

**Friday, October 5, 2018**

**Opening Business Session**

At 8:45 am, Bishop Leath led devotion with song “Woke Up This Morning With My Mind Stayed On Jesus” at 8:58 am. Prayer was offered by Reverend Eugene Brooks.

The Rt. Reverend Jeffrey N. Leath called the 144<sup>th</sup> Session of the West Tennessee Annual Conference to order. Bishop Leath called the attention of the Conference to the 13th District Website ([www.ame13.org](http://www.ame13.org)) to download and view all of the Conference Reports, including the Day 1 Minutes.

Presiding Elders C. Robert Finch and Linda F. Thomas-Martin presented the organization of the Conference, which included Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, as President of the Annual Conference; the Reverend Barbara S. Green as Recording Secretary, the Reverend Quentin L. Smith as Engrossing Secretary, the Reverend Darrell K. Scott as Statistician. The motion was made by Presiding Elder C. Robert Finch. It was seconded by Reverend Eugene Brooks. The motion carried.

Presiding Elder Linda F. Thomas-Martin nominated the following persons to serve as Marshals: the Reverends Errol M. Thomas, MD, David Yancy, II, Alfreda T. Owens, and Brother Aundrae Deshone Mack, and Sister Beverly Terrell Goins. Presiding Elder C. Robert Finch made the motion and Reverend Terri Lynn Strong seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Presiding Elder C. Robert Finch moved the following be elected to serve as the Finance Committee: the Reverends Byron C. Moore, D.Min., Colleen P. Gibson, Eric J. Knowles, Walter R.

Henry and Sisters Mary T. Irones and Lovie Jacocks. Presiding Elder Linda F. Thomas-Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Presiding Elder C. Robert Finch made the motion that the Conference Boundaries be the floor level of the sanctuary. Presiding Elder Linda F. Thomas-Martin seconded. The motion carried.

Presiding Elder C. Robert Finch made the motion that the Conference Booklet constitute the agenda for the 144<sup>th</sup> Session of the West Tennessee Annual Conference with necessary changes. It was seconded by Presiding Elder Linda F. Thomas-Martin. The motion carried.

Presiding Elder Linda F. Thomas-Martin nominated the following persons to serve as Triers of Appeal for 2018-2020: The Reverend: Linda A. Evans, Reverend Drs., Janie Dowdy-Dandridge, Benita Granberry Livingston, Dave Louis Adams, Sr., and Kenneth S. Robinson, MD. It was seconded by the Reverend Kenneth S. Robinson, MD. The motion carried.

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath called for the Presiding Elder's Summary Report(s)

Presiding Elder Linda F. Thomas-Martin presented the summary financial report for the South Memphis District as follows: 64 conversions, 124 accessions, 3,025 members, \$3,301,560 funds raised and \$5,353,810 indebtedness and brought to the conference \$127,014. (See Presiding Elder's Report)

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath called for the Presiding Elder's Summary Report(s). Presiding Elder C. Robert Finch presented the summary financial report for the North Memphis District 57 conversions, 63 accessions, 1,132 members, \$1,372,951 funds raised and \$652,768 indebtedness and brought to the conference \$95,708. (See Presiding Elder's Report)

Bishop Leath called for the report of the Board of Examiners.

**The Report of**  
**THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

**Made to**

The 144<sup>th</sup> SESSION  
OF THE  
WEST TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

October 5, 2018

THE RIGHT REVEREND JEFFREY N. LEATH, SR.  
Bishop

THE REVEREND C. ROBERT FINCH  
Host Presiding Elder

THE REVEREND LINDA F. THOMAS-MARTIN  
Associate Presiding Elder

THE REVEREND WALTER R. HENRY, M.DIV.  
Dean

THE REVEREND KENNETH S. ROBINSON, M.D., M.DIV.  
Chairman

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

October 5, 2018

**BISHOP JEFFREY N. LEATH, SR. and Members of the 144<sup>th</sup> Session of the West Tennessee Annual Conference, your Board of Examiners begs leave to make the following report of our stewardship for this Conference Year.**

We have continued to examine those who were presented to us by the Dean and the Committee on Ministerial Training concerning their relationship to the Lord, their Christian service, their personal lives, and their preparation for ministry; including specifically, their status towards meeting the academic requirements.



