

2026 Mid-Year Meeting
NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Agenda, Schedule and Worship Guide Booklet
Wednesday, April 22 - Saturday, April 25, 2026

Held At
Saint John's African Methodist Episcopal Church
807 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36104
and
Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa
201 Tallapoosa Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Theme: The Work Is All Divine
Romans 8:28

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr.
Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister
Episcopal Supervisor



**Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor**

The Episcopal Word

To Our beloved family and friends of the Ninth Episcopal District,

Grace and peace be unto you. With hearts full of gratitude and a clear sense of divine purpose, we assemble at the historic pulpit of Saint John AME Church in Montgomery, Alabama. We give God thanks for the privilege to serve in this season and for the partnership in ministry that Supervisor Deana Young McAllister and I share, as together we continue to press forward in the work the Lord has entrusted to our hands.

This Mid-Year gathering is more than a moment on the calendar, it is an opportunity to believe in a Big God who can do Big things. It is a time to pause, to reflect, and to recommit ourselves to faithful stewardship. We come not only to review what has been done, but to discern what God is yet calling us to do. In a time marked by change and challenge, we stand as a people determined to remain steadfast, accountable, and committed to excellence in ministry.

We eagerly anticipate hearing the reports of our various components, celebrating the progress we have made, and embracing the vision that will carry us forward. As co-laborers with Christ, we understand that our work is not our own, but one that has been design by our God to meet the challenges of the communities we serve.

I am honored to welcome gifted voices who will pour into us through preaching and teaching; men and women who handle the Word with power, wisdom, and integrity. We extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to Bishop Frederick Wright, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Fourth Episcopal District, whose leadership and spiritual insight continue to bless the Connectional Church. We also greet the members of the Fourth Episcopal District with love and appreciation, mindful of the meaningful connections that have been shared over the years.

It is especially meaningful to welcome the Fourth Episcopal District, as it was within that Episcopal District in the cities of Detroit and Chicago that I was blessed to begin my pastoral ministry. Those formative years remain close to my heart, and it is with a spirit of gratitude and deep affection that we embrace you in fellowship today.

We are equally grateful for the presence of Presiding Elder Michelle Goodloe, whose leadership on the connectional level continues to strengthen our church. She serves as the President of the Connectional Council of Presiding Elders for the African Methodist Episcopal Church and is the presiding elder of the Southeast District in the Mississippi Annual Conference of the Eighth Episcopal District. Presiding Elder Goodloe's steady and impactful leadership has strengthened not only the life of our local churches, but has also contributed meaningfully to the advancement of our denomination toward its highest aspirations. Her work has been nothing short of phenomenal, and we thank God for her faithful witness and unwavering commitment.

We are also honored to welcome Brother Darryl Jones, whose insight and experience will provide practical and transformative guidance for our ministry. Under my spiritual tutelage, Brother Jones became one of the Pro Tems of the Board of Stewards of Bethel AME Church in

Tallahassee, Florida and has led with distinction for more than two decades as a spiritual leader. For more than 15 years Brother Jones served as the Executive Director of the Bethel CDC where he played a pivotal role in building homes in one of the most economically challenged zip codes in the state. Through his leadership, lives were changed and communities were uplifted one family at a time.

Today, he continues that impactful work in the area of economic development with the City of Tallahassee, where his contributions have brought about meaningful growth and measurable progress. Indeed, his work stands as a testament to what can happen when vision, faith, and action come together for the good of the people.

Beloved, we offer special appreciation to Reverend Roosevelt Williams II, Reverend Sheila Williams, and the entire St. John AME Church family for their gracious hospitality in hosting this gathering. Your spirit of welcome and service reflects the very heart of Christ.

Lastly, we anticipate a powerful and transformative experience—marked by anointed worship, enriching teaching, meaningful fellowship, and Spirit-filled preaching. This is a time not only to look back, but to be refreshed and renewed for the journey ahead. We gather not simply to assemble, but to be strengthened, equipped, and inspired to greater service.

