

13th Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Tennessee and Kentucky **2018**
Annual Conference



The African Methodist Episcopal Church
A Social Justice and Liberating Faith

*See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern,
and humbly obey your God Micah 6:8*

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Gender/Sexual Justice

Loving Those with Whom I Disagree

151st Session of the
Tennessee Annual Conference
Ordination & Holy Communion Worship Service

October 20, 2018

Jeffrey N. Leath
Presiding Bishop

Host Church
Wayman Chapel AME Church
105 S. Jackson
Columbia, TN 38401

Susan J. Leath, MD
Supervisor, Women's Missionary Society

The Reverend Sidney Bryant
Host Presiding Elder, South District

Conference Venue
Columbia State Community
College
1665 Hampshire Pike
Columbia, TN 38401

The Reverend Alexander Gatson
Associate Presiding Elder, North District

The Reverend Troy Merritt
Associate Presiding Elder, Nashville District

The Reverend Sharon Ogilvie
Host Pastor

The Service of Word, Ordination, and Holy Communion

Presiding Elder Troy Merritt, Worship Leader

The Procession

The Announcements

The Reverend Sharon Ogilvie

The Presentation of the Preacher

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath

The Doxology

The Call to Worship

The Reverend Lisa Hammonds

Chair, Board of Examiners

Leader: O Give thanks to God for all the goodness we are shown! God's steadfast love endures forever!

People: We present ourselves, our souls and bodies as a reasonable sacrifice.

Leader: God calls us from our lofty ambitions and our occupation with marvels and matters beyond our scope.

People: We present ourselves, our souls and bodies as a reasonable sacrifice.

Leader: We have come to witness that these are servants of Christ entrusted with the secret things of God.

ALL: Come, Christ Jesus, be our guest. Bless us through the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage to live as Your disciples day by day as a reasonable sacrifice. Amen and Amen!

The Opening Hymn

The Reverend Cedric Bailey

My Hope Is Built

Hymn No. 364

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

REFRAIN:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood Support me in the whelming flood; When all around my soul gives away, He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found! Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne!

The General Confession

The Reverend James Bolen, Sr.

Minister: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Declaration of Pardon

The Reverend Reginald Brock

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of Your great Mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto You, have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness; and bring us to everlasting life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

The Interlude Hymn

Take My Life and Let it Be Hymn No. 292

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my hands, and let them move At the impulse of Thy love, At the impulse of Thy love.

The Collect

Presiding Elder Sidney Bryant

Almighty God, who by Your Divine Providence has appointed diverse orders of ministers of Your Church, and did inspire Your

Apostles, to choose to the order of Deacons the first martyr, St. Stephen, with others, mercifully behold these Your servants now called to the like office and administration; replenish them so with the truth of Your doctrine and adorn them with the innocency of life that by both word and good example they may faithfully serve You in this office to the glory of Your holy name, and the building up of Your Church, through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect

Presiding Elder Troy Merritt

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who, by Your Holy Spirit, has appointed diverse orders of ministers in Your Church, mercifully look on these Your servants now called to the office of Elder and replenish them with the innocency of life, that by both word and good example they may faithfully serve You in this office to the glory of Your name and the building up of Your Church, through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

The Interlude Hymn

Take My Life and Let it Be Hymn No. 292

Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee; Take my voice and let me sing Always, only, for my King, Always, only, for my King.

The Scripture Lessons

Epistle (Deacons)

The Reverend Wanda Payne

1 Timothy 3:8-10; 12-13

Epistle (Elders)

Presiding Elder Alexander Gatson

Ephesians 4:7-13

The Interlude Hymn

Take My Life and Let it Be Hymn No. 292

Take my love; my God, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be Ever, only all for Thee, Ever only, All for Thee.

