

THE MINUTES OF THE 151ST SESSION OF THE KENTUCKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Embry Chapel AME Church - Elizabethtown, Kentucky
September 27-30, 2018

SATURDAY – September 29, 2018

Church School

The Reverend Louise Spencer began the devotions at 8:16am. Brother Melvin Allen led the Church School Lesson, entitled, “God Creates, Humans Sin”, utilizing the text Genesis 3:8-17, 20-24 (Key Verse: Genesis 3:23). Church School ended at 8:49am.

YPD/RAYAC Service

The YPD/RAYAC Service began at 9:06am, with Brother Christian Lewis (Kentucky Conference YPD Worship Leader) as the Worship Leader. The preacher was Sister Tracy M. Thomas (Licentiate of Quinn Chapel AME Church, Louisville, KY). Her text was Daniel 3:16-17 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11, for the message entitled, “I’m Still Here!”

The YPD/RAYAC Service concluded at 10:12am.

Saturday Morning Business Session

At 10:18am Bishop Leath called the Annual Conference to order and the Saturday Morning Business Session began.

Bishop Leath notified the Conference that the Day 1 and Day 2 Minutes were available online (www.ame13.org), that the Clergy and Delegates should take the time to download and read them, and they’ll be addressed in the Afternoon Business Session.

Bishop Leath called for reports to continue:

Reports continued:

- The Ministerial Efficiency Committee – Presenter: The Reverend Troy I. Thomas. The Reverend Joshua C. Hale moved that the Kentucky Annual Conference remove the name of the Reverend Douglas Peyton (Local Elder for Embry Chapel AME Church, Elizabethtown, KY) from the roll of the Annual Conference and that he

surrender his ordination papers to the Conference Secretary. The Reverend Stephanie Raglin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Reverend Kenneth Golphin moved to approve the request of the Reverend LaVita Chavous for an honorable discharge. The Reverend June Anderson Dorsey seconded. The motion carried.

The Reverend William Hale moved that the report of the Ministerial Efficiency Committee be received as a whole. The Reverend Troy Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bishop called for the supplemental report of the Board of Examiners.

- The Rev. Dr. Maxine Thomas moved that the Annual Conference recognize Sister Rachel French's (a licentiate of Embury Chapel Elizabethtown, Pastor Stephanie M. Raglin) year of study, acknowledge her intent to pursue local orders, and passed on to First Year Studies. The Rev. Dr. Robert Strode seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Reports continued:

- Health and Wellness Report – Presenter: Sister LaJava Chenault, who addressed the necessity of Addressing Stress. The report was received by common consent.

Bishop called for the supplemental report of Mission, Circuits and Stations.

- Following discussion by the Annual Conference concerning Perkins Chapel Wilmore, a Mission Church with one (1) member, the Reverend Troy Thomas moved that the report be amended, and that Perkins Chapel Wilmore be declared an abandoned property and the congregation be dissolved. The Reverend June Anderson Dorsey seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- The Reverend LaVeeshia Pryor recommended that the Lexington District be divided into Two Presiding Elder's Districts. The "Commonwealth District" will be comprised of: St. Paul, Lexington; Quinn Chapel, Lexington; St. Paul, Richmond; St. James, Cynthiana; St. Matthew, Midway; Shorter Chapel, Paris; Barnes Temple, Elsmere; St. James, Covington; and Wayman Chapel, Georgetown.

The “Bluegrass District” will be comprised of: St. John, Frankfort; St. Paul, Versailles; St. James, Danville; Bethel, Boneyville; St. Peter, Harrodsburg; Davis Chapel, Somerset; Bethel, Campbellsville; Mt. Zion, Frazier; St. John, Monticello; St. James, Ashland; St. Paul, Manchester; St. John, Greenup; Wayman Chapel, Barbourville; Allen Chapel, Moreland; and Craig Chapel, Salvisa. The Reverend Linda Murray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

By common consent, it was agreed that the two new respective Presiding Elder’s Districts: “The Commonwealth District” and “The Bluegrass District” would hold their Church School Convention jointly, at the same time and same place, during this Conference Year.

