unfeigned all the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Candidate: I do believe them.

BISHOP: Will you diligently read and expound the same unto the people whom you shall be appointed to serve?

Candidate: I will.

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CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D.,, Worship Leader
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

The Act of Ordination of Deacons

BISHOP: It appertains to the office of a deacon to assist the elder in Divine Service. And especially when he or she administers the Holy Communion, to help him or her in the distribution thereof and to read and expound the Holy Scriptures; to instruct the youths, and in the absence of the elder, to baptize. And furthermore, it is his or her office to search for the sick, poor and impotent, that they may be visited and relieved. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

Candidate: I will do so, by the help of God.

BISHOP: Will you frame and fashion your own lives and the lives of your families according to the doctrine of Christ and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples of the flock of Christ?

Candidate: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

BISHOP: Will you frame and fashion your own lives and the lives of your families according to the doctrine of Christ and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples of the flock of Christ?

Candidate: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

BISHOP: Will you reverently obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonition?

Candidate: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Then shall the bishop, laying his hand upon every one of them severally, say:

BISHOP: Take thou authority to execute the office of a deacon in the Church of God in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then shall the bishop, deliver to every one of them the Holy Bible saying:

BISHOP: Take thou authority to read the Scriptures, and to preach the same in the Church of God in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., *Worship Leader*
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

The Act of Ordination of Elders

Elder ordinands return to the altar. Then shall the bishop examine every one that is to be ordained, in the presence of the people, in the following manner:

BISHOP: Have always, therefore, printed in your remembrance how great treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the sheep of Christ which he bought with his death, and for whom he shed his blood. The church and congregation, whom you must serve, are his Spouse, and his Body. And if it should happen the same church or any member thereof, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence, you know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will ensue. Wherefore consider within yourselves the end of the ministry towards the children of God, towards the Spouse and Body of Christ, and see that you never cease your labor, your care, and diligence until you have done all that lies in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to your charge unto that agreement in the faith, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there may be no place left among you, either for error in religion or for viciousness in life.

BISHOP: Forasmuch then as your office is both of so great excellence, and of so great difficulty, you see with how great awe and study you ought to apply yourselves, as neither you yourselves offend, nor be occasion that others offend. Howbeit ye cannot have a mind and will thereunto yourselves for that will and ability are given of God alone; therefore, you ought, and have need, to pray earnestly for His Holy Spirit. And seeing that you cannot by any other means compass the doing of so weighty a work pertaining to the salvation of people, with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same, consider how studious you ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures and in framing the manners both of yourselves and of them that specially pertain to you, according to the rules of the same Scriptures; and for this self-same cause how you ought to forsake and set aside as much as you may all worldly care and studies.

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CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., *Worship Leader*
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

Have always, therefore, printed in your remembrance how great treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the sheep of Christ which he bought with his death, and for whom he shed his blood. The church and congregation, whom you must serve, are his Spouse, and his Body. And if it should happen the same church or any member thereof, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence, you know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will ensue. Wherefore consider within yourselves the end of the ministry towards the children of God, towards the Spouse and Body of Christ, and see that you never cease your labor, your care, and diligence until you have done all that lies in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to your charge unto that agreement in the faith, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there may be no place left among you, either for error in religion or for viciousness in life.

The Act of Ordination of Elders

BISHOP: Forasmuch then as your office is both of so great excellence, and of so great difficulty, you see with how great awe and study you ought to apply yourselves, as neither you yourselves offend, nor be occasion that others offend. Howbeit ye cannot have a mind and will thereunto yourselves for that will and ability are given of God alone; therefore, you ought, and have need, to pray earnestly for His Holy Spirit. And seeing that you cannot by any other means compass the doing of so weighty a work pertaining to the salvation of people, with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same, consider how studious you ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures and in framing the manners both of yourselves and of them that specially pertain to you, according to the rules of the same Scriptures; and for this self-same cause how you ought to forsake and set aside as much as you may all worldly care and studies.

We have good hope that you have all weighed and pondered these things with yourselves long before this time; and that you have clearly determined by God's grace to give yourselves to this office whereby it has pleased God to call you, so that as much as lies within you, you will apply yourselves wholly to this one thing and draw all your cares and studies this way, and that you will continually pray to God the Father by the

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CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., *Worship Leader*
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

mediation of our only Savior Jesus Christ, of the heavenly assistance of the Holy Spirit; that by daily reading and weighing of the Scripture you may wax riper and stronger in your ministry, and that you may so endeavor yourselves, from time to time, to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to fashion them after the rule and doctrine of Christ that you may be wholesome and goodly examples and patterns for the people to follow.

And now that this present congregation of Christ here assembled may also understand your minds and wills in these things, and that this your promise may the more move you to do your duties, you shall answer plainly to these things which we, in the name of God and his Church, shall demand of you touching the same.

The Act of Ordination of Elders

BISHOP: Do you think in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the order of elder?

Candidate: I do so believe.

BISHOP: Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrines required of necessity for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? Are you determined out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing, as required of necessity to salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded may be conducted and proved by Scriptures?

Candidate: I am so persuaded, and have so determined by God's grace.

BISHOP: Will you then give faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrine and sacraments and discipline of Christ as the Lord hath commanded?

Candidate: I will do so, by the help of the Lord.

BISHOP: Will you be ready with faithful diligence always to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's Word, and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations as well to the sick as to the whole within your charge as need shall require and occasion shall be given?

Candidate: I will, the Lord being my helper.

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CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., Worship Leader
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

BISHOP: Will you be diligent in prayer and in reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?

Candidate: I will endeavor so to do; the Lord being my helper.

