

**African Methodist Episcopal Church
Thirteenth Episcopal District**

**153rd Session of the Tennessee Annual Conference
Payne Chapel AME Church, Host Church
Nashville, Tennessee**

**Report of the Tennessee Conference Board of Examiners
Saturday, October 24, 2020**

**Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath, Presiding Bishop
Dr. Susan J. Leath, Episcopal Supervisor**

Board Members

**Reverend Lisa Hammonds, Chairperson
Reverend W. Antoni Sinkfield, Dean
Reverend Barbara Crawford
Reverend Kenneth Hill
Reverend Anica Howard**

Committee on Instruction Members

**Reverend Randy Webster, Admissions
Reverend Anica Howard, 1st Year
Reverend Walter Reid, 2nd Year
Reverend James McKissack, 3rd Year
Reverend Kenneth Hill, 4th Year
Reverend Benessa Sweat
Reverend Frederick Jenkins
Reverend Trent Ogilvie**

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, Supervisor Susan J. Leath, General Officers, Presiding Elders, Pastors, Delegates, friends and visitors of the 153rd Session of the Tennessee Annual Conference of the 13th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. We, the members of the Tennessee Conference Board of Examiners, wish to make the following report:

Admissions

The following classes were offered to the student in the Class on Admissions:

Class	Instructor
The Call to Christian Ministry	Benessa Sweat
Articles of Religion	Lisa Hammonds
The Nature and Mission of the Church	Trent Ogilvie
Ministry and Spiritual Formation	Anica Howard
Homiletics I	Walter Reid
History of African Methodism	James McKissack
Introduction to the Bible	Randall Webster
Catechism of Faith	Kenneth Hill

Itinerant Relations

Artis McKinney, Sr., age 43, (12/18/76), married with four dependent children. He is a member of Allen Chapel AME Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and was initially licensed to preach on April 30, 2019. He holds the Bachelor of Science degree from Miles College. He has satisfied the requirements of the background check, Ministry Safe, and is in possession of all books. He successfully completed the aforementioned coursework and exhibits a functional knowledge and proficiency for Admissions. We, therefore, recommend he be admitted into the Tennessee Annual Conference on trial and advanced to the Class on First Year Studies.

Cameron Robinson, age 21 (5/11/99), single with no dependents. He is a member of Lee Chapel AME Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and was initially licensed to preach on January 22, 2020. He is a junior at Vanderbilt University School with an anticipated graduation date of May 2021. He has satisfied the requirements of the background check, Ministry Safe, and is in possession of all books. He successfully completed the aforementioned coursework and exhibits a functional knowledge and proficiency for Admissions. As Brother Cameron does not yet hold a baccalaureate degree, we recommend that this year of study be acknowledged, recorded, and that he return to the 154th Session without any repetition or engagement of studies presented by the Board.

Tamika Watkins, age 40 (6/15/80), single with three children, two of which are dependents. She is a member of Claiborne Chapel AME Church in Williamsport, Tennessee, and was initially licensed to preach on February 15, 2020. She is a high school graduate and holds an Associate degree in business administration from National College of Business and Technology. She has satisfied the requirements of the background check, Ministry Safe, and is in possession of all books. She successfully completed the aforementioned coursework and exhibits a functional knowledge and proficiency for Admissions. We, therefore, recommend that we acknowledge the successful completion of this year of study in her journey toward local ordination.

First Year Studies

The following classes were offered to the student in First Year Studies:

Class	Instructor
Homiletics II	Walter Reid
Role of the Laity in the Church	Jeffery Norfleet, II
Methodist Beliefs and Doctrines	James McKissack
Roles of the Pastor	Barbara Crawford
Stewardship in the Local Church	Trent Ogilvie
Church Membership & AME Ministry	Frederick Jenkins
Worship I: Understanding & Leading	Anica Howard
Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette	Ralph Johnson

Boyce Wilkins, age 51 (7/15/69), married with no dependent children. He is a member of Greater Bethel AME Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and was initially licensed to preach on July 18, 2017. He holds both the Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees from Trevecca Nazarene University and is currently enrolled Payne Theological Seminary pursuing his Master of Divinity degree, having completed 66 hours. He has satisfied the requirements of the background check and is in possession of all books. He successfully completed the aforementioned coursework and exhibits a functional knowledge and proficiency for First Year Studies. We, therefore, recommend he be advanced to the Class on Second Year Studies.