### CLASS ON ADMISSIONS

**Academic Preparedness: To be eligible for Admission to the Annual Conferences in Itinerant Relations, students must have completed a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university.**

On referral from the Quarterly Conference of her Local Church, the following person was examined by the South Memphis District Conference of the West Tennessee Annual Conference regarding her Call to Preach and her competence for ministry; and was referred to the West Tennessee Annual Conference Committee on Ministerial Training.

**WASHINGTON, ILETHA MICHELLE** - 41, Saint Andrew. Married, no children. B.S. in Psychology – University of Memphis, 2001. 15 hours toward M.Div. at Memphis Theological Seminary, but not currently enrolled in seminary. Director, United Methodist Neighborhood Center.

**Having met the attendance and coursework requirements for the Class on Admissions, and having passed her aggregate exams, she was referred by the Committee on Ministerial Training to this Board for examination.**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT ILETHA MICHELLE WASHINGTON BE ADMITTED ON TRIAL  
TO THE WEST TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
AND  
THAT SHE BE ADVANCED TO THE FIRST YEAR CLASS

The motion was made by Reverend Byron C. Moore, D.Min. That Iletha Michelle Washington be admitted on trial to the West Tennessee Annual Conference and that she be advanced to the first year class. It was seconded by Reverend Walter R. Henry. The motion carried.



### FIRST YEAR CLASS

We have no students in the First Year Class. So ends our report on the First Year Class.



## SECOND YEAR CLASS

**CLAXTON, ROBYN LATRICE CLEVELAND** - 32, Greater Payne Chapel. Married, 1 child. B.A. 2008, Rust College; M.Ed. 2012, Union University; School Counseling Licensure 2014, Freed-Hardeman University; 55 hours toward Ed.D., Freed-Hardeman University. 30 hours toward M.Div. Elementary School Counselor, Haywood County Schools. *In Itinerant Relations.*

**Having met the attendance and coursework requirements for the Second Year Class, and having passed her aggregate exams, she was referred by the Committee on Ministerial Training to this Board for examination.**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT ROBYN CLEVELAND CLAXTON CONTINUE HER PURSUIT OF THE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH ORDINATION AS AN ITINERANT DEACON AND ALSO FOR ADVANCEMENT TO THE THIRD YEAR CLASS,

AND

THAT - WHILE NOT ACTIVELY ATTENDING THE CLASSES OF THE BOARD - SHE MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE LICENSE TO PREACH, BE ANSWERABLE TO THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE OF HER LOCAL CHURCH, RENDER ACTIVE SERVICE IN THAT CHURCH, AND REMAIN ACCOUNTABLE TO THE BOARD,

AND

THAT THIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE ACKNOWLEDGE AND DOCUMENT HER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE SECOND YEAR CLASS

The motion was made by Reverend Kenneth S. Robinson, MD that we receive the recommendation of the Board of Examiners. It was seconded by Reverend Quinten L. Smith. The motion carried.



## THIRD YEAR CLASS

**HOLLIDAY, CLAY A. JR.** - 34, Chainbreakers AME Church. Married, 4 dependent children. Jackson State University, Southwest Tennessee Community College, Crichton College, Victory University. Reportedly completed his B.S in Bus. Administration, 2013. Transcript pending. Not currently enrolled in seminary. Quality Inspector, KM Logistics. In Conference Year 2009, at the call of the Bishop, he was given an opportunity to begin a new work, where he has served as Supply Pastor faithfully and productively for ten (10) years. *In Local Relations*

For personal reasons, Rev. Holliday was unable to participate in the Third Year Class this year.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT REV. HOLLIDAY RETURN TO THE THIRD YEAR CLASS TO CONTINUE HIS PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

The motion was made by Reverend Kenneth S. Robinson, MD, that Rev. Clay A. Holliday, Jr., return to the third year class to continue his preparation for ministry. It was seconded by Reverend Walter R. Henry. The motion carried.