Reports continued:

- Believe, Inc. – Presenter: Sister Norma Bean. The report was received by common consent.
- Camp Primm Simmons – Presenters: The Reverend Louise Spencer and Brother Melvin Allen. Following discussion, the report was received by common consent.

The Saturday Morning Business Session recessed at 11:41am.

The Ordination/Communion Service

The Ordination/Communion Service, began at 11:54am with the Rev. Dr. Maxine Thomas as the Worship Leader. The preacher was the Reverend Linda F. Thomas-Martin (Presiding Elder of the South Memphis District, West Tennessee Conference). Her text was 2 Peter 1:16-21, for the sermon entitled, “Trust the Tradition!”

The Reverend Ethel Louise Spencer was ordained an Itinerant Elder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Bishop Leath acknowledged the Reverend Peter Doddema, Rector of Saint Philip’s Episcopal Church, Harrodsburg, KY.

The worship concluded at 1:19pm following Holy Communion.

Saturday Afternoon Business Session

The Saturday Afternoon Business Session began at 3:01pm when Bishop Leath called the Annual Conference to order.

Bishop Leath called for the election of the Conference Treasurer. Presiding Elder William Easley moved to elect the Reverend Troy Thomas as Conference Treasurer. The Reverend Kenneth Golphin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Reverend Joshua Hale moved that the following be elected to serve as Conference Trustees: The Reverend Kenneth Golphin (Vice Chair), the Reverend William Hale (Secretary), Sister Wathetta Buford (Asst. Secretary), the Reverend Troy Thomas (Treasurer), Sister Myrna Herron (Asst. Treasurer), the Reverend William Easley (Presiding Elder), the Reverend Erika Taylor, the Reverend Joshua Hale, the Reverend Ralph B. Smith, the Reverend Jermaine Wilson, Sister Robin Harris, Sister Anna Johnson, Sister Shirley Smith-Pointer, Brother Michael Gresham, Brother John Hardin, Brother Chris Wilson, and Sister Dianna Golphin. The Reverend Linda Murray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath called for the Statistician's Report. The Reverend Melanie Samuels-Black reported (see the report). The Reverend Stephanie Raglin moved the reports adoption. The Reverend Kenneth Golphin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath called for the Organization of the Finance Committee. The Reverend Jermaine Wilson reported that the Finance Committee elected the Reverend Jermaine Wilson as Chair and the Reverend Erika Taylor as Secretary. Presiding Elder William Easley moved the adoption of the report. The Reverend Troy Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bishop introduced the topic of the Benevolence Offering that would take place at the Closing Worship Service. The Reverend Joshua C. Hale moved that the Benevolence Offering would go to the Kentucky Conference YPD for their Quadrennial expenses. The Reverend Troy Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

By common consent it was agreed that the Episcopal District Budget Committee would constitute: the Reverends Kenneth Golphin, LaVeeshia Pryor, and Stephanie Raglin; Laypersons: LaTanya Germany, Ellis Collins and Melinda Robinson (Young Adult).

Bishop Leath appointed the following to the Ministerial Efficiency Committee: The Reverends Troy Thomas, June Anderson Dorsey, William Hale, LaVeeshia Pryor, and Jermaine Wilson.

The Reverend Troy Thomas moved the following be elected to serve as the Judicial Committee (for a two-year term): The Reverends William Easley (Presiding Elder), Joshua Hale, Linda Jackson, William Jenkins, LaVeeshia Pryor, and Ralph Boyd Smith. The Reverend Robert Strode seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Reverend Kenneth Golphin moved the following be elected to serve as the Triers of Appeals are: the Reverends Stephanie Raglin, Melanie Samuels-Black, Veda Stewart, Wallace Gunn and Louise Spencer. The Reverend Linda Murray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Presiding Elder William Easley moved that this 151st Session of the Kentucky Annual Conference ratify the Episcopal District Audit Report (located at www.ame13.org). The Reverend Troy I. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath appointed the following to the Board of Examiners: The Rev. Dr. Robert A. Strode as Chair, and the Reverend LaVeeshia Pryor as Dean.