To all who are present and to those joining us in spirit, we welcome you to the Ninth Episcopal District—where we remain committed to moving forward with excellence, and where God is glorified in all that we do, now and always.

In His Name because of Christ and Calvary,

Julius H. McAllister, Jr

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr.
Presiding Prelate
Ninth Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Deana Young McAllister

Supervisor Deana Young McAllister
Episcopal Supervisor
Ninth Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2026
MID-YEAR MEETING
AGENDA AND SCHEDULE**

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

2:00PM-4:00PM

Renaissance Hotel and Spa

Presiding Elders Meet with Bishop

Riverview 4

Connectional Concerns

District Reports

General Board Meeting

Proposed General Conference Funding

Investiture of Bishops' Council President

In Orlando Florida

Episcopal District Concerns

Department of Retirement Services

NED Budget; General Budget

Mortgage Monitoring

The Book of Discipline

In person Quarterly Conferences

Christian Education Congress

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Hosting of 2026 Connectional LTI

Annual Conference Series

Conference Dates 2026

Conference Institute

4:00PM-6:00PM

The Church in Fellowship Riverview 6

DINNER (Bishop, Supervisor, Presiding Elders,
And Spouses)

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Renaissance Hotel and Spa

9:00AM

The Church Gathered

Hotel Ballroom D-E

The Songs of Praise

The Prayer of Invocation

The Scripture

Ninth District Praise Team

9:15AM-10:00AM

The Church Working

All Clergy and Lay

Plenary Session I

Hotel Ballroom D-E

- **Ninth Episcopal District Founder’s Day: What we achieved and what’s next**
- **The Hosting of the 2026 Connectional LTI** **Supervisor Deana McAllister**
- **The Ninth Episcopal District Christian Education Congress**
- **Preparation for the Upcoming Primary and General Elections**
- **Church Elections—Proper Procedure for the Election of Trustees According to the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church**
- **General Conference 2028** **Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.**
- **An Episcopal Report---The Second Year** **Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.**

10:00AM-11:00AM

Ministers’ Spouses Alliance Meeting **Montgomery 1**

The Component Meetings

The Renaissance Hotel and Spa

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

- **Board of Examiners** **Montgomery 4**
- **Young People and Children’s Division** **Riverview 5**
- **Lay Organization** **Montgomery 5**
- **Christian Education & Debutante-Masters Commission** **Riverview 7**
- **Music Ministry** **Montgomery 3**
- **Prayer Ministry** **Montgomery 6**
- **Health Commission** **Montgomery 8**

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**The Church Working
Component Meetings**

- **Sons of Allen** **Montgomery 6**
- **Women in Ministry** **Riverview 5**
- **Nichols-Thomas-Grady Clergy Institute** **Montgomery 1**
- **Richard Allen Young Adult Council** **Riverview 7**
- **Economic Development** **Montgomery 4**
- **Evangelism** **Montgomery 7**
- **Social Action** **Montgomery 3**
- **Public Relations** **Montgomery 8**

12:15 p.m. -2:00 p.m.

**The Church in Fellowship
LUNCH – On Your Own**

2:00 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.

Women’s Missionary Society **Montgomery 7**

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Conference Trustees and M-SWAWO+PK

Alabama River Region	Montgomery 3
Northwest Conference	Montgomery 1
Southeast Conference	Montgomery 6
Northeast Conference	Montgomery 9
Southwest Conference	Montgomery 8
M-SWAWO+PK	Montgomery 4

5:00 p.m.

The Church in Fellowship
DINNER – Saint John’s AME Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m.

The Church in Worship
The Evening Glory Worship Service St. John’s AME Church
Guest Preacher: Reverend Dr. Frederick Sherrod
Presiding Elder
Dothan-Eufaula District

Friday, April 24, 2026

St. John’s AME Church

9:00 a.m.

