

**African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Thirteenth Episcopal District**

**Report of the Classification of Pastors and Charges  
October 18, 2018**

**151<sup>st</sup> Session of the Tennessee Annual Conference**

**Wayman Chapel AME Church, Host Church**  
Columbia, Tennessee

**Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath, Presiding Bishop**  
**Susan J. Leath, MD, Supervisor, Womens' Missionary Society**

**Committee Members**

Reverend Anica Howard  
Reverend Nathan Frey  
Reverend Linda Hopkins  
Reverend Jeffery Norfleet, Sr.  
Reverend Sharon Ogilvie  
Reverend Randy Brown  
Reverend Dr. Andre Washington  
Sister Stephanie Baxter  
Sister Effie Haynes  
Sister Beverly McCadden  
Sister Gracie Moreland  
Sister Emma North  
Sister Sherry Washington  
Sister Marie Dickerson  
Sister Tennille Chatman  
Brother Keith Pitts

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, Supervisor Susan J. Leath, General Officers, Presiding Elders, Pastors, Delegates, Friends and Visitors of the 151<sup>st</sup> Session of the Tennessee Annual Conference of the Thirteenth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. We, the Members of the Tennessee Conference Classification of Pastors and Charges, wish to make the following report:

From *The Book of Discipline of the African Methodism Episcopal Church*, 2016 edition, p. 138-139, PART VIII MINISTERIAL CLASSIFICATIONS, RULES AND SUPPORT, SECTION II. MINISTERIAL/PASTORAL SUPPORT,

### **C. Classification of Itinerant Elders**

All itinerant elders of the AME Church shall be classified according to tenure of service as 1) full-time pastor or 2) presiding elder, and 3) training for the ministry. The following qualifications shall constitute the classes:

CLASS A: Full-time pastors having traveled eight (8) consecutive years and any ordained elder holding a degree from a college or seminary and shall have traveled at least one (1) year as full-time pastor. Full-time pastors are itinerant elders who wholly and solely give of their time and talents to pastoral duties without any other work, professional or common, that interferes with or prevents the performance of the regular ministerial duties of a pastor, as negotiated between the pastor and the Board of Stewards.

CLASS B: Itinerant elders having traveled four (4) consecutive years as full-time pastors.  
CLASS C: Full-time pastors who are itinerant elders in the AME Church.

CLASS D: Full-time pastors who have not been ordained itinerant elders.

CLASS E: Part-time ministers.

NOTE: It shall be understood that the term “pastoral charge” shall be interpreted to mean an individual church or group of churches (circuit) that a pastor serves on a Presiding Elder’s District. In the case of circuits and Presiding Elder’s Districts, the travel expenses of the minister, unless otherwise provided for, shall be computed on the basis of thirty-five (35) cents per mile one way, and these expenses shall be an allowable deduction from the minister’s income from the pastoral charge.

### **D. Classification of Churches for Pastoral Compensation**

CLASS A: Charges requiring full-time pastoral services and providing salaries of \$20,000 or more.

CLASS B: Charges requiring full-time pastoral services. Salary shall be negotiated.

CLASS C: Charges requiring full-time pastoral services and providing salaries from \$1,000 to \$2,400.

CLASS D: Charges requiring full-time pastoral services providing less than \$1,200.

CLASS E: Charges not requiring full-time pastoral services.

**North District - Rev. Alexander Gatson, Presiding Elder**

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Classification</b>
Dr. Ralph E. Johnson	A	St. Peter, Clarksville	A
Anthony J. Lyle, Sr.	A	Greater Ebenezer, Clarksville	A
Benessa Sweat	A	Burks Chapel, Paducah, KY	A
Jeffery Norfleet, Sr	A	St. Paul, Oakwood	A
Sherri Cowley Scott	A	Martin Chapel, Clarksville	A
Everett Hobson, Sr.	A	Salter's Chapel, Waverly	A
James W. Bolen, Sr.	A	St. John, Paducah	B
Wanda Payne	A	St. John, Springfield	B
Vivian R. Canty	D	St. James, Dickson	B
Linda Brown-Saffore	C	First AME, Pegram	E
Rita Story	A	St. James, Mayfield	B
Cedric J. Bailey Sr.	Supply	St. Luke, Erin	E
Deshnell Cobbin	A	McGavock Chapel, Charlotte	E
		Sulphur Spring, Cunningham	B
Frankie Witt	Supply	Mt. Zion, Charlotte	B
Donna Lorchorn	A	St. James, Pryorsburg	B
Gloria Lasco	D	St. Matthew, Clarksville	E
VeRissa C. Williams	Supply	St. Paul, Ashland City	E
Raymond Corbin	A	Moore's Chapel, Clinton	E