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**FOURTH YEAR CLASS**

We have no students in the Fourth Year Class. So ends our report on the Fourth Year Class.

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**The motion was made by Reverend Kenneth S. Robinson, MD that the entire Board of Examiners report be approved. It was seconded by Walter R. Henry. The motion carried.**

Bishop Leath, here ends our report.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kenneth S. Robinson, M.D., M.Div., Chairman of the Board of Examiners  
Rev. Walter Henry, M.Div., Dean and Chairman of the Committee on Ministerial Training  
Rev. Dave Adams, Sr., M.Div., D.Min.  
Rev. Colleen Gibson, M.Div.  
Rev. Agnes Henderson, M.Div.  
Rev. Benita Livingston, M.Div., D.Min.  
Rev. Quinten Smith, M.Div.  
Rev. Sarita Wilson, M.Div., Ed.D.

Members of the Committee on Ministerial Training

Rev. Darrell K. Scott, M.A.R.  
Rev. Hilda Taylor, Ed.S.

Bishop Leath stated that Pastors are allotted 2 minutes to present their reports and asked Presiding Elder C. Robert Finch of the North Memphis District to call for the Pastoral Reports for the North Memphis District. Bishop Leath indicated that he will alternate the reading between the North and South Memphis District churches, the following churches reported:

- Reverend Jerry Epperson – Spring Chapel, Grand Junction reported. The Delegate Brother Jerry Mason. (South District)

- Reverend Linda A. Evans – St. Paul, Memphis reported. Delegate Brother Edward Williamson. (North District)
- Reverend John Moore – Fredman Chapel, Decaturville. The Delegate Sister Robbie White. (South District)
- Reverend Lula Martin Sanderson – Avery Chapel, Memphis reported. Delegate Patricia Taylor. (North District)

Reverend Lula Martin Sanderson thanked Bishop Leath and the conference for assisting in the funeral costs for Reverend Percy D. Thornton.

- Reverend Marlon Obe Barrentine, Sr., – Supply Pastor - St. Paul/ St. Mary Satillio Circuit reported. Delegate Sister Francis Byrd. (South District)

Bishop asked that the committee on Missions, Circuits and Stations to determine if St. Paul/ St. Mary remain a circuit?

- Reverend Eugene Brooks – Allen Chapel, Paris reported. The Delegate Brother Jasper Bruce was absent. (North District)
- Reverend Willie M. Williams - Wrights Chapel reported. The Alternate Delegate Brother Nathaniel Lynn. (South District)
- Reverend John Hall – Supply – Williams Chapel reported. Delegate Brother Lewis Hurd was ill. (North District)
- Reverend Bobby Carter – New Lewis Chapel, Lexington reported. Delegate Sister Linda Pettigrew. (South District)
- Brother Clay A. Holliday, Jr. – Chainbreaker. Delegate Brother Reshun Green (North District)
- Reverend Perry Lorenzo Herman – Galilee, Memphis reported. Delegate Sister Esther Thornton. (South District)
- Reverend George Turks, Jr., - Salters Chapel – Dyersburg reported. The Delegate Sister Annette Parker-Man. (North District)

Reverend Turks thanked the conference for assisting in the purchase of air conditioner for the church.

