

**HE MINUTES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE EAST TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
ST. PAUL AME CHURCH – CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE  
SEPTEMBER 6-9, 2018**

## **Literary Reports**

**Thursday - September 6, 2018**

Bishop Leath called for the following literary reports:

- Social Action. Presenter: the Reverend Ernest Latham, the Reverend Vicki Colman read (see report). The Reverend Fred Blackwell moved to accept the report. The motion carried.
- Christian Stewardship. Presenter: The Reverend Coleman March, Jr. (see report).

Bishop Leath welcomed the following guest: The Reverend Dr. Pierson, candidate for bishop, 6<sup>th</sup> District.

Bishop Leath adjourned session with benediction by the Reverend Fred Blackwell at 4:50 PM.

## **Morning Business Session**

**FRIDAY – September 7, 2018**

At 8:34 am, the Right Reverend Jeffrey N. Leath, Presiding Prelate of the 13th Episcopal District, called to order the 118th Session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference, hosted by St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Bishop Leath commented on the Lay Night service speaker, “He was very much on target. Righteousness begins with you. Justice is a character quality.” Bishop Leath commented on the injustice of individuals that will not seek a level of respect in disagreement.

Bishop Leath called for the Conference Secretary of the 117<sup>th</sup> session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference, the Reverend Kenneth D. Love, Sr., to call the Roll (see the Roll). Note: The Reverend Fred Blackwell requested to be moved from supernumerary status to active pastoral status. Note: The Reverend Sheila Harris, D.Min., transferred from the Kentucky Conference to the East Tennessee Conference. Bishop Leath commended the East Tennessee Annual Conference as attendance of lay delegates is “better than average.” Bishop Leath emphasized the need for churches to elect alternate delegates, “The pastor cannot appoint a delegate to the electoral college. You cannot expect other to practice justice when you do not practice justice at home.”

Bishop Leath welcomed the following guests: Sister Mary T. Jones (WTC WMS President), the Reverend Dr. Harold Wilson (7<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, Central Conference candidate for the episcopacy).

Bishop Leath called for the organization of the conference. Presiding Elder Terence Mayes, Sr. moved the election of the following: the Presiding Bishop of the 13th Episcopal District, the Right Reverend Jeffrey N. Leath, as President Ex-Officio of the Annual Conference, the Reverend Kenneth D. Love, as recording secretary, Dr. Sandra Griffin and the Reverend Vanessa

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Holmon, as engrossing secretary, and the Reverend Dr. Charles Holsey, as statistician. The motion carried.

Presiding Elder Eva M. Settles moved that the following individuals serve as members of the finance committee: The Reverends Dr. Pedro K. Basden, Kenneth D. Love, Sr., Dr. Charles Holsey, Ernest Latham, Brother Charles Moore, and Sister Gloria Beverly.

Presiding Elder Terence Mayes moved that the following individuals act as Conference Marshalls: the Reverends Fred Harris, Dickey Sebastian, Sisters Millie Reeves, and Emma Terry. The motion carried.

Presiding Elder Settles moved that the conference boundaries be the first seven (7) rows across the sanctuary. The motion carried.

Presiding Elder Mayes moved the approval of the Annual Conference Agenda with any reasonable and appropriate adjustments. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath appointed one addition to the committee on Mission, Circuit, and Stations: the Reverend William Howard-Smith.

Bishop Leath addressed the following worship services times: Memorial Service will begin at 7:15 PM with the following names to be memorialized: Bishop John Hurst Adams and Bishop Cornal Garnett Henning, Sr., Evening Worship will begin at 7:30 PM.

Bishop Leath adjourned morning session at 9:32 am calling for benediction by the Reverend Barbara Arter.

## **Opening Worship Service Friday - September 7, 2018**

The Opening Worship Service of the 118th Session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference began at 10:00 am with Presiding Elder Eva M. Settles (Chattanooga/Knoxville District) as Worship Leader. The preacher was the Reverend Dickey Sebastian (Pastor of Berry Chapel). The text was Amos 4:6 for the sermon entitled, "Prepare to Meet God."