**Nashville District - Rev. Troy Merritt, Jr., Presiding Elder**

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Classification</b>
W. Antoni Sinkfield	A	Payne Chapel, Nashville	A
Lisa Hammonds	A	St. John, Nashville	A
Garrett J. Copeland	A	Kairos Community, Nashville	A
Frederick L. Jenkins, Sr.	A	Scotts Chapel, Hermitage	A
Reginald Brock	A	St. Matthew, Nashville	A
Anthony L. Thomas Sr.	A	St. Luke, Gallatin	A
Fred E. Beasley	A	Smith Chapel, Bethpage	B
Dr. Barbara Crawford	A	St. Luke, Nashville	B
Dr. Andre Washington	A	St. Paul, Nashville	A
Anica L. Howard	A	New Salem, Nashville	B
Joe T. Southall	A	St. Phillip, Nashville	B
Randy Brown	A	Ebenezer, Nashville	B
Nathan Frey	A	St. Peter, Nashville	B
Omar`an D. Lee	A	St. James, Nashville	A
Carl E. Watkins, Jr.	D	Green Chapel, Hartsville	E

Dr. Sonja V. Brown Deloatch	A	Winters Chapel, Lebanon	E
Albert Strawther, Jr.	Supply	Howard Chapel, Hartsville	E
Barry Cox	A	Mt. Olive, Lebanon	E
Albert Strawther, Jr	Supply	Turner Chapel, Carthage	E

**South District - Rev. Sidney F. Bryant, Presiding Elder**

Pastor	Classification	Church	Classification
Walter W. Reid, Jr.	A	Greater Bethel, Nashville	A
Dr. Harold M. Love, Jr.	A	Lee Chapel, Nashville	A
Dennis D. Lawson	A	St. Paul, Columbia	A
Jimmie L. Plummer	A	Allen Chapel, Murfreesboro	A
Sharon Ogilvie	A	Wayman Chapel, Columbia	A
Randall L. Webster	A	Woodfolk Chapel, Shelbyville	B
Trent Ogilvie	A	Bethel Chapel, Columbia	A
LaVan Strickland	A	New Webb Grove, Murfreesboro	A
Dr. Kenneth Hill	A	Shorter Chapel, Franklin	A
Chris Grizzard	A	Mullin Chapel, Shelbyville	B
		Jones Chapel, Mt. Pleasant	B
Dr. James McKissack	Supply	Canaan, Columbia	B
Benjamin Sanderfur	Supply	Allen-Bethel, Lewisburg	B
Linda Hopkins	D	Claiborn Chapel, Williamsport	E
Ashley Cox	A	St. Matthew, Cornersville	B
Pattie Hardimon	Supply	Hopewell, Columbia	B
Veronica Dailey	Supply	Robert's Chapel, Linden	E
Talvin Barner	Supply	Mt. Zion, Centerville	E

Based on these classifications noted for 2018, the committee concluded the following:

1. 1 pastor's classification changed, and 2 pastors were added between 2017 and 2018.
  - Omar`an Lee changed from D to A
  - Carl E. Watkins, Jr. added with Classification D
  - Gloria Lasco added with Classification D
  
2. In 6 of the churches, the classification changed in the 2017-2018 conference year.
  - **St. James, Nashville** – Changed from B to A (Pastor's compensation greater than \$20,000)
  - **Bethel Chapel, Columbia** – Changed from B to A (Pastor's compensation greater than \$20,000)
  - **St. Luke, Nashville** – Changed from A to B (Pastor's compensation less than \$20,000)
  - **St. John, Paducah** – Changed from A to B (Pastor's compensation less than \$20,000)
  - **St. John, Springfield** – Changed from A to B (Pastor's compensation less than \$20,000)
  - **Woodfolk Chapel, Shelbyville** – Changed from A to B (Pastor's compensation less than \$20,000)