- Reverend Garry Fair – Wilson Chapel, Memphis reported. Delegate Brother Johnny Dotson was ill, Sister Alice Byrd stood. (South District)
- Reverend Annie B. Garvin – St. Paul, South Fulton reported. Delegate Joyce Weeks. (North District)
- Reverend Clay A. Holliday, Sr., – White’s Chapel reported. Delegate Brother David Hampton. (South District)
- Reverend Gregory L. McCollins, Sr., – Mt. Olive, Millington reported. Delegate Brother Addison McFarland was ill. Alternate Sister Dorothy Peete. (North District)
- Reverend Stanley T. Richardson – Mt. Zion reported. Alternate Delegate Sister Pauline Guyton. (South District)
- Reverend Joy L. Wilkerson – Mt. Herman, Millington reported. Delegate Sister Mary R. Jones. (North District)
- Reverend Kelvin Robinson – Noah Chapel, Millington reported. Delegate Brother Torrence Nelson. (South District)
- Reverend Errol M. Thomas, MD., – St. John, Memphis reported. Delegate Sister Debra Lofties. (North District)
- Reverend Barbara S. Green – Bethel – Memphis, reported. Delegate Sister Ella Hill. (South District)
- Reverend Dave Louis Adams, Sr., – St. Mark, Munford reported. Delegate Wilma McCoy. (North District)
- Reverend Sabrina Transou – New Greater Bethel, Jackson reported. Delegate Dr. Pamela D. Murry, MD. (South District)
- Reverend Colleen P. Gibson – Greer Chapel, Memphis reported. Delegate Brother Michael Pegues. (North District)
- Reverend Agnes Henderson – New Allen Chapel, Memphis reported. Delegate Sister Roxie P. Ball. (South District)
- Reverend Janie Dowdy-Dandridge, D.Min., – Brown’s Chapel, Union City reported. Delegate Sister Deborah Motiff. (North District)



- Reverend Darrell K. Scott - Greenwood, reported. Delegate Sister Hazel Greer. (North District)
- Reverend Eric J. Knowles, Memphis reported. Delegate Sister Alice Harris. (South District)
- Reverend John Dandridge – Quinn Chapel, Paris reported. Delegate Brother Freddie Williams. (North District)
- Reverend Hilda D. Taylor – New Tyler, Memphis reported. Delegate Brother Dencil Williams. (South District)
- Reverend David Yancy, II – St. Sinai, Arlington reported. Delegate Brother Carolyn Moore. (North District)
- Reverend Kirk W. Ridley, Sr., – Providence reported. Delegate Sister Remell Rogers. (North District)

Pastor Kirk W. Ridley, Sr., asked to be relieved of the responsibility of leading Providence Church and expressed the willingness to accept supernumerary status as he enters the last year of eligibility for a pastoral appointment. Bishop Leath indicated that he would consider a "special" appointment for Rev. Ridley that may not have financial support, but would keep him on the roll of appointed members of the annual conference.

- Reverend Quentin L. Smith – Greater Payne, Memphis reported. Delegate Sister Shelia Tolbert. (North District)
- Reverend Byron C. Moore, D.Min., – St. Andrew, Memphis reported. Delegate Sister LaVern Brooks. (South District)
- Reverend Walter R. Henry – St. James, Memphis reported. Delegate Sister Beverly Terrell Goines. (North District)

Bishop Leath recognized the out of conference guests Presiding Elder Sydney Bryant (TN) and Sister Andriette Bryant, Connectional Disaster Relief/Emergency Preparedness Commissioner for WMS.

Announcements were made by the host pastor, the Reverend Walter R. Henry.

**The Morning Business Service concluded at 12:28 pm.**

**Benediction was offered by Reverend Linda A. Evans**

**Friday, October 5, 2018**

**Afternoon Business**

Devotion was offered by Reverend William Howard Smith (ETN )and Reverend Amanda Speed.

The afternoon session convened at 2:02 pm with Bishop resuming the chair. Bishop Leath recognized the following guests: Reverends: Al Hollman, (ETN), William Howard Smith, (ETN) and Pedro Basden (ETN).

Bishop continued with the pastoral reports and called for the reports of Chaplains:

- Reverend Benita Granberry Livingston reported.
- 13th District Audit – Bishop Leath noted that the District Audit is online and asked for its approval. The motion was made by the Presiding Elder Linda F. Thomas-Martin to approve the Audit. It was seconded by Sister Gwendolyn Dillihunt. The motion carried.

