



The 153rd Session The Kentucky Annual Conference

Date of Annual Conference: September 16-20, 2020

Component Report

THE KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

Kingdom Greetings! To The Kentucky Annual Conference 2020: Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath and Supervisor Susan Leath, MD; General, Connectional, and Episcopal Officers; Reverend Dr. William W. Easley, Jr, P.E., Louisville District; Reverend Kenneth J. Golphin, P.E., Bluegrass District; Reverend William R. T. Hale, P.E., Commonwealth District; Clergy and Laity all.

“Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.” (Proverbs 23:12 TLB)

The Kentucky Christian Education Department (C.E.D.), first off, thanks the Lord, Bishop Jeffrey Leath, and the Kentucky Conference. Our goal simply is to create an atmosphere and spirit of learning, knowledge, and encouragement. We acknowledge that transformation and spiritual growth come as we spend time with God. Secondly, we thank all our Churches, Pastors, and Presenters, who out of their love and expertise, helped others to press toward a deeper walk with the Lord.

The KY C.E.D. has remained alive and pandemic active, even throughout covid-19 (coronavirus). We planned a schedule that under different times would have been tremendous for training and workshops across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In January 2020, under the theme “God’s Way: It’s Not A Humanity Decision”, we gathered in the Louisville District Workshop. It was an empowering time for discussing God’s unity, inspiration, and impact with our members and churches amid the many diversities. We emerged wiser, surrounded by God’s creative power, with sessions: ‘What Does God Want of-from-for Me?’, ‘Disciple Making and Spiritual Growth’, ‘Healing In The Kingdom of God’, ‘Engaging Leaders in Administration’; and youth sessions: ‘Creative Writing’ and ‘Local Church Mission and Growth’. We emerged praying “Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God.” (Colossians 3:17)

In addition, we held a Historical AMEC Celebration, highlighting our Founder and the Life of African Methodism in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in February 2020. We praised and thanked God for the movement of the Holy Spirit in the celebration. And participate in celebrating the AMEC Founder’s Day.

Two other C.E.D. Workshops were planned: in the Bluegrass District, March 2020; and in the Commonwealth District, April 2020. However, by the time we were at the 13th District Mid-Year Meeting, it became evident that the days ahead would not be normal, business as usual. The coronavirus had invaded our country, communities, and churches. In-person teaching, training, and everything else would not be the old way of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and its people, even carrying out the Christian Education Ministry. We went from many in-person plans to all virtual.

We thank all of the willingly planned Host Churches, their Members, and Presenters for their hearts, relentlessness, and support virtually. We held a virtual Church School Convention in KY, under the leadership of the Commonwealth and Bluegrass Districts; and participated greatly in the virtual 13th District Learning Academy 2020. And to continue to study the Word of God, we have a weekly online

KY Church School on Saturdays, under the leadership of the KY Church School Superintendent, along with inspiring and supporting Local Church Bible Studies and Church Schools. The Work is All Divine!

And finally, we continue to share God's Word through the "CED eDevotional" Daily Scripture Readings". We continue a weekly "Prayer Service", distributed via email, along with other liturgical literature. Our publications of "God's Glory", a weekly CED newspaper, and "What's Happening AMEC", pertinent information for Evangelism and Church Growth, continue in the new normal. Our hope and prayers for 2019-2020 were always to share the priorities of Kingdom-building, enjoying God's Blessings and being a blessing to others. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." (Ecclesiastes 9:10). To God Be The Glory!

So, as we closed out the 2019-2020 Conference Year and looked ahead to the 2020-2021 Conference Year we reflected where we'll begin: in the midst of an active pandemic, in the midst of racial injustice and unrest, in the midst of a political presidential election, and in the midst of many church buildings not open. We realize that we are not to return to an old 'normal', and are excited and encouraged that we now have a chance to really serve in a more excellent way. Christ lifted will always be the way, and all education and evangelism ideas will shout-out that concept.