Morning Glory Worship Service
Preacher: Reverend Dr. Eric Little
Pastor, Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church
Eufaula, Alabama

10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Retirement Services: A Review
Presenter: Reverend Brian K. Blackwell
Executive Director, Department of Retirement Services
African Methodist Episcopal Church

11:00 a.m.

Hour of Power Worship Service
Guest Preacher: Presiding Elder Michele Goodloe
Connectional President of the Presiding Elders Council
African Methodist Episcopal Church

12:15 p.m. -2:00 p.m.

The Church in Fellowship
LUNCH – Saint John’s Fellowship Hall

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Bishop’s Word
Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Workshop #1
“Ministry Beyond the Four Walls of the Church”
Brother Darryl Jones
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Tallahassee, Florida

4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Workshop #2
“Church Administration in the 21st Century”
Reverend Maurice Wright, Pastor
Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church
Huntsville, Alabama

5:00 p.m.

The Church in Fellowship
DINNER – Saint John’s Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m.

The Church in Worship
Guest Preacher: Bishop Frederick A. Wright, Sr.
Presiding Prelate, Fourth Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Saturday, April 25, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Morning Glory Worship Service
Preacher: Reverend Dwayne A. Gary
Pastor, Woodlawn African Methodist Church
Chicago, Illinois

10:00 a.m.

Component Reports
Women’s Missionary Society/YPD
Board of Examiners
Lay Organization
Women in Ministry
Sons of Allen
Christian Education and Debutante-Masters Commission
Nichols-Thomas-Grady Clergy Institute
Richard Allen Young Adult Council
Music Ministry
Prayer Ministry
Health Commission
Evangelism
Social Action
Public Relations

11:00 a.m.

Episcopal District Calendar

11:15 a.m.

Update on the Ninth Episcopal District Ministry
of Economic Development
Mrs. Veronica Wiley, Executive Director
Presiding Elder Antonio Thomas, President

11:30 a.m.

Reading of Appointments, Benediction and Adjournment
Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.

The Church Scattered.....The Work is All Divine

**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The Evening Glory Worship Service

Thursday, April 23, 2026

7:00 p.m.

Sister Sheryl Whiting, Worship Leader

THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP

THE DOXOLOGY

Hymn #647 [Tune: Old 100]

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Sister Ann Clemons

Minister: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within Your gates, O Jerusalem.

People: For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand, I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Minister: Because of the house of the Lord, our God, I will seek Your good.

People: Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Minister: Blessed are they that dwell in Your house Lord, I have loved Your habitation, the place where Your honor dwells.

People: For the Lord is in His Holy Temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Minister: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight. O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

People: O sing unto the Lord a new song for He has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth and sing praises.

Hymn No. 1
"Blessed Quietness"

Joys are flowing like a river
since the Comforter has come,
who abides with us forever,
makes the trusting heart a home.

Refrain

Blessed Quietness, Holy Quietness
What assurance in my soul.
On the stormy sea speaking peace to me,
How the billows cease to roll.

Like the rain that falls from heaven
,Like the sunlight from the sky,
So the Holy Ghost is given,
Coming on us from on high
Refrain

See a fruitful field is growing
Blessed fruit of righteousness
And the streams of life are flowing
In the lovely wilderness
Refrain

What a wonderful salvation,
Where we always see God's face!
What a perfect habitation,
What a quiet resting place
Refrain

THE INVOCATION

Brother Dajhuan Phillips

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

Hymn No. 378
Lead Me, Guide Me

I am weak, and I need Thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour
Let me through the darkness Thy face to see
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain
Lead me, guide me along the way
For if You lead me, I cannot stray
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Ninth Episcopal District Choir

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

(All readings in NRSV.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 24:6-10

Sister Tamara Bonner-Royster

THE EPISTLE

Colossians 3:12-17

Sister Betty Davis

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 16:14-19

Brother Jordan Bellamy

THE OFFERING OF MISSIONS

Sister Veronica Wiley

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

Ninth Episcopal District Choir

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BISHOP

Brother Robert Turner

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
Presiding Prelate,
Ninth Episcopal District