Bishop Leath welcomed the following visitors: Kentucky Conference: the Reverends Troy Thomas, William Hale, Joshua Hale; West Tennessee Conference: the Reverends Drs. Janie and John Dandridge; Tennessee Conference: the Reverends Dr. Kenneth Hill (retired general officer), Linda Brown Saffore (TNC Director of CEEd.), Sisters Faye Walker (13<sup>th</sup> District WMS Treasurer & Trustee, AME Inc.), Wanda Granberry (TNC Director of Lay Activities), Gwen Dickson (mother of the Reverend Yvonne Tisdale, D.Min.), and the Reverend Randall Webster.

Bishop Leath recognized the Reverends Dr. Harold Wilson, Mary Ann Foster and Dr. John Foster of the 6<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, Dr. Ceasar Richburg, and Domonic Green (Pastor of Mt.

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Zion).

Opening Worship Service concluded at 11:42 am.

## **Evening Business Session Friday - September 7, 2018**

At 1:03 PM Bishop Leath called for devotion led by the Reverend William Howard Smith. Following devotion the Evening Business Session began with a discussion led by Bishop Leath concerning the candidacy process. Discussion ensued.

Bishop Leath called for the Presiding Elder's summary reports.

Presiding Elder Mayes made his summary report on behalf of the Fayetteville/Pulaski District. Presiding Elder Mayes gave St. Paul-Agnew summary report; delegate was not in attendance.

Presiding Elder Settles gave Chattanooga/Knoxville District summary report.

Bishop Leath called for the following Pastoral reports.

- The Reverend Vanessa Holmon (with delegate) – Brown's Temple Chapel.
- The Reverend Vanessa Holmon (with delegate) – St. John.
- The Reverend Dr. Sheila Harris (with delegate) – St. James. Bishop Leath discussed possibility of St. James looking at a contemporary approach to church community.
- The Reverend Lance Shelton (with delegate) – Brown's Temple.
- The Reverend Ronald Glenn (with delegate) – Joseph Chapel.
- The Reverend William Howard Smith (with delegate) – Friendship.
- The Reverend Vicki Coleman (with delegate) - Powell Chapel.
- The Reverend Archie C. Griffin, Jr. and spouse (with delegate) – St. Paul, Alcoa.
- The Reverend Yvette Tisdale (with delegate) – Round Hill.
- The Reverend Fred Harris (with delegate) – Allen Temple.
- The Reverend Alma Herbert (with delegate) - Mt. View, Winchester
- The Reverend Ruby Mason-Crum (with delegate) – Mary's Chapel

Brown's, Mary's, and St. Paul: Agree with Bishop Leath to get together at least 3-4 times a year.

- The Reverend Alan J. Holman, Sr. and spouse (with delegate) - Bethel, Chattanooga
- The Reverend Tylan Orr and spouse (with delegate) – Phoenix Chapel
- The Reverend Ernest Latham and spouse (with delegate) – Campbell's Chapel
- The Reverend Kenneth Love, Sr. (with delegate) – St. Paul, Chattanooga

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Bishop Leath commended the Reverend Kenneth Love and the St. Paul, Chattanooga congregation on the excellent hosting of the 118th Session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference.

- The Reverend Coleman March, Jr. and spouse (with delegate) – Shorter Chapel
- The Reverend Lee Russell Brown (with delegate) – Bethel, Knoxville
- The Reverends Lee Russell Brown, Barbara Jackson and Brother Hines – Clayborn Temple, Knoxville
- The Reverend Dickey Sebastian (with delegate) - Berry's Chapel
- The Reverend Dr. Charles Holsey, Jr. and spouse (with delegate) - St. Paul, Fayetteville
- Presiding Elder Terence Mayes read Brother Paul Sherrell letter for Trotters Chapel and St. Paul – Aspen Hill.
- The Reverend Dr. Pedro K. Basden and spouse (with delegate) – Warren Chapel
- The Reverend Dr. Pedro K. Basden and spouse (with delegate) – Quinn Chapel

Bishop Leath addressed the conference concerning diversity in singing different measures as it pertains to hymns; tradition should not be removed but reformatted sometimes.

Bishop Leath called for the Chaplain Report: None reported.

Bishop Leath called for the committee reports. The following committees reported:

- Conference Trustees. Presenter: The Reverend Dr. Pedro K. Basden (see report). The Reverend Love moved to adopt the report. The motion carried.
- Treasurer's Report. Presenter: The Reverend Dr. Pedro Basden (see report). The Reverend Kenneth Love moved to accept the report. The motion carried.

