

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

**Church School  
Saturday - September 8, 2018**

At 8:10 am, devotion began led in song by the Reverend William Howard Smith and Brother Hardin Franklin. Devotion concluded at 8:15am. At 8:16 am, Church School began led by Sister Fordie Franklin utilizing the format of “Liberated Faith Study”. The Church School lesson text was taken from Genesis 1:14-35. Church School concluded at 8:55 am.

**RAYAC & YPD Worship Service**

The RAYAC & YPD Worship Service began at 9:09 am, led by Ms. Tiana Younger as Worship Leader. The presentation included a variety of musical and liturgical dance performances from the Fayetteville/Pulaski and Chattanooga/Knoxville districts. Ms. Tiana Younger, District YPD Director LaTanya Germany, and ETN Conference WMS President Gloria Beverly, Episcopal Supervisor Dr. Susan Leath, and Bishop Jeffrey Leath gave closing remarks.

The RAYAC & YPD presentation concluded at 9:56 am.

**Saturday Morning Business Session**

At 10:06 am, Bishop Leath called the Annual Conference to order and the Morning Business Session began. Bishop Leath referred the name of the Reverend Tarel McClurkin to the Ministerial Efficiency Committee. Bishop Leath called for the following reports:

- Health and Wellness. Presenter: Dr. Tanja Holsey made a presentation concerning “New Guidelines to High Blood Pressure”.

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Bishop Leath led discussion concerning maintaining ministerial orders. Additionally, Bishop Leath discussed the strength of the East Tennessee Conference and possible merge with their parent conference, the Tennessee Conference. Discussion ensued.

- Believe Board. Presenters Sisters Florence Smith and Robin DeHart read (see report). New Grant Applications will be available on October 30, 2018 and the deadline is January 16, 2019. New guidelines will be posted online. Bishop Leath discussed the need for the Believe Board to focus on their initial and core mission.
- Finance Committee. Presenter: the Reverend Dr. Pedro Basden read (see report). The Reverend Kenneth D. Love, Sr. prove the report. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath called for the election of the Conference Trustees. The following names were offered for consideration: the Reverends Dr. Pedro Basden (vice-chair), Archie C. Griffin, Jr., Kenneth D. Love, Alan J. Holman, Lee Russell Brown, Judge John McClarty, Dr. Terence Mayes, Sr., and Dr. Eva Settles, Brothers Quinton Anthony, Harden Franklin, Charles Moore and Sisters Gloria Beverly, Dr. Jessie Campbell and Dr. Fannie Hewlett. The Reverend A. C. Griffin, Jr. moved that individuals be elected. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath called for the election of Triers of Appeal. The following names were offered for consideration: the Reverend Dr. Terence L. Mayes, Sr., Fred Harris, Barbara Jackson, Coleman March, and Lance Shelton. The Reverend A. C. Griffin, Jr. moved that individuals be elected. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath called for the election of the Judicial Committee. The following names were offered for consideration: the Reverends Dr. Eva M. Settles, Judge John McClarty, Marty Koontz, Ruby Mason Crum, Dr. Charles Holsey, and Beryl Basden. The Reverend A. C. Griffin, Jr. moved that individuals be elected. The motion carried.

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Bishop Leath appointed the following to the District Budget Committee: Sister Retha Newson and the Reverend Dr. Charles Holsey.

Bishop Leath appointed the following to the Believe Board: Sisters Florence Smith and Robin DeHart.

Bishop Leath appointed the following to the Board of Examiners: the Reverend A. J. Holman (chair), Lee Russell Brown (dean), Dr. Pedro Basden, Dr. Charles Holsey, and Marty Koontz. Bishop Leath requested that the dean and chair collaborate on a list of instructors for class of admission, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> year classes.

Bishop Leath called for the following reports:

- Statistician. Presenter: the Reverend Dr. Charles Holsey read (see report). The Reverend Kenneth D. Love. Sr. moved to accept the report. The motion carried. The Reverend William Howard Smith requested point of privilege to discuss future projection of conference. Bishop Leath reiterated points and asked statistician to give a 3-year analysis.
- State of the Church. Presenter: the Reverend Barbara Jackson read (see report). The Reverend Fred Harris moved to accept the report. The motion carried.
- Christian Stewardship. Presenter: the Reverend Coleman March read (see report). The Reverend William Howard Smith moved to accept the report. The motion carried.

Morning Business Session adjourned at 11:36 am.