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Ninth Episcopal District Choir

THE SERMON

Reverend Dr. Frederick Sherrod
Presiding Elder
Dothan Eufaula District

**THE INVITATION TO
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

Reverend Antonio James

THE WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

The Stewardship Committee

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reverend Antonio Thomas
Presiding Elder, Camden District

THE DOXOLOGY

THE BENEDICTION

Reverend Dr. Sherrod

**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

*The Morning Glory Worship
Service*

Friday, April 24, 2026

9:00 a.m.

*The Reverend Jonathan Benton
Worship Leader*

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Reverend Maurice Wright

THE PRAYER

Reverend Roosevelt Williams

THE SCRIPTURE READING

(All readings in NRSV.)

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 26:1-4

Reverend Avelyn Sanders-Swofford

NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 24:28-35

Reverend Debra Ballard

**THE PRESENTATION
OF THE BISHOP**

Reverend Anre' Faush

**THE INTRODUCTION
OF THE PREACHER**

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.

*Presiding Prelate,
Ninth Episcopal District*

THE MUSICAL SELECTION

Reverend Maurice Wright

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Reverend Dr. Eric Little

*Pastor,
Saint John AME Church
Eufaula, Alabama*

**THE INVITATION TO
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

Reverend Debbie Dowdell

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reverend Antonio Thomas
Presiding Elder, Camden District

THE BENEDICTION

Reverend Dr. Eric Little

**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The Hour of Lower Worship Service

Friday, April 24, 2026

12:00 p.m.

Reverend Dr. Carmen Walker-Ellerbee, Worship Leader

The Praise and Worship

Reverend Maurice Wright

The Prayer

Reverend Monique Summers

The Prayer Response

The Scripture Readings
(All readings in NRSV.)

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalms 31:1-5

Reverend Mattie Edwards

THE EPISTLE

Romans 8:35-39

Reverend Kimberly Martin

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 16:13-20

Reverend Mia Cole

The Presentation of the Bishop

Reverend Jessica Boanerges

The Presentation of the Preacher

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
*Presiding Prelate,
Ninth Episcopal District*

The Musical Selection

Reverend Emma Constant

Hymn No. 272

"Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior"

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, Hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by.

Refrain

*Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry,
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.*

Let me at Thy throne of mercy, Find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition, Help my unbelief.
Refrain

Trusting only in Thy merit, Would I seek Thy face;
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, Save me by Thy grace.
Refrain

Thou the spring of all my comfort, More than life for me;
Whom have I on earth beside Thee? Whom in heaven but Thee?
Refrain

The Sermon

Presiding Elder Michele Goodloe
*Connectional President of the Presiding Elders Council
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

**The Invitation to
Christian Discipleship**

Reverend Tracey Horn

The Offering

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
The Stewardship Committee

Installation of Women In Ministry Officers

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.

The Announcements

Reverend Roosevelt Williams

The Benediction

Presiding Elder Michele Goodloe

**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The Opening Worship Service

Friday, April 24, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

Reverend Charles Lewis, Worship Leader
Presiding Elder of the Mobile District

THE PROCESSIONAL

“Every Praise”

Every praise is to our God
Every word of worship with one accord
Every praise, Every praise
Is to our God
Sing hallelujah to our God
Glory hallelujah is due our God
Every praise, Every praise
Is to our God
God my savior, God my healer, God my deliverer
Yes, He is, Yes, He is
God my savior, God my healer, God my deliverer
Yes, He is, Yes, He is

THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

REVEREND RAYMOND B. SWAFFORD

*Presiding Elder,
Tuskegee District*

Minister: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord,
our feet shall stand within Your gates, O Jerusalem.

People: **For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand, I had rather be a
doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of
wickedness.**

Minister: Because of the house of the Lord, our God, I will seek Your good.

