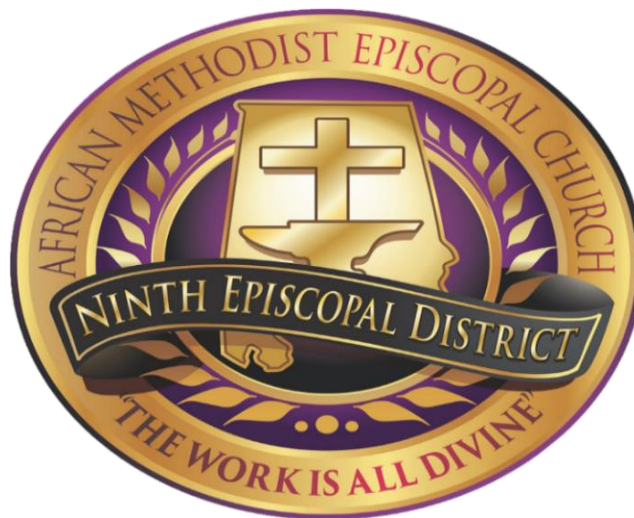


The Founder's Day Celebration
of the
NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FEBRUARY 8, 2025

Theme: We've Come This Far By Faith
A Legacy of AME Social Activism From Then to Now



Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr.
Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister
Episcopal Supervisor

Host Church

Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church
708 15th Street North | | Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Reverend Dr. Ronald D. Sterling
Pastor



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

The Episcopal Word

On this Founder's Day, we joyfully celebrate the enduring legacy of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, an ecclesial institution that has been a pillar of faith, justice, and liberation since 1816. Today, we honor the vision and courage of Richard Allen, Sarah Allen, Daniel Payne, Morris Brown, Henry McNeil Turner, Jarena Lee and countless others whose unflappable conviction and unwavering dedication laid the foundation for a denomination rooted in God's Word, committed to spiritual guidance, a proponent for social justice and equality for those who have been marginalized by the vehicle known as oppression. Our rich legacy bequeathed to each of us by a throng of clergy and supportive laity calls for the body of Christ to strive to be more like Jesus as we do His work in a more excellent way.

The observance of Founder's Day for the members of the Ninth Episcopal District compels each of us to thank God for His proverbial hand of protection from the very beginning of our existence to this present moment. Yes, we can blend our voices together and proclaim with great fervency, "We Have Come This Far by Faith!"

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act which gave us the right to vote; 60 years after the Civil Rights Act, our activism continues. This is the 60th anniversary of the MARCH from Selma to Montgomery. We remember the early attempt at this march led by Congressman John Lewis and Reverend Hosea Williams as many freedom fighters left the sanctuary of Brown Chapel AME Church and were met with fierce opposition on the Edmund Pettus Bridge on what would be known as Bloody Sunday. Eventually, under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the march from Selma to Montgomery did happen, fighting the power of injustice. Despite making a few gains, we still experienced blatant prejudice in our lives as we protested Jim Crow laws. It was courageous men and women who participated in sit-ins at lunch counters, refused to ride on the back of the bus, and participated in peaceful demonstrations of unconstitutional segregated interstate transportation facilities. Beloved, 60 years after our march for freedom, our activism continues. Let us never forget those who went before us to pave a brighter tomorrow for each and every one of us as our activism continues for the next generation.

It is with much delight, we welcome to the Ninth Episcopal District pulpit Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram, the 118th elected and consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. His words of encouragement through the preached word will empower each of us to strive to serve God with a spirit of excellence. His commitment to stewardship and evangelism as a pastor has been well chronicled as he served as the pastor of Oak Grove AME Church in Detroit, Michigan prior to becoming one of the Reverend Fathers in God. Additionally, our newly elected general officer, the Reverend Dr. Mark K. Tyler, the Historiographer for our denomination will be our principal symposium lecturer. Prior to his election, Dr. Kelly served as the popular pastor of Mother Bethel AME Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Supervisor McAllister joins me in prayer for our time at Saint John-Birmingham as we assemble as an episcopal district to celebrate our storied past and step boldly into our future.