BISHOP: Will you be diligent to frame and fashion yourselves and your families according to the doctrine of Christ and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

Candidate: I shall apply myself thereto, the Lord being my helper.

The Act of Ordination of Elders

BISHOP: Will you maintain and set forth, as much as lies in you, sweetness, peace and love among all Christian people, and especially among them that are or shall be committed to your charge?

Candidate: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

BISHOP: Will you reverently obey your chief ministers to whom is committed the charge and government over you, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions, submitting yourselves to their godly judgments?

Candidate: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Then shall the Bishop say:

Almighty God, who has given you this will to do all these things, grant also unto you strength and power to perform the same, that He may accomplish His work, which He has begun, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., *Worship Leader*
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

After which shall be said by the bishop (the persons to be ordained elders all kneeling),
Veni Creator Spiritus (Latin: Come, Creator Spirit), the bishop beginning and the elders
and others that are present answering by verse as follows:

BISHOP:	Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire.
Response:	And lighten with celestial fire;
BISHOP:	Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Response:	Who doth thy sevenfold gifts impart
BISHOP:	Thy blessed unction from above:
Response:	Is comfort, light, and fire of love.
BISHOP:	Enable with perpetual light
Response:	The dullness of our blinded sight;
BISHOP:	Anoint and cheer our soiled face
Response:	With the abundance of thy grace.
BISHOP:	Keep far our foes; give peace at home
Response:	Where thou art guide, no ill can come.
BISHOP:	Teach us to know the Father, Son,
Response:	And thee of both to be but one!
BISHOP:	That through the ages all along
Response:	This may be our endless song:
BISHOP:	Praise to Thy eternal merit
Response:	Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Act of Ordination of Elders

That done, the bishop shall pray saying: Let us pray:

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, who of your infinite love and goodness towards us has given us your only and most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and the author of everlasting life; who, after he had made perfect our redemption by his death and was ascended into the heaven, sent abroad into the world his apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers, and pastors by whose labor and ministry he gathered together a great flock in all parts of the world, to set forth the eternal praise of your holy name; for these so great benefits of your eternal goodness, and for that you have vouchsafed to call these your servants here present to the same office and ministry appointed for the salvation of mankind, we render to you most hearty thanks; we praise and worship you,

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CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., Worship Leader
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

and we humbly beseech you by your same blessed Son to grant to all, who either here or elsewhere call upon your name, that we may continue to show ourselves thankful to you of these and all your other benefits, and that we may daily increase and go forward in the knowledge and faith of you and your Son, by the Holy Spirit. So that as well by these your ministers as by them over whom they shall be appointed your ministers that your holy name may be forever glorified and your blessed kingdom enlarged through the same, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

After this prayer, the bishop with seven elders present shall lay their hands severally upon the head of everyone who receives the order of elder, the receivers humbly kneeling upon their knees, and the bishop saying:

BISHOP: The Lord pour upon you the Holy Spirit for the office and work of an elder in the Church of God, now committed to you by the imposition of our hands. Be a faithful dispenser of the Word of God and of His holy sacraments in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Bishop shall deliver to each of them kneeling the Bible into his or her hands, saying:

BISHOP: Take thou authority to preach the word of God and to administer the holy sacrament in the congregation in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Bishop shall go on with the service of the Communion, which all they who receive orders shall take together and remain in the same place where hands were laid upon them until such time as they have received the Communion.



CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

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Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

THE GENERAL CONFESSION

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word and deed against Your Divine Majesty, provoking most justly your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION..... Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of Your tender mercy did give Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, who made thereby His oblation of Himself, once offered, a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute and in His holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that His precious death until His coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech You, and grant that we, receiving these Your creatures of bread and wine, according to Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion, may be partakers of His most blessed body and blood; Who in the same night that He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, Take, eat, this is My body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of Me. Likewise after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them saying, Drink all of it, for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen.



CLOSING WORSHIP & ORDINATION

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Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

The Sharing of Elements

BISHOPS, PRESIDING ELDERS, BOARD OF EXAMINERS, ORDINANDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

All others are invited to join the Communion Celebration following this order.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (CARIBBEAN STYLE)

THE FELLOWSHIP SONG

THE DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (Hymn #647)

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE BENEDICTION



COMMISSIONING SERVICE

Reverend Betty W. Holley, Ph.D., *Worship Leader*
Presiding Elder, Cleveland District

THE COMMISSIONING

Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker

COMMISSIONING HYMN

"Go Preach My Gospel Says The Lord" | Hymn #220

"Go preach My Gospel," saith the Lord,
"Bid the whole earth My grace receive;
He shall be saved that trusts My word,
He shall be damned that won't believe.

"I'll make your great commission known,
And ye shall prove My Gospel true,

By all the works that I have done, By all the wonders ye shall do.
"Go heal the sick, go raise the dead, Go cast out devils in My Name;

Nor let My prophets be afraid, Though Greeks reproach, and Jews
blaspheme.

"While thus ye follow My commands I'm with you till the world shall end;
All power is trusted in My hands, I can destroy, and can defend."

He spake, and light shone round His head, on a bright cloud to heaven
He rode; They to the farthest nation spread the grace of their ascended
God.

THE PRAYER

Presiding Elder Wilton Blake

THE SCRIPTURE

Matthew 10:1-14

Presiding Elder Wilton Blake

THE READING OF APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker

THE DOXOLOGY & THE BENEDICTION

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF THE THIRD EPISCOPAL DISTRICT PRESENTS

TAWAWA26'

EZEKIEL 47:9

SAVE THE DATES

JUNE 18-20



NOTES/HIGHLIGHTS

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings present.

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