The Reverend Joshua Hale moved that the Annual Conference declare that those persons who haven't paid the full amount of their annuity, that they relinquish any claim on that from their current respective pastoral charges. The Reverend William Hale seconded the motion. No unreadiness was heard, no questions asked, no comments made. The motion carried. The record reflects that, when asked by the Bishop, no Pastor indicated that their current respective pastoral charges owed them any money.

The Bishop called upon all the ordained clergy to stand and asked the body of the Annual Conference if anyone had any charge against those present and standing, none were reported.

Bishop called for the Presiding Elder's Support Committee to report:

- Presiding Elder's Support – Presenter: The Reverend Troy Thomas.

The Reverend Stephanie Raglin moved that ALL Presiding Elder Payments be made payable to the "Kentucky Annual Conference" and be sent/mailed to the Kentucky Conference Treasurer (see the report). The Reverend Wallace Gunn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bishop stated that the newly appointed Presiding Elders of the Commonwealth District and the Bluegrass District must report by 30 days of the close of the Annual Conference to the Kentucky Conference Treasurer and the Bishop their desire for how their respective Presiding Elder's Support Packages are allocated for tax purposes.

Further clarification made it clear that all monies that have traditionally gone directly to the Presiding Elder, including those commonly known as Monthly Apportionments, Meeting Assessments, and Conference Claims, etc., will be sent directly to the Kentucky Conference Treasurer. If at any time the Presiding Elders are given these assessments directly, that the Presiding Elder will then send it to the Kentucky Conference Treasurer forthwith.

Bishop also indicated that the newly appointed Presiding Elders to the Commonwealth District and the Bluegrass District may not receive all of the funds allocated, that some of the funds will go to a special mission. Bishop stated that he is appointing the Reverend James Smith as Special Assistant to the Bishop for Church Development. Parts of the aforementioned Presiding Elder's Districts Support packages (specifically, \$10,000.00 from the Commonwealth District Support and \$2,000.00 from the Bluegrass District Support) will be utilized to support this position for at least one (1) year. Bishop stated that the newly appointed Presiding Elders of these two respective districts will also be appointed to a Pastoral Charge. When questioned about the difference in the specific allocations, Bishop stated that "one of those Presiding Elder's Districts needs more than the other to make it work", due to the specific factors of the geography and travel expectation differences, and the capability of the respective pastoral churches the newly appointed Presiding Elders will also be assigned to. Bishop asked the Annual Conference if they would agree to this for one (1) year and the record reflects that no one objected. The Reverend Jermaine Wilson moved that the report be amended to reflect the allocations to the position of "Special Assistant to the Bishop for Church Development". The Reverend William Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Discussion followed about the deadline for Presiding Elder Support monies to be remitted to the Kentucky Conference Treasurer. Bishop stated that within 7 days after the First Sunday of Each Month (if other arrangements haven't been coordinated with the Kentucky Conference Treasurer and the Presiding Elder). Further, checks are to be made payable to "The Kentucky Conference" and the memo should state the Church and City specifically for which it represents. This was agreed by common consent.