Committee Reports

- Trustees — The motion was made by Sister Rox P. Ball to accept the report (see report). It was seconded by Presiding Elder C. Robert Finch. The motion carried.

There are four pieces of abandon property in the West Tennessee Annual Conference.

They are:

- Saulter's Chapel A.M.E. Church  
480 Miffin Road  
Henderson, Tennessee 38340
- St. Mark A. M. E. Church  
566 Tennessee Avenue  
Parsons, Tennessee 38363
- Christ Tabernacle A. M. E. Church  
5351 Benjestown Rd  
Memphis, Tennessee 38127

Reverend George Turks made the motion to dispose of Christ Tabernacle as a congregation. It was seconded by Reverend Patsy T. Brown. The motion carried.

- Mt. Pisgah A. M. E. Church  
4395 Pleasant Ridge Rd.  
Millington, Tennessee 38053

Bishop Leath held a discussion with Presiding Elder Linda F. Thomas-Martin and the conference members regarding St. Mary and St. Paul becoming Stations rather than a Circuit. Sister Roxie Ball made the motion to detach St. Mary and St. Paul to become stations. It was seconded by Reverend George Turks. The motion carried.

The motion was made by Presiding Elder Linda F. Thomas-Martin that the 144<sup>th</sup> Session of the West TN Annual Conference approve the sale of those properties named as Abandoned, four (4) at the current time. It was seconded by Reverend Byron C. Moore, D.Min. The motion carried.

Additionally, The Annual Conference acknowledges ownership of Palestine Church property as Abandon Property. Bishop Leath, stated that the property which Chainbreakers A.M.E., is housed does not belong to Chainbreakers. Therefore, the Annual Conference acknowledges ownership of Palestine Church property as abandoned property and authorized the Annual Conference Trustees to dispose of the property in the interim if necessary. The Reverend Clay A. Holliday, Sr. made the motion for the authorization of the Annual Conference to dispose of Palestine A.M.E. property if deemed necessary. It was seconded by Reverend Patsy T. Brown. The motion carried.

- Missions, Circuits, and Stations

Bishop Leath asked about the status of Christ Tabernacle. Reverend George Turks made the motion that Christ Tabernacle be disposed as a congregation. It was seconded by Patsy T. Brown. The motion carried. All other charges retain their current status.

The committee has stated that St. Mary and St. Paul be detached and that they become Stations. Sister Roxie Ball made the motion and it was seconded by Reverend George Turks. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath stated that he is concerned about the commute of the Presiding Elders and the condition of the churches. Bishop stated that there are 11 churches that could make a new Presiding Elder District. On the South District the churches are: New Greater Bethel, New Lewis Chapel, St. Mary's, St. Paul, Spring Chapel, and Friedman Chapel which contribute \$14,865 to the Presiding Elder's budget.

The churches on the North District are: Quinn Chapel, Brown's Chapel Union City, St. Paul in Fulton and Salter's Chapel Dyersburg, and Allen Chapel in Paris to the \$14,911 to the Presiding Elder's budget.

There was agreement by common consent to name the new Presiding Elder's District the "Paris-Jackson" District.

Bishop will ask the new Presiding Elder to reduce the expense of each church by at least 25% reduction in their assessment.

Bishop is concerned that both New Greater Bethel and Quinn Chapel are over assessed. The statistical records indicate that we have had a 30% reduction in the West TN funds raised since 2016.

- Church School – reported. The Reverend Patsy T. Brown presented. (See report). The motion was made by the Reverend Patsy T. Brown. The motion was seconded by Sister Ella Hill. The motion carried.
- Christian Education – reported. The Reverend Hilda D. Taylor (See report). Presiding Elder Linda F. Thomas-Martin. It was seconded by the Reverend Karen Butler. The motion carried.
- Evangelism – presenter – the Reverend John Dandridge, D.Min., (See report). The motion to receive the report was made by the Reverend Beverly Darden. It was seconded by the Reverend Sabrina Transou. The motion carried.
- Lay - The report was read by Sister Lovie Jacocks. The motion was made by common consent to receive the report.