The Scripture Lessons

Gospel (Deacons)

The Rev. Dr. Andre Washington

Luke 12:35-38

Gospel (Elders)

The Rev Dr. Barbara Crawford
John 10:1-16

The Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen. Amen.*

The Selection

The Hymn of Preparation

The Reverend Veronica Dailey

Hymn No. 215

I've a Message from the Lord, Hallelujah! (verses 1,2 & 4)

*I've a message from the Lord, Hallelujah! This message unto you
I'll give; 'Tis recorded in His word, Hallelujah! It is only that you
"look and live."*

Refrain

*"Look and live," my brother, live, Look to Jesus now, and live;
'Tis recorded in His word, Hallelujah! It is only that you "look and
live."*

*I've a message full of love, Hallelujah! A message, O my friend,
for you; 'Tis a message from above, Hallelujah! Jesus said it, and
I know 'tis true.*

*I will tell you how I came, Hallelujah! To Jesus when He made
me whole: 'Twas believing on His name, Hallelujah! I trusted,
and He saved my soul.*

The Sermon

The Reverend Roderick Dwayne Belin

President-Publisher
AMEC Publishing House

The Ordination of Deacons

Presentation of the Candidates for Deacon

The Reverend W. Antoni Sinkfield, Dean:

Reverend Father in God, we present to you these
persons to be ordained a Deacon.

Bishop: Be sure that the persons whom you present are proper and fit by their godly conversation, to carry out ministry duly to the honor of God and the uplifting of the Church.

The Reverend W. Antoni Sinkfield: We have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and think them so to be.

(Names read aloud by the Dean)

Itinerant Deacon Orders

Corwin Malcom Davis

(Lee Chapel AME Church, Nashville)

Local Deacon Orders

John R. Cummings, Jr.

(Payne Chapel AME Church, Nashville)

Jimmie L. Handley, Jr.

(Payne Chapel AME Church, Nashville)

(The candidate will step forward as name is called.)

Bishop: Members of the Conference, if there be any of you who know any impediment or crime in these persons presented to be ordained deacons for which they ought not be admitted to that office, let them come forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

(If any crime or impediment be offered, the Bishop shall cease from ordaining that person until such time as the party accused shall be found to be innocent.)

Then shall the Candidate for diaconate ordination approach the altar.

The Bishop shall examine the one that is to be ordained Deacon, in the presence of the people, in the following manner:

Bishop: Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to take upon you the office of the Ministry in the Church of Christ, to serve God for the promotion of His glory and the edifying of His people?

Candidates: **I trust so.**

Bishop: Do you without question believe all the Scriptures contained in the Sacred Canon consisting of thirty-nine books in the Old, and twenty-seven in the New Testaments?

Candidates: **I do believe them.**

Bishop: Will you sincerely read and explain the same to the people whom you shall be appointed to serve?

Candidates: **I will.**

Bishop: The office of a Deacon is to assist the Elder in Divine Service. And especially when the Elder administers the Holy Communion, to help the Elder in the distribution thereof and to read and explain the Holy Scriptures; to instruct the youth, and in the absence of the Elder, to baptize. And furthermore, it is the Deacon's office to search for the sick, poor and powerless that they may be visited and helped. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

Candidates: **I will do so by the help of God.**

Bishop: Will you frame and order your own life and the lives of your family according to the doctrine of Christ and to make both yourself and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples of the flock of Christ?

Candidates: **I will do so, the Lord being my helper.**

Bishop: Will you be governed by the Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in which you are being ordained, and will you reverently obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly judgment?

Candidates: **I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper.**

Then shall the Bishop, laying his hand upon them severally, say:

Bishop: Take thou authority to execute the office of a Deacon in the Church of God in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then shall the Bishop deliver them the Holy Bible, saying:

Bishop: Take thou authority to read the Scriptures, and to preach the same in the Church of God in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Closing Collect (All Kneeling)

Bishop: Almighty God, giver of all good things, who of Your great goodness has vouchsafed to accept and take this Your servant into the office of Deacon of Your Church; make her, we beseech You, O Lord, to be modest, humble, and consistent in ministration, and to have a ready will to observe all spiritual discipline; that having always the testimony of a good conscience, and continuing ever stable and strong in Your Son Jesus Christ, she may so well behave in this office, that she may be fruitful in the ministries of the church, through the same, Your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory, and honor, world without end.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with Your most gracious favor; and further us with Your continual help that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in You we may glorify Your holy Jesus, our Lord.

Then shall the Deacon retire; followed at the altar by the Candidates for Elder's ordination.