Second Year Studies

The following classes were offered to the students in Second Year Studies:

Class	Instructor
Pastoral Care/Counseling & Caring for the Flock	Ralph Johnson
Church Administration I	Frederick Jenkins
Urban/Suburban/Rural Ministry	Randall Webster
Intro to Christian Ethics	Lisa Hammonds
Evangelism and Church Growth	Frederick Jenkins
Black History	Kenneth Hill
Homiletics III	Walter Reid

Margaret Ann Dashiell, age 50 (9/9/70), single with no dependent children. She is a member of Mullins Chapel AME Church in Shelbyville, Tennessee, and was initially licensed to preach on February 7, 2018. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University and is currently enrolled at Payne Theological Seminary pursuing her Master of Divinity degree, having completed 21 hours. She has satisfied the requirements of background check and is in possession of all books. She successfully completed the aforementioned coursework and exhibits a functional knowledge and proficiency for Second Year Studies. We, therefore, recommend we

acknowledge her successful completion of this year, and that she remain in the Class on Second Year Studies while she continues to pursue her seminary degree.

Tremaine Sails-Dunbar, age 29 (8/5/91), single with one dependent child. He is a member of St. Luke AME Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and was initially licensed to preach on October 9, 2016. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from American Baptist College and a Masters of Divinity from Vanderbilt Divinity. He failed to attend or complete the classes for Second Year studies. He did not satisfy the requirement to complete a background check. It is rumored that he has relocated and the Board has other concerns. We, therefore, recommend that the trial period be ceased and that the name of Tremaine Sails-Dunbar be removed from the Tennessee Annual Conference Roll of Members on Trial.

Third Year Studies

The following classes were offered to the student in Third Year Studies:

Class	Instructor
History of Christianity	Kenneth Hill
Church Administration II (Section 1/2)	Ralph Johnson
Christian Education	Barbara Crawford
Church Administration II (Section 3)	Trent Ogilvie
Worship II: Music	Jeffrey Norflett, II
Homiletics IV	James McKissack/Anica Howard

Itinerant Relations

Tanya Mason, age 50 (8/23/70), divorced with no dependent children. She is a member of Payne Chapel AME Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and was initially licensed to preach on July 5, 2009. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from American Baptist College. She is currently enrolled at Payne Theological Seminary pursuing her Master of Divinity degree, having completed 50 hours. She has satisfied the requirements of the background check and is in possession of all books. She successfully completed the aforementioned coursework and exhibits a functional knowledge and proficiency for Third Year Studies. We, therefore, recommend she be advanced to the Class on Fourth Year Studies.

Fourth Year Studies

The following classes were offered to the student in Fourth Year Studies:

Class	Instructor
Women in the Church/Clergy & Womanist Theology	Barbara Crawford

Worship III
AME Conference Structure
Judicial Administration
Theological Relevance &
Reflection for Today's World

Anica Howard
Frederick Jenkins
James McKissack

Frederick Jenkins

Corwin Davis, age 26 (8/25/94), single with no dependent children. He is a member of Lee Chapel AME Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and was initially licensed to preach on January 13, 2016. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from Belmont University and a Master of Divinity degree with honors from Vanderbilt University's Divinity School. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at Emory University. He was excused from attending all classes in the Fourth Year Studies, satisfied the requirements of the background check, and is in possession of all books. We, therefore, recommend he be elected and ordained an itinerant elder with commendations for his exceptional work.

John Cummings, Jr., age 56 (3/14/64), married with no dependent children. He is a member of Payne Chapel AME Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and was initially licensed to preach on September 25, 2006. He has completed his undergraduate studies at Welch College, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree. He has satisfied the requirements of the background check and is in possession of all books. He successfully completed the aforementioned coursework and exhibits a functional knowledge and proficiency for Fourth Year Studies. We, therefore, recommend that he be commended for successfully completing all of his ministerial studies' requirements, and because of his current service to the Tennessee Annual Conference as a supply pastor, be elected and ordained a local elder for Payne Chapel, Nashville.

Jimmie Handley, Jr., age 51 (2/3/69), married with dependent children. He is a member of Payne Chapel AME Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and was initially licensed to preach on October 15, 2012. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Lipscomb University. He is currently enrolled at the Hazelip School of Theology at Lipscomb University pursuing his Master of Divinity degree, having completed 18 hours. He has satisfied the requirements of the background check and is in possession of all books. He successfully completed the aforementioned coursework and exhibits a functional knowledge and proficiency for Fourth Year Studies. We, therefore, recommend he be commended for successfully completing all of his ministerial studies and that he receives a Certificate of Completion.