The Reverend Jermaine Wilson moved the adoption of the report as a whole. The Reverend Linda Murray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath reiterated the policies that were affirmed by the Annual Conference at its 150th Session:

1. The Pastoral Compensation Packages agreed upon by the Steward Board and the newly appointed Pastors be presented to the Presiding Elder at the 1st Quarterly Conference.
2. The Annual Conference will hold Steward Boards responsible for unreasonable Pastor Compensation Packages and that any agreements between the Stewards and the Pastor must include language such as, "if available" or "as able."
3. The policy that Pastors cannot carry a debt owed to them by the local church past the Annual Conference without written approval of the Presiding Elder and the Presiding Bishop.
4. At the 1st Quarterly Conference, and no later than the 2nd Quarterly Conference, the Steward Board will present a written list of expectations, negotiated with the Pastor, to the Presiding Elder, and the written list must be signed by the Pastor and the Steward Board Chair Pro-tem.
5. Local congregations cannot commit to obligations, borrow (including lines of credit), or create other forms of debt of more than \$15,000.00 without the consent of the Conference Board of Trustees.

Bishop Leath stated that we follow a Calendar Quarter that technically begins on July 1st of each year (First Quarter: July, August, September; Second Quarter: October,

November, December; Third Quarter: January, February, March; Fourth Quarter: April, May, June) and that the Quarterly Conference Reports are due to the Presiding Elder no later the 15th of the month following the Quarter period, therefore Quarterly Conference Reports are due to the Presiding Elder on the following schedule: First Quarter Reports Due: October 15th; Second Quarter Reports Due: January 15th; Third Quarter Reports Due: April 15th; Fourth Quarter Reports Due: July 15th.

Bishop Leath stated that if Quarterly Conferences are more than an hour, or if the Pastor cancels the Quarterly Conference, or if the Presiding Elder doesn't show up when scheduled, then to please inform him. Bishop Leath also instructed the Presiding Elders to be attentive to the property.

Bishop called for the Report on Christian Stewardship.

- Christian Stewardship – Presenter: The Reverend BabyDoll Kennedy. The report was received by common consent.

Bishop asked for the results of the YPD Quadrennial Delegate elections. The Conference Secretary reported that the following were elected: (1) Jerome Bullock (Conference YPD President, Quinn Chapel Louisville); (2) Amariah Kent (Ralph Avenue Louisville); (3) Joshua Cunningham (Saint Matthew Midway); and Alternate: Anaya Ellis (Embry Chapel Elizabethtown).

Bishop Leath called for the Disciplinary Questions (see the report). At Question #20, Brother Myron Coleman, the delegate of Saint Paul Lexington, invited the 152nd Session of the Kentucky Annual Conference to be hosted by Saint Paul Lexington and the Commonwealth District. The Bishop stated that the Presiding Elder of the Commonwealth District would coordinate, with Saint Paul Lexington being the Lead Church, along with the other churches of the Commonwealth District. The Reverend Kenneth Golphin moved that the Conference accept the invitation and approve that plan. The Reverend Linda Murray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Reverend Robert Strode moved to approve the Day 1 and the Day 2 Minutes of the 151st Session of the Kentucky Annual Conference (posted on the 13th District website – www.ame13.org). The Reverend Stephanie Raglin seconded the motion. No unreadiness, the motion carried.

Presiding Elder William Easley stood to commend the Host Church, Embry Chapel Elizabethtown, and Host Pastor Stephanie Raglin, for their outstanding hosting of this 151st Session of the Kentucky Annual Conference. Further, he acknowledged Bishop and Supervisor Leath and thanked them for their leadership and ministry.

Host Pastor Stephanie Raglin stood to commend Embry Chapel and First Gentleman Mark Raglin for all their hard work and support.

By common consent, the Annual Conference agreed that the future hosts of the Annual Conference would use the model of paying a \$50 sustentation to support the Bishop and Conference Guests' meals at the Annual Conference, and that if possible and where feasible, the Host Church(es) would provide a lunch for those who did not wish to leave the site of the Conference, both at a cost for each individual meal and would need to be pre-ordered.

The Reverend Troy Thomas moved that the Annual Conference adjourn *sine die* after the reading of the appointments. The Reverend Robert Strode seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Following prayer by the Bishop, the Saturday Afternoon Session adjourned at 5:26pm.