Always in Christ's Service

Amanda Johnson, KY C.E.D. Director

Susie Bates, KY C.E.D. Chair

Name of Component.....Christian Education Department

Number of Conference Meetings Planned (Held)..... **5 (3)**

DATES FOR CONFERENCE MEETINGS:

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| July 15-17, 2019 | 13 th District Learning Academy (Presenter) |
| September 15-22, 2019 | 2019 CE Week Celebration |
| January 18, 2020 | KY CED Workshop – Louisville District |
| February 8, 2020 | AMEC Historical Celebration |
| June 20, 2020 | Church School Convention (Virtual) |
| July 24, 2020 | 13 th District Learning Academy (Virtual) |
| September 20-27, 2020 | Upcoming CE Week Celebrations (Virtual) |

GOALS ACCOMPLISHED:

- Promoted **Christian Education** throughout the Kentucky Conference (+13th)
- Developed/ Implemented **Training** AME's in the Kentucky Commonwealth
- Conducted **CE Workshops** in Presiding Elder Districts
- Continued to publish **eDevotionals** for daily spiritual enhancement
- Continued to publish pertinent information to unify African Methodists in KY
- Assisted/ Inspired AMEC Prayer Services with **Prayer Bulletin** weekly

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Assist the AME Local Churches in formation and sustainability of CE Departments, and help inspire and encourage commitment, if not in-person as the pandemic continues, then virtually.

2. Encourage Local Churches to maximize their effectiveness in making a difference in the lives of the members and greater community, investing materially and spiritually, meeting them where they are, not waiting for them to come.
3. Embrace the members as the church personified and take responsibility for making disciples, concerned with outcomes rather than outputs, as we function in the church-scattered not the church-gathered, with expectations to live out the Great Commission as a light in an ever darkening world.
4. Challenge Pastors, Members, even the infrequent attenders, and Visitors to get involved; train all to be the living, breathing church showing justice and compassion to those around them between Sundays; and invest equally in the transformation of young adults and youth.
5. Organize the leaders holding them accountable for outcomes; track whether churches are actually making a dent in alleviating homelessness, hunger, illiteracy, etc, and in bringing the community to Christ; and maintain, monitor, and evaluate the churches' health, disseminating and distributing literature needed and requested in the Local Churches of the Commonwealth.

KENTUCKY CONFERENCE CED

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Quinn Chapel AMEC-Louisville | JOANNA NETTLES SMITH, 502-553-6000, jowaltsmith@bellsouth.net |
| Ralph Avenue AMEC | REV. CARL C. LIGGIN, 502-876-5896 |
| Taylor Chapel AMEC | MARSHA INGRAM, 270-535-1781, Marshaingraml@aol.com |
| Embry Chapel AMEC | JANET COLEMAN, 270-31-3932, missjdc@comcast.net |
| Bethel AMEC – Shelbyville | MARTINA SHIRLEY, 502-321-2610, meshir138@hotmail.com |
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| St. Paul AMEC – Woodburn | JAMES STANLEY, 270-776-4140, Jt81151958@yahoo.com |
| Ward Chapel AMEC | Pastor Serves. |
| Historic St. Paul AMEC-Lexington | CE Dir Relocated out 13 th District. |
| St. Paul AMEC -Richmond | PATTI MATTHEWS, pattilmatthews@gmail.com |
| St. Matthews AMEC | SHAWN SMITH, 1htimsnwahs@gmail.com |
| Quinn Chapel AMEC – Lexington | CHERYL CLARK, 859-402-5544, clarkc026@gmail.com |
| St. Paul AMEC – Versailles | VERONICA MATTINGLY, veronica.mattingly@ky.gov |
| St. James AMEC – Danville | REV. RALPH SMITH (BGD CE CHR.) |
| Bethel AMEC – Boneyville | Pastor serves. |
| Bethel AMEC – Campbellsville | DORETHA SANDERS, 270-572-9570, ddimples43@windstream.net |
| Mt. Zion AMEC | SUSAN MILLER, susanmiller40@hotmail.com |
| St. James AMEC – Ashland | Pastor serves. |
| Craig Chapel AMEC | Pastor serves. |