People: **Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the
courts of our God.**

Minister: Blessed are they that dwell in Your house Lord, I have loved Your
habitation, the place where Your honor dwells.

People: **For the Lord is in His Holy Temple, let all the earth keep silence
before Him.**

Minister: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable
in Your sight. O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

People: O sing unto the Lord a new song for He has done marvelous things.
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth and sing praises.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

REVEREND DWIGHT DILLARD

*Presiding Elder,
Birmingham Florence Tuscaloosa District*

**Hymn No. 364
"My Hope Is Built"**

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.

Refrain

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

Refrain

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!

Refrain

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

REVEREND LETITIA WATFORD

*Presiding Elder,
Phenix City District*

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

**Hymn #361
"Yes, God Is Real"**

I here are so things I may not know, there are some places I can't go
But I am sure of this one thing that God is real, for I can feel Him deep within.

Refrain

*Yes, God is real, real in my soul,
Yes, God is real for he has washed and made me whole;
His love for me is like pure gold, Yes, God is real for I can feel Him in my soul.*

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CHOIR

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

(All readings in NRSV.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 135:1-5

REVEREND DR. EUGENE MARSHALL

Presiding Elder, Ozark-Troy District

THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 4:1-6

REVEREND DR. JACQUELYN DENSON

Presiding Elder, Montgomery-Selma District

THE GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-7

REVEREND GLORIA A. HALL.

Presiding Elder, West Birmingham-Ensley-Greensboro District

THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE

Hymn #69 | | "From All That Dwell"

From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung, Through every land by every tongue.

THE DECALOGUE (SUMMARY)

REVEREND BRIAN BLACKWELL

*Executive Director,
Department of Retirement Services
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

Hear what Christ our savior says, you shall love the Lord Your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the great and first commandment.

The second is like unto it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

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 MISSION OFFERING

REVEREND BRUCE HUNTER

Presiding Elder,

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CHOIR

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE
BISHOP**

REVEREND DR. FREDERICK SHERROD
*Presiding Elder,
Dothan-Eufaula District*

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER

BISHOP JULIUS H. MCALLISTER, JR.
*The 144th Elected and Consecrated Bishop
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Presiding Prelate, Ninth Episcopal District*

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CHOIR

THE SERMON

BISHOP FREDERICK A. WRIGHT, SR
*The 140th Elected and Consecrated Bishop
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Presiding Prelate, Fourth Episcopal District*

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

REVEREND ANTONIO THOMAS
*Presiding Elder,
Camden District*

THE WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

BISHOP JULIUS H. MCALLISTER, JR.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

REVEREND ANTONIO THOMAS
*Presiding Elder
Camden District*

THE BENEDICTION

BISHOP WRIGHT

**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The Morning Glory Worship Service

Saturday, April 25, 2026

9:00 a.m.

*The Reverend Trevor Woolridge
Worship Leader*

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Reverend Maurice Wright

THE PRAYER

Reverend Sandra Anderson

NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 10:14-17

Reverend Arthur Washington

**THE PRESENTATION
OF THE BISHOP**

Reverend William E. Hamilton

**THE INTRODUCTION
OF THE PREACHER**

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
*Presiding Prelate,
Ninth Episcopal District*

THE MUSICAL SELECTION

Reverend Maurice Wright

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Reverend Dwayne A. Gary
*Pastor,
Woodlawn AME Church
Chicago, Illinois*

DECISION TIME

Reverend Gary

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reverend Antonio Thomas
Presiding Elder, Camden District

THE BENEDICTION

Reverend Gary



***Bishop Frederick A. Wright, Sr.
Presiding Prelate, Fourth Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church***

Bishop Frederick A. Wright, Sr. is the son of the late Reverends Abner and Cornelia Wright. His mother was the first female appointed Presiding Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.

