

2020
Annual Report
On
Social Action/State of
the Country

Presented to Jeffrey Leath, Presiding Bishop
Susan J. Leath, M.D., Supervisor, WMS
&
East Tennessee Annual Conference

Annual Report on Social Action/State of the Country

To Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath and Dr. Susan Leath Supervisor of the 120th session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference. We, your committee on Social Action, would like to make our report. This social action report is filled with joy, sadness and regret with the transitioning of John Lewis, Mimi Jones, Charles Evers, C.T. Vivian, Emma Sanders, Larry Kramer, and so many more who gave their lives that we may live more freely.

With the senseless murder of George Floyd live before millions of people watching, looking, and standing traumatized, there is still work to be done. Let us not fail to consider the hundreds of black men, women, and children killed by the police annually; the continued disregard for human kind as evidenced by leaving children in cages while their parents are separated from them; and the Federal Government's lack of direction or concern during a national pandemic. This pandemic has caused millions to lose jobs and housing without assistance from the Federal Government and over 167,000 deaths of American citizen, needlessly, in 5 months. The people are crying out for Police Reform; the ability to have safe and secure elections is no longer present; and Voter Suppression is coming from the highest level with the threatening of our Postal System.

Bishop this report could go on and on with demonstrations of the lack of Godly motives and character within our communities today. Yet, there appears to be a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel with Presidential Candidate Joe Biden announcing Kamala Harris as his VP running mate. Voting in November will be life changing, and your/our vote will determine America's existence as the "land of the free and the home of the brave."

State of the Country

After reading and compiling this report, it is apparent that the state of the Country is in disarray.

Confusion is throughout the land, not only in America, but the entire world. This country was the moral

conscience of the world; yet, God has pulled back her covers and unveiled all of her wickedness. This time of unveiling for this country is a time of “REPENTENCE.” True repentance is the only way to change God’s mind. The COVID-19 Pandemic; the lying from our Federal Government; the murdering of citizens by each other and the police; husbands killing wives/children; empty grocery shelves; children returning to school during a pandemic; and bans on gatherings of over 10 people are all signs of the state of the Country and it’s need for repentance.

As the Body of Christ, we must stand up for the rights and the principles in which we believe according to God’s words. The Social Action Committee’s goal was to enlighten each of you of the need for Advocacy during these unprecedented times. We encourage each of you to be an advocate for social justice in your communities, on your jobs, and within your child’s school. The final recommendations brought forth are as follows: support local leadership in your community by preaching, teaching, and living a life of social justice. Romans 12:9-21 describes the character and behaviors pleasing to our God and reads as follows:

Love in Action

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.^[a] Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,”^[b] says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”^[c] ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

It's time to Pray to our Heavenly Father as the widow worried the judge in Luke 18; as well as, writing letters to our local, state, and federal representatives until our voices are heard. This is the report of Social Action Committee.

Reverends Vicki Coleman, chairperson, Ernest Latham, Dr. Pedro Basden, Fred Harris, and Brother Terence L. Mayes, Jr.; lay delegates: Robert Brasto, Mattie Coffey, Kathy Greenand Eula Massengill.

Thank you for allowing us to give this report; all glory to God!