The Ordination of Elders

Presentation of the Candidate for Elder

Chair:

The Reverend Lisa Hammonds

Bishop Leath, I present to you this person to be ordained Elder.

Bishop: Be sure that the person whom you present is proper and fit, by her godly conversation, to carry out their ministry duly to the honor of God and the uplifting of the Church.

Chair: I have inquired concerning her, and also examined her, and think her so to be.

(Names read aloud by the Chair)

For Itinerant Elder's Orders

The Reverend Candace Charlene Perkins

(Each candidate will step forward as each is called.)

Bishop: Members of the Conference, the person before you, we propose, God willing, this day to ordain an Elder; for after due examination we find not to the contrary, but that this person is lawfully called to this office and ministry, and that she is the person proper for the same. But if any of you know any reason which will prevent her from being admitted to that office, let them come forth in the name of God and state the reason.

(If any reason be offered, the Bishop shall cease from ordaining that person until such time as the party accused shall be found to be innocent.)

The Bishop shall then examine every one that is to be ordained Elder, in the presence of the people, in the following manner:

The Reverend Walter W. Reid, Jr.

Have always, therefore, printed in your remembrance how great treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the sheep of Christ which he bought with his death, and for whom he shed his blood. The church and congregation, whom you must serve, are His Spouse, and His Body. And if it should happen the same church or any member of it, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence, you know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will follow. Wherefore consider within yourself the end of the ministry towards the Spouse and Body of Christ, and see that you never cease your labor, your care, and diligence until you have done all that lies in you according to your bounden duty, to bring all

to be committed to your charge to the agreement in the faith, and to the ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there may be no place left among you, either for error in religion or for viciousness in life.

The Reverend Anica L. Howard

Since then your office is of both great excellency, and of great difficulty, you see with how great care and study you ought to apply yourself as neither you yourself offend. However, you cannot have a mind and will on your own account, for that will and ability are given to God alone; therefore, you ought, and have need to pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit. And seeing that you cannot by any other means contemplate the doing of so weighty a work pertaining to the salvation of humankind with the doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with life agreeable to the same, consider how studious you ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures, and in framing the manners of both of yourself and of them that especially pertain to you, according to the rules of the same Scriptures; and for this same cause how you ought to forsake and set aside as much as you may all worldly care and studies.

The Reverend Dr. Kenneth Hill

We have good hope that you have weighed and pondered these things with yourself long before this time; and that you have clearly determined by God's grace to give yourself to this of which it has pleased God to call you, so that as much as lies in you, you will apply yourself wholly to this one thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way, and that you will continually pray to God the Father by the mediation of our only Savior Jesus Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Spirit; that by daily reading and weighing of the Scripture you may wax riper and stronger in your ministry, and that you may so endeavor yourself, from time to time, to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to order them after the rule and doctrine of Christ, that you may be a wholesome and goodly example and pattern for the people to follow.

Bishop: You have heard, as well in your private examination as in the exhortation which was just made to you, and in the writings of the Apostles, of what dignity and of how

great importance this office is, to which you are now called. And now again we exhort you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have in remembrance into how high a dignity and how weighty an office you are called; that is to say to be messengers, watchers, and stewards of the Lord; to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for his children who are in the midst of this evil world, that they may be saved through Christ forever. And now that this present congregation of Christ here assembled may also understand your mind and will in these things, and that this your promise may the more move you to do your duties, you shall answer plainly to these things which we, in the name of God and God's church, shall demand of you concerning the same.

Do you think in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the order of Elder?

Candidate: I do so believe.

Bishop: Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrines required of necessity for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? Are you determined, out of the said Scriptures, to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing as required of necessity to salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded may be conduced and proved by Scripture?

Candidate: I am so persuaded, and have so determined by God's grace.

Bishop: Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrine and sacraments and discipline of Christ as the Lord hath commanded?

Candidate: I will do so, by the help of the Lord.

Bishop: Will you be ready with all faithful diligence always to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's word, and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations as well to

the sick as to the whole within your charge as need shall require and occasion shall be given?

Candidate: I will, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you be diligent in prayer in the reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?