Bishop Wright earned a Master of Divinity Degree from the Interdenominational Theological Seminary as an AME Turner Student in Atlanta, Georgia and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Bishop Wright served as a pastor in the states of Pennsylvania and Ohio in the Third Episcopal District of the AME Church. His last pastorate was at Quinn Chapel AME Church in Cincinnati, Ohio for seventeen years.

Also, Bishop Wright has been an associate professor at Payne Theological Seminary, Xenia, Ohio for 23 years and a Trustee Board Member at the Turner Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia.

On July 10, 2021, at the 51st Session of the African Methodist Episcopal Church General Conference in Orlando, Florida, he was elected and consecrated the 142nd Bishop. He was assigned to serve the 20th Episcopal District which comprises the countries of Uganda, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and northern Mozambique. In addition, Bishop Wright was assigned to serve as the Commission Chair for the Global Women in Ministry of the AME Church from July 2021 – August 2024.

On August 28, 2024, at the 52nd Session of the AME Church General Conference, Bishop Wright was assigned to supervise the work in the Fourth Episcopal District comprising the states of Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and the countries of Canada and India. Also, at the 52nd Session of the AME Church General Conference, Bishop Wright was elected to serve as the Chair of the Commission on Statistics and Finance.

Bishop Wright is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated and the NAACP. Bishop Wright is married to Jennifer Dixon Wright, Supervisor of the Fourth Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society. They are the proud parents of two sons.



Reverend Michele Renee Goodloe
President of the
Connectional Presiding Elders' Council Episcopal Church
African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Reverend Michele Renee Goodloe is the Presiding Elder of the Southeast District in the Mississippi Annual Conference of the Eighth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Also, she is president of the Eighth Episcopal District Presiding Elders' Council and President of the Connectional Presiding Elders' Council of the A.M.E Church.

The Reverend Goodloe is a lifelong resident of Canton, Mississippi.

Growing up in an environment where many people believed God called only men to preach, and being a female, she was reluctant, even afraid, to acknowledge a calling on her life. That changed in 1987, when, with spiritual boldness, she accepted and announced her call to ministry.

In her years of pastoral ministry, Reverend Goodloe served as pastor of Union Paradise A.M.E Church in Vaughan, Mississippi, Bethel A.M.E Church in Yazoo City, Mississippi, and Lampton Chapel A.M.E Church in Canton, Mississippi. A powerful preacher and excellent teacher, Reverend Goodloe placed much emphasis on outreach ministry, spiritual revival, church growth, and property renovations. From 2000 to 2004, Reverend Goodloe served as the Eighth Episcopal District President of Women in Ministry. During her four-year tenure and beyond, many glass ceilings were shattered, and liberating opportunities for female clergy were achieved. She was then and still is a drum major for equal rights and opportunities for female clergy in the A.M.E Church. Her efforts throughout the Episcopal District and A.M.E Church have not gone unnoticed.

In November 2003, Bishop C. Garnett Henning, Sr., appointed Reverend Goodloe as a presiding elder and assigned her to the Jackson-Meridian District in the Mississippi Annual Conference (formerly East Mississippi Annual Conference). Since her initial appointment as presiding elder in 2003, Presiding Elder Goodloe has served with distinction and unparalleled leadership to the districts in the North Louisiana Annual Conference: Monroe—Lake Providence and Shreveport (both appointments were made by Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry) and Shreveport Monroe (Appointment made by Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr.). In 2015, Bishop McAllister transferred Elder Goodloe from the Central North Louisiana Annual Conference to the South Mississippi Annual Conference and appointed her as presiding elder of Brookhaven Hattiesburg District (currently, Southeast District). Elder

Michele Renee Goodloe is the second-most senior presiding elder in the Eighth Episcopal District and President of the Eighth District Presiding Elders' Council. She is also the first woman to serve as President.

On June 25, 2018, Elder Goodloe was elected as the First Vice President of the Connectional Presiding Elders' Council. A year later, she was elected the first woman ever to serve as the President of the Connectional Presiding Elders' Council.