- CDMC – Sister Sonya Boyce - presenter. The motion was made by Sister Gloria Epperson. The motion was seconded by Brother by Christopher Greer. The motion carried.
- YPD - The report was read by Sister Lovie Jacocks. The motion was Sister Gloria Epperson. It was seconded by Brother Christopher Greer. The motion carried.
- Treasury Report  
 98,968.96 Balance from 143<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Annual Conference  
 -3,780.24 disbursements  
8,368.54 deposits  
 \$96,907.90 Total
- Sons of Allen - The report was read by the Reverend David Yancy II (See report). The motion was made by Reverend John Dandridge to receive the report. It was seconded by the Reverend Quinten L. Smith. The motion carried.
- Women In Ministry — The report was read by the Reverend Terri Lynn Strong, D.Min. (See report). The motion was made by the Reverend Beverly Darden to receive the report. It was seconded by the Reverend Agnes Henderson. The motion carried.
- WMS — The motion was made by Sister Mary T. Jones to receive the report. It was seconded by Sister Rita Nelson. The motion carried.
- Budget Committee – presenter – the Reverend Agnes Henderson. The motion was made by the Reverend Henderson to approve the budget. It was seconded by the Reverend Clay A. Holliday, Sr. The motion carried. The General Budget of Christ Tabernacle and St. Mark Parsons be redistributed: \$50 each Greenwood, Mt. Sinai, Greer, St. John, and

\$56 to St. James. \$25 to be distributed between New Greater Bethel, Mt. Zion, Wilson Chapel and White's Chapel. \$120 split New Tyler, New Allen, White's Chapel, New Lewis Chapel and \$8 St. Paul and St. Mary.

Bishop Leath offered commendations to Reverends Walter R. Henry and Agnes Henderson for the work they did on the Budget. Bishop also stated that he is attempting to get ETN and WTN in a position to agree to liquidate some properties that will pay dividends down the road.

Bishop Leath thanked the clergy for going to serve in remote places and often bring their own resources. Bishop noted that the Memorial Service will begin at 7:15 pm and the Renewal Worship service will begin at 7:30 pm with Reverend Lula Marie Martin Sanderson as the preacher.

**The Business session concluded at 5:19 pm.**

**The Benediction was given by Reverend Doris Brietta Hendricks**

### **Memorial Service**

The Memorial Service began at 7:11 pm with the Reading of the Committee Report presented by the Reverend Sabrina Transou, chair and worship leader. The following persons were memorialized:

- Bishop John Hurst Adams – transitioned January 10, 2018
- Bishop Cornal Garnett Henning, Sr. – transitioned May 15, 2018
- The Reverend Percy D. Thornton – transitioned July 5, 2018

Announcements were made by the Host Pastor, Reverend Walter R. Henry.

Bishop Leath directed the Conference to the District website for reviewing the minutes.

Bishop announced that Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell, Presiding Prelate of the 12<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District will be the closing preacher for the 144<sup>th</sup> Session of the West TN Annual Conference.

Additional Bishop Leath announced that devotion will begin at 8:20 am on tomorrow and the business session will begin at 9:00 am.

**The Memorial Service concluded at 7:30 pm.**

### **Spiritual Renewal Revival**

The Spiritual Renewal Revival Service began at 7:30 pm. Worship Leader was the Reverend John Dandrige, D.Min. The scripture 1 Corinthians 15:55-58, was read by the Reverend Marlon O. Barrentine. The preacher was the Reverend Lula Marie Martin Sanderson of Avery Chapel Memphis, Tennessee. Reverend Sanderson delivered a Rhema Word Luke 11:1-4 focal verse 4, entitled "There Is Purpose In Pain."

Announcements were made by the host pastor, the Reverend Walter R. Henry.

**The Spiritual Renewal Service concluded at 8:28 pm.**

**This concludes the second business day**