The Reverend A. C. Griffin, Jr. moved to reaffirm the East Tennessee Conference commitment to sell the Quinn, Chattanooga property. The motion carried.

The Reverend William Howard Smith moved that the East Tennessee Conference Trustees be approved to negotiate the sell and transfer of Clayborn Temple, Knoxville. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath led discussion concerning the conference budget as it pertains to the East Tennessee Conference. As a result of the discussion, the Reverend Kenneth Love moved that the East Tennessee Conference Trustees be empowered to explore, negotiate the sell and transfer of Round Hill. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath directed the presiding elders to research churches that have cemeteries in which the church has ownership.

- Mission, Circuits, and Station. Presenter: The Reverend Margaret R. Koontz (see report). The Reverend William Howard Smith moved to accept the report. The motion carried.
- Pastor & Charge Classification. Presenter: The Reverend Archie C. Griffin (see report). The Reverend Archie C. Griffin moved to accept the report with necessary corrections. The

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motion carried.

- Budget Committee. Presenter: The Reverend Lee Russell Brown (see report). The Reverend Brown moved to adopt the report with the provision of a 24-hour review for possible change. The motion carried.
- Presiding Elder Support. Presenter: The Reverend Dr. Pedro K. Basden (see report). The Reverend Kenneth Love moved to accept the report. The motion carried.
- Church School. Presenter: Sister Fordie Franklin (see report). The Reverend Fred Blackwell moved for the acceptance of the report. The motion carried.
- M-SWAMO. Presenter: Brother Gene Settles (see report). Report was received on common consent of the annual conference.
- Evangelism. Presenter: The Reverend Archie C. Griffin, Jr. (see report). Report was received on common consent of the annual conference.
- Lay Organization. Presenter: Brother Charles Moore (see report). Report was received on common consent of the annual conference.
- MCAM: No report
- Sons of Allen. Presenter: Brother Gene Settles (see report). Report was received on common consent of the annual conference. Bishop Leath commended the East Tennessee Conference Sons of Allen and Brother Gene Settles. Additionally, Bishop Leath gave Sons of Allen pins as a gift to be distributed.
- WIM. Presenter: The Reverend Ruby Mason-Crum (see report). The Reverend Fred Blackwell moved for the adoption of the report. The motion carried.
- WMS. Presenter: Sister Gloria Beverly (see report). The Reverend Ruby Mason-Crum moved that the report be received. The motion carried.
- YPD. Presenter: Ms. Destiny Lanier, YPD 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President (see report). Report was received on common consent of the annual conference.

Bishop Leath called for the Board of Examiners report (see report). The Reverend Margaret Koontz read.

### **ADMISSIONS**

Presiding Elder Terence L. Mayes, Sr. moved that Brother Terence Lenard Mayes, Jr. (member of St. Paul-Agnew A. M. E. Church, Pulaski, TN) be admitted on trial. The motion carried.

### **LOCAL MINISTRY**

The Reverend Pedro K. Basden moved that Brother Paul Sherrell be elected and ordained a Local Deacon for Trotter Chapel. Bishop Leath polled the will of the members of Fayetteville/Pulaski District; the district approved. The motion carried.

The Reverend Lee Russell Brown moved that Brother Irvin Hines be elected and ordained a Local Deacon for Clayborn Temple, Knoxville. Bishop Leath polled the will of the members of the Chattanooga/Knoxville District; the district approved. The motion carried.

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The Reverend Alan J. Holman moved that the Reverend Vicki Lee Coleman be advanced to 4<sup>th</sup> year study. The motion carried.

The Reverend Alan J. Holman moved that the Board of Examiner report be adopted as a whole. The motion carried.

The Annual Conference recessed at 5:21 pm with prayer from the Reverend Paul C. Adkins.

## **The Memorial Service**

The Memorial Service began at 7:15 pm, with the Reverend Alma Herbert as worship leader. The following were memorialized:

- Bishop John Hurst Adams
- Bishop Cornal Garnett Henning, Sr.

The service concluded at 7:45pm.

## **The Spiritual Renewal Revival**

The Spiritual Renewal Revival began at 7:45 pm, with the Reverend Ruby Mason-Crum as worship leader. The Reverend Beryl Basden (Associate Minister of Warren Chapel) utilized the text Luke 11:1-4 and preached the message, “The Power to Forgive”.

The Spiritual Renewal Revival concluded at 8:55 pm.