In the Eighth Episcopal District, Elder Goodloe has served in a plethora of positions and offices, including Executive Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, District Accountant, Financial Analyst, Administrator of Bonner Campbell School of Religious Studies, and Disaster Relief Ministry Coordinator.

Elder Goodloe has served on the Episcopal Committee for the past six quadrennial sessions of the General Conference of the A.M.E. Church. During the 52nd Session of the General Conference, she served as the 1st Vice Chair of the Episcopal Committee, becoming the first woman to serve in this capacity. Elder Goodloe is the Co-Owner, President, and Licensed Director of Family Memorial Funeral Home of Canton, Mississippi. Before her husband's retirement in 2023, she served as Vice President of Goodloe Construction Company, LLC.

Reverend Goodloe attended parochial and public schools in Madison County. She matriculated at Mississippi University for Women (MUW), Columbus, Mississippi, where she majored in Speech Communication and Public Relations. She studied Business Accounting and Business Management Practices at Holmes Community College in Goodman, Mississippi. In preparation for ministry, Reverend Goodloe matriculated at Wesley Bible College in Florence, Mississippi, where her area of concentration was Biblical Studies and Western Civilization. She studied further at Belhaven (Presbyterian) University in Jackson, Mississippi, and Tulane University, Madison, Mississippi. In December 2003, she was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree from Southwestern Theological Seminary.

She has been married to Delbert L. Goodloe, Sr., for forty-five years. She is the mother of three children (two fur babies) and the grandmother of six wonderful grandchildren.



*Reverend Dwayne A. Gary
Pastor, Woodlawn African Methodist Episcopal Church
Chicago, Illinois*

Rev. Dwayne A. Gary is the Senior Pastor of Woodlawn African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, located on the South side of Chicago, Illinois. Assigned in October 2021 under Bishop John F. White, Sr., he has brought visionary leadership, pastoral care, and a deep passion for both spiritual and community transformation. He is also the author of “Those That Have an Ear: Let Them Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Churches,” a work that challenges believers to receive, reflect, and respond to God’s voice.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Rev. Gary was ordained as an Itinerant Deacon in the A.M.E. Church in August of 1995 and began his ministry as the Youth Pastor at his home church, the Historic Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Detroit. Two years later, he was ordained an Itinerant Elder and appointed Pastor of New St. James A.M.E. Church, also in Detroit. He subsequently pastored Pleasant Valley A.M.E. Church in Belleville, Michigan, Saunders Memorial A.M.E. Church in Detroit, Michigan, and St. Paul A.M.E. Church in Glencoe, Illinois.

Rev. Gary’s unique ability to blend traditional and contemporary worship styles without sacrificing either has resulted in churches that serve diverse groups of people, ages, and cultures, while remaining deeply rooted in biblical truth. As a powerful messenger of God, he has established himself as an outstanding preacher and trusted voice in faith-based, civic, and justice-centered initiatives.

As a resolute community advocate, Rev. Gary spearheaded a Rally for Justice, leading a 400-car caravan throughout the Village of Glencoe, declaring “Black Lives Matter,” and initiated impactful book discussions on racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion. His work was recognized on National Public Radio (NPR) and WBEZ/NPR in a story titled “Chicago Church Leads the Way as it Grapples with Race.” This story gained national attention and was featured in the A.M.E. Christian Recorder.

In addition to his pastoral responsibilities, he served as the Disciplinary Hearing Officer, Jail Program Specialist, and Sheriff’s Executive Team member for the Wayne County Jails. His prior work experience includes serving as a Senior Development Officer at United Way for Southeastern Michigan and as the Director of Fundraising at Michigan Technical Academy School in Redford, Michigan.

Academically, Rev. Gary studied Sociology at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan; earned a certification in Divinity Studies from Trinity Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana; and received his Master of Divinity (MDiv) from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. He was also awarded an honorary Doctor of Theology degree from the Tennessee School of Religion.