Candidate: I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you be diligent to frame and fashion yourselves and your families according to the doctrine of Christ and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

Candidate: I shall apply myself, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you maintain and set forth, as much as lies in you, sweetness, peace, and love among all Christian people, and especially among them that are or shall be committed to your charge?

Candidate: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you reverently obey your chief ministers unto whom is committed the charge and government over you, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions, submitting yourselves to their godly judgments?

Candidate: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Then shall the Bishop say:

Bishop: Almighty God, who has given you this will to do all these things, grant also unto you strength and power to perform the same, that God may accomplish that work which God has begun, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

After which shall be said by the Bishop (The persons to be ordained Elders all kneeling),

THE VENI, CREATOR SPIRITUS (COME, CREATOR SPIRIT)

Bishop: Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire

Response: And lighten with celestial fire;

Bishop: Thou the anointing Spirit art

Response: Who doth thy sevenfold gifts impart

Bishop: Thy blessed unction from above

Response: Is comfort, light, and fire of love.

Bishop: Enable with perpetual light

Response: The dullness of our blinded sight;

Bishop: Anoint and cheer our soiled face

Response: With the abundance of thy grace.

Bishop: Keep far our foes; give peace at home;

Response: Where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Bishop: Teach us to know the Father, Son,

Response: And thee of both to be but one!

Bishop: That through the ages all along

Response: This may be our endless song:

Bishop: Praise to thy eternal merit

Response: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Bishop Leath

Let Us Pray.

Almighty God, receive our praise as we worship you through Jesus Christ, who is our Lord, High Priest, Shepherd and Bishop of our soul. We thank you that Christ has poured out gifts abundantly on us, making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up Christ's body, and to fulfill your purpose in the world. Thank you for these you have called to the same office and ministry.

We praise and worship You, and we ask that all who, either here or elsewhere, exercise ministry in your name, may show thankfulness for all Your benefits.

Give to this your servant the grace and power she needs to serve you in this ministry. Make a faithful pastor, patient teacher, and wise counselor.

Enable her to serve without reproach, to proclaim the gospel of salvation, to administer the sacraments of the new covenant, and to offer with all your people spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(After the prayer, the Bishop, with seven Elders, shall lay their hands severally upon the head of everyone that receives the order of elder.)

Bishop: The Lord pour upon you the Holy Spirit for the office and work of an elder in the Church of God, now committed to you by the imposition of our hands, and be a faithful dispenser of the Word of God and of His holy sacraments in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(The Bishop shall deliver to every one of them, kneeling the Bible into their hands, saying:)

Take authority to preach the word of God and to administer the holy sacraments in the congregation in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Closing Collect (All Kneeling)

Bishop Leath

Most merciful God, we beseech You to send on this Your servant Your heavenly blessings that she may be clothed with righteousness and that the word spoken by her mouth may never be spoken in vain.

Grant, also, that your people may have grace to hear and receive what she shall deliver out of Your most holy word; or agreeably to the same, as the means of salvation; and that in all our words and deeds may seek the glory and the increase of Your kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

The Passing of the Peace

The Reverend Donna Lorhorn

Minister: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The Communion Hymn

Hymn No. 255

There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood

There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins; And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains. Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains; And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day; And there may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away. Wash all my sins away, wash all my sins away; And there may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood shall never lose its power Till all the ransomed church of God be saved, to sin no more. Be saved, to sin no more, be saved, to sin no more; Till all the ransomed church of God be saved, to sin no more.

E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply, Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die. And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;

The Prayer of Consecration

Bishop Leath

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of your tender mercy did give your only son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, who made there by his oblation of himself, once offered, a full perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute and in his holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that his precious death until his coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech you, and grant that we receiving these your creatures of bread and wine, according to your son, our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion may be partakers of

his most blessed body and blood; who in the same night took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, , and gave it to his disciples saying, 'Take, eat this is my body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me.' Likewise after supper he took the cup and when he had given thanks he gave it to them saying, 'Drink all of it, for this is my blood for the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen'

The Elements Shared

The Lord's Prayer

The Reverend Albert Strawther

The Benediction

The peace of God which passes understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love God and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessings of God almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

The Hymn of Fellowship and Celebration



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