### **Service of Word and Holy Communion**

The Service of Word and Holy Communion began at 11:50 am with the Reverend Alan J. Holman as the Worship Leader. The preacher was the Reverend Lisa Hammond

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(Pastor of St. John AME Church, Nashville, Tennessee). Her text was Haggai 2:2-9, with the sermon entitled, “Do The Work!”

The following individuals were ordained as local elders: Paul Dwight Sherrell and Irvin Hines.

Bishop Leath recognized the following visitors: Presiding Elder Sidney and First Lady Andriette Bryant, and the Reverend Dr. Harold Love (Pastor of Lee Chapel AME Church, Nashville, TN).

Following communion service, the worship service concluded at 11:25 am.

### **Evening Business Session**

At 2:45pm, Bishop Leath called the Annual Conference to order and the Afternoon Business Session began. Bishop Leath greeted the following guest: the Reverend W. Antoni and First Lady Kristy Sinkfield.

Bishop Leath discussed the use of the conference offering for Sunday, September 9, 2018. By common consent of the annual conference, offering will be utilized to assist the Y. P. D. for their quadrennial.

Bishop Leath appointed the Reverend Dr. Sheila Harris as conference coordinator of Social Action. Presiding Elder Terence Mayes offered that name of Dorothy Smalls to serve as coordinator from the Fayetteville/Pulaski district.

Bishop Leath appointed the following names for the Ministerial Efficiency Committee: the Reverends Kenneth D. Love, Sr., Lee Russell Brown, Ruby Mason Crum, Dr. Sheila Harris, and Dickey Sebastian.

Bishop Leath called for the State of the Country literary report. No report submitted. Bishop Leath informed the conference of District Planning Meeting that will be held in Chattanooga, TN Oct 25-26, 2018. Bishop Leath discussed the support of black owned businesses within the Tennessee area. The Reverend Kenneth D. love, Sr. moved that the Trustee account of the East Tennessee Conference be moved to Citizen Bank in effort to support black owned institution. The motion carried.

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Bishop Leath called for the election of the Conference Treasurer. The Reverend Kenneth D. Love, Sr. moved that the Reverend Dr. Pedro Basden serve as Conference Treasurer. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath called for the names of those who will serve as Ministerial Instructors. The following names were offered: the Reverends Beryl Basden, Kenneth D. Love, Sr., William Howard Smith, and Dr. Sheila Harris. The Reverend Dr. Sheila Harris moved that offered names be accepted. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath appointed the Reverend Fred Blackwell to serve as Christian Education chairperson. Additionally, Dr. Sandra Griffin and Fordie Franklin shall serve as co-directors of Christian Education.

Bishop Leath called for the report of the Ministerial Efficiency Committee. The Reverend Kenneth D. Love, Sr. offered the motion to remove the name of the Reverend Tarel McClurklin from the roll of the East Tennessee Conference, the Itinerant Deacon roll, and request surrender of his ordination orders. Following unreadiness and discussion, the Reverend Kenneth D. Love, Sr. resend his motion and the annual conference, by common consent, offered grace for one year for the Reverend Tarel McClurklin to answer the roll of the annual conference. Additionally, grace was offered to the Reverend Johnny Watson for one year to answer the roll of the annual conference.

Bishop Leath called for the Finance Committee report. Sister Gloria Beverly read (see report). Gloria Beverly moved that the report be accepted. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath informed the annual conference of the AMEC CONVO occurring in December 2018, in Atlanta, GA.

Bishop Leath called for the following reports:

- Mental Health. Presenter: Sylvia Phillips (see report). Report received on common consent.
- Media/Public Relations. Presenter: Sharon Daniels (see report). Report received on common consent.

Presiding Elder Terence Mayes offered the following names for Fayetteville/Pulaski District Finance Committee: the Reverends Dr. Charles Holsey, Dickey Sebastian, Tylan Orr, and Sister Emma Terry.

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Bishop Leath called for the Disciplinary Questions (see report). At Question #20, Sister Robin Ingram, the delegate of Warren Chapel AMEC, Chattanooga, Tennessee, invited the 119<sup>th</sup> Session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference to be hosted by Warren Chapel AMEC, Chattanooga, TN. The Reverend A. C. Griffin, Jr. moved that the Conference accept the invitation. The motion carried.

The Reverend William Howard Smith, with permission of Bishop Leath, thanked the St. Paul congregation for their hospitality, culinary skills, musical talent, and leadership stating, “God is pleased”.

Following announcements and instructions from Bishop Leath, the Saturday Afternoon Business Session adjourned at 4:30pm.