Rev. Gary’s leadership extends beyond his pastoral duties. He has been elected to the A.M.E. General Board of the Connectional Church (2024-2028) and serves on the Social Action, Ministry and Recruitment, and Global Witness and Development Commissions. He is the Past President of the A.M.E. Ministerial Alliance of Chicago and Vicinity, a former president of the Village of Glencoe Clergy Alliance, a member of the Police District 003 Clergy Team, and the Student Council Executive Team of McCormick Theological Seminary.

He also serves in the Chicago Annual Conference Legislative Task Force, Chairperson of the Abandoned Property of Chicago Conference, Chair of Admission of the Chicago Board of Examiners, Chaplain of the

Wayne County Sheriff's Department, member of the NAACP, and a member of Golden Rule Lodge #36 FAAM.

At his core, Rev. Gary is a man from humble beginnings whose life's work is defined by his faith, integrity, and dedication to people. Rev. Gary is married to Kimberly, and together, they have four adult children and three grandchildren. You can follow him on his web page at www.dwaynegary.me.



Mr. Darryl Jones
Bethel A.M.E. Church, Tallahassee, Florida
Chair pro tempore
Board of Trustees

Spirit-led and Spirit-driven **Darryl Jones: A Visionary Leader Forging a Path of Equity and Empowerment**

As iron sharpens iron, so one leader strengthens another. Darryl Jones is a transformative force that uplifts communities through economic empowerment and educational equity. His leadership is not just about policies but about purpose—sharpening the resolve of those around him to build a just and thriving society.

As Deputy Director of the Office of Economic Vitality, Darryl has championed supplier diversity, ensuring businesses of all backgrounds have opportunities to succeed. His steadfast commitment has fostered inclusive economic growth throughout Tallahassee, Leon County, and the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency, empowering underrepresented businesses and strengthening the region's economy. Like iron sharpening iron, his leadership has uplifted others, ensuring prosperity reaches every corner of the community.

Darryl's passion for equity extends to education, where he boldly advocates for students and teachers. Elected to the Leon County School Board in 2018 and serving as Chair in 2021, he has fought for high-quality education, particularly in Southside Leon County and Title I schools. Partnering with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community leaders, he has worked to ensure that every child—especially the most vulnerable—has the tools to thrive. Just as iron sharpens iron, he has nurtured young minds, shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

Beyond education, his servant leadership extends into healthcare, community development, and civic engagement. He continues to make a lasting impact through roles such as:

- **Chair, Children's Services Council of Leon County**, championing the well-being of children.
- **Board Member, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Foundation and Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra**, expanding access to healthcare and the arts.
- **Chair Pro Tempore, Bethel AME Church Board of Stewards**, aligning faith-based leadership with community needs.
- **Member, Southside Tallahassee Rotary and inaugural Chair of the Leon County Sheriff's Citizen Advisory Board**, fostering trust and collaboration.

Darryl's influence is measured by the lives he has touched. As Director of Florida A&M University's Self Employment Program, he helped launch over 30 minority-owned businesses. As Executive Director of the Bethel Community Development Corporation, he led efforts to construct and rehabilitate over 150 homes, providing families with strong foundations. His annual toy drive has brought joy to countless children, a testament to his hands-on commitment to service.

His leadership has earned numerous accolades, including the Tallahassee Democrat Volunteer of the Year Award, the Reginald Rolle Economic Development Champion Award, and the Bishop’s Award for Business and Professional Services from the AME Church’s Eleventh Episcopal District. Florida A&M University honored him with the National Alumni Association President’s Award for Business and Community Service, and the Tallahassee Branch of the NAACP recognized him as a Black Achiever.

A proud Clearwater native and a Leadership Tallahassee Class XX alumnus, Darryl Jones is more than a leader—he is a beacon of faith and a torchbearer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream. Like iron sharpening iron, he empowers and uplifts, forging a legacy of justice, equity, and opportunity. His faith-driven leadership ensures that generations to come will stand on the foundation he has so diligently built.