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

African Methodist Episcopal Church



The African Methodist Episcopal Church grew out of the Free African Society (FAS) which **Richard Allen**, Absalom Jones, and others established in Philadelphia in 1787. When officials at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church pulled blacks off their knees while praying, FAS members discovered just how far American Methodists would go to enforce racial discrimination against African Americans. Hence, these members of St. George's made plans to transform their mutual aid society into an African congregation. Although most wanted to affiliate with the Protestant Episcopal Church, Allen led a small group who resolved to remain Methodists. In 1794

Bethel AME was dedicated with Allen as pastor. To establish Bethel's independence from interfering white Methodists, Allen, a former Delaware slave, successfully sued in the Pennsylvania courts in 1807 and 1815 for the right of his congregation to exist as an independent institution. Because black Methodists in other middle Atlantic communities encountered racism and desired religious autonomy, Allen called them to meet in Philadelphia to form a new Wesleyan denomination, the AME Church.

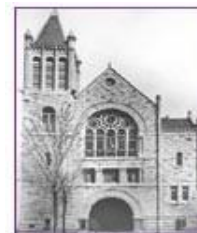


The geographical spread of the AMEC prior to the Civil War was mainly restricted to the Northeast and Midwest. Major congregations were established in Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington, DC, Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, and other large Blacksmith's Shop cities. Numerous northern communities also gained a substantial AME presence. Remarkably, the slave states of Maryland,

Kentucky, Missouri, Louisiana, and, for a few years, South Carolina, became additional locations for AME congregations. The denomination reached the Pacific Coast in the early 1850s with churches in Mother Bethel Church Stockton, Sacramento, San Francisco, and other places in California. Moreover, Bishop Morris Brown established the Canada Annual Conference.

The most significant era of denominational development occurred during the Civil War and Reconstruction. Oftentimes, with the permission of Union army officials AME clergy moved into the states of the collapsing Confederacy to pull newly freed slaves into their denomination. "I Seek My Brethren," the title of an often-repeated sermon that Theophilus G. Steward preached in South Carolina, became a clarion call to evangelize fellow blacks in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Texas, and many other parts of the south. Hence, in 1880 AME membership reached 400,000 because of its rapid spread below the Mason-Dixon line.

When Bishop Henry M. Turner pushed African Methodism across the Atlantic into Liberia and Sierra Leone in 1891 and into South Africa in 1896, the AME now laid claim to adherents on two continents.



While the AME Church is doctrinally Methodist, clergy, scholars, and lay persons have written important works which demonstrate the distinctive theology and praxis which have defined this Wesleyan body. Bishop Benjamin W. Arnett, in an address to the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions, reminded the audience of the presence of blacks in the formation of Christianity. Bishop Benjamin T. Tanner wrote in 1895 in *The Color of Solomon – What?* that biblical scholars wrongly portrayed the son of David as a white man. In the post-civil rights era theologians James H. Cone, Cecil W. Cone, and Jacqueline Grant who came out of the AME tradition critiqued Euro-centric Christianity and African American churches for their shortcomings in fully impacting the plight of those oppressed by racism, sexism, and economic disadvantage.

In the 1990s, the AME Church included over 2,000,000 members, 8000 ministers, and 7000 congregations in nearly 40 nations in North and South America, Africa, Europe, and now Asia. Twenty bishops and 12 general officers comprise the leadership of the denomination.

*Prepared by: The Reverend Dennis C. Dickerson, Ph.D.
Former Director of Research & Scholarship,
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

The Founder's Day Celebration Schedule and Agenda

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Founder's Day Worship and Celebration
Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram, Preaching

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Complimentary Lunch
Saint John AME Church

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The Founder's Day Symposium
The Reverend Mark K. Tyler, Ph.D., Lecturer
"We've Come This Far By Faith"
– A Legacy of AME Social Activism From Then to Now

The Founder's Day Worship Service

Saturday, February 8, 2025

Ten O'clock in the Morning

*The Reverend Dwight E. Dillard, Sr., Worship Leader
Presiding Elder of the Birmingham-Florence-Tuscaloosa District*

THE PROCESSIONAL

AMEC Hymn No. 62 God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy power;
Crown Thine ancient Church's story, bring her bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure Thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to Thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces in the fight to set men free.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not man nor Thee, that we fail not man nor Thee!

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for Thy salvation be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving Thee whom we adore, serving Thee whom we adore.

THE DOXOLOGY

AMEC Hymn No. 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. Amen.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Brian Blackwell
Executive Director,
Department of Retirement Services
The African Methodist Episcopal Church

*A Call to Worship written by Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr.,
the 144th elected and consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.*

Leader: Come let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Let us exalt His name together.

People: Make a joyful shout before the Lord! Worship the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with joyful singing.

Leader: Let us blend our voices together as we give thanks unto the Lord for His unconditional love, His never ceasing mercy and grace that is amazing.

People: We will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in our mouths.

Leader: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

People: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures forever!

Leader: We have come this far by faith! As members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, we praise God for the African Methodist Episcopal Church movement which covers 238 years and 209 years as a faithful denomination!

People: Today, we celebrate with joyful praise, the founding of our denomination. From Philadelphia to Phenix City, from Baltimore to Birmingham, from Charleston, South Carolina to Selma and from Malawi, Africa to Mobile, Alabama, we will rejoice, as a connectional church, while we celebrate our rich heritage.

THE OPENING HYMN

The Revered Raymond B. Swafford
Presiding Elder, Tuskegee District

AMEC Hymn No. 519
The Church's One Foundation

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation, by water and the word.
From heaven He came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With His own blood he bought her,
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the Earth,
Her charter of salvation One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed:
Yet saints their watch are keeping,
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forever more;
Till with the vision glorious,
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.

THE INVOCATION

The Reverend Dr. Letitia Watford
Presiding Elder, Phenix City District

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

The African American Heritage Hymnal No. 412
We've Come This Far By Faith

Refrain

We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord;
Trusting in his Holy word, He's never failed me yet.
Oh, can't turn around, we've come this far by faith.

Don't be discouraged when trouble's in your life,
He'll bear your burdens and move all misery and strife.
That's why we've...

Refrain

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Saint John AME Church Choir

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

(All readings in NRSV.)

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The Reverend Charles Lewis
Presiding Elder, Mobile District

THE EPISTLE

Romans 10:8-13

The Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson
Presiding Elder, Montgomery-Selma District

THE GOSPEL

St. Luke 4:16-20

The Reverend Dr. Frederick D. Sherrod, III
Presiding Elder, Dothan-Eufaula District
President, Ninth Episcopal District
Presiding Elders Council

THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE

AMEC Hymn No. 69 [Tune: Woodworth]

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 (ABRIDGED)

The Reverend Antonio Thomas
Presiding Elder, Camden District

Leader: And God spake all these words saying, "I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Nearer my God, to Thee. Nearer to Thee! E'en though it be a cross, that raiseth me.
Still all my song shall be, nearer my God to Thee;
Nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee!*

Leader: Hear what Christ our Savior saith, "Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. 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

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II

I just want to praise You, forever, and ever and ever; For all You've done for me.
Blessings and glory and honor, They all belong to You.
Thank You, Jesus, for blessing me!
(Lyrics and Tune by Arthur Tannous)

THE AMEC COVENANT

The Reverend Dr. Willie Eugene Marshall
Presiding Elder, Ozark-Troy District

Leader: We are members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. At this juncture in our lives, we are here by personal choice. Let us use the occasion of this Founder's Day to celebrate that choice by renewing and reaffirming our commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as lived out through the ministries of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

People: With glad heart and mind, I hereby affirm the solemn promise contained in the Baptismal Covenant; that is, to live a life that becomes the gospel, and to give regular attendance to the appointed means of grace. I affirm that I believe in God, the Creator of all things, and in God the Savior, revealed in Jesus Christ, who has redeemed and reconciled me to Himself, and in God the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies, empowers and energizes me and the people of God.

I believe that the Holy Scripture is the inspired Word of God, as set forth in the Articles of Religion and the Affirmation of Faith. I renounce the forces of evil in whatever guise presented to me and I am determined by God's grace, to follow Jesus as my Teacher, Savior and Lord.

Further, I commit myself to a life of service through the ministries of the church, guided by the Holy Spirit to use those gifts given to me, striving to grow in the faith through study, worship, daily meditation, prayer and Scripture reading, and not forsaking the assembly of the faithful.

Finally, having saving faith in Jesus, and possessing friendly feelings toward the members of this congregation, I affirm that I will be governed by the *Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*, hold sacred the ordinances of God and try as much as possible to promote peace, unity and the welfare of fellow members; to pray for and sympathize with others, and to generally advance the Kingdom of God. Thus, I will give of my time, talent, and money - accepting the biblical teaching of tithes and offerings as the standard of my giving - in support of the Gospel, and the various ministries of God's Church.

The "Covenant" was developed by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr. for multiple liturgical uses in the local congregation on special days to remind our constituents of the commitment made with God in Christ and with God's Church. It is found in the 2012 AME Book of Discipline, pages 519 and 520. It is presented here with an introduction by a leader.

**THE PRESENTATION
OF THE BISHOP**

The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter
*Presiding Elder, South Birmingham-
Huntsville-Bessemer District*

**THE PRESENTATION
OF THE PREACHER**

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

THE SERMONIC HYMN

The Reverend Kimberly Martin

**AMEC Hymn No. 61 Maitland Tune
O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne
still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received
Her frame, From everlasting Thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in Thy sight, are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all its
sons away; They fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;
Be Thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home! Amen.

(Words by Isaac Watts; Tune by George N. Allen)

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram
*Retired Bishop,
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

**THE INVITATION TO
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

The Reverend Gloria Hall
*Presiding Elder, West Birmingham-
Ensley-Greensboro District*

*I'll say yes, Lord, yes to Your will and to your way.
I'll say yes, Lord, yes I will trust You and obey.
When Your Spirit speaks to me, with my whole heart I'll agree;
And my answer will be yes, Lord, yes.*

(Lyrics by Shirley Caesar)

THE WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Dr. Ronald D. Sterling

THE BENEDICTION

Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram



The Founder's Day Symposium

Saturday, February 8, 2025

2:00 p.m.

The Reverend Dr. Carmen Walker Ellerbee, Convener

"We've Come This Far By Faith"

- THE LEGACY OF AME SOCIAL ACTIVISM FROM THEN TO NOW -

Singing the Lord's Song

The Reverend Maurice Wright

The Prayer of Invocation

The Reverend Brandon Thornton

The Scripture Reading

Matthew 19:13 -15 NRSV

The Reverend Monique Summers

The Presentation of the Bishop

The Reverend Charles Lewis
Presiding Elder, Mobile District

**The Occasion
and Presentation of the Speaker**

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

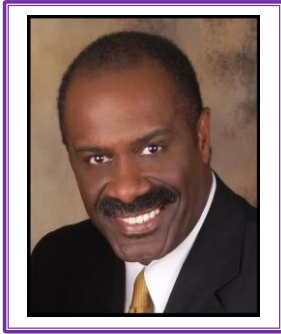
The Guest Presenter

The Reverend Mark Kelly Tyler, Ph.D.
*Executive Director,
Department of Research
and Scholarship/Historiographer*

An Interaction (Q & A or As the Spirit Leads)

The Closing Prayer

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister
*Episcopal Supervisor,
Ninth Episcopal District*



Bishop Gregory Gerald McKinley Ingram *Retired Bishop,* *African Methodist Episcopal Church*

GREGORY GERALD MCKINLEY INGRAM, a native of Detroit, Michigan, was elected and consecrated the 118th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 2000. His first appointment as a Bishop was to the Fifteenth Episcopal District; in 2004 his second assignment was to the Tenth Episcopal District, and July 4, 2012, during the 49th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference in Nashville, Tenn., he was assigned to the First Episcopal District. Upon his retirement in July 2021, he accepted the invitation to serve as Professor of Leadership and Director of Mapping the Future of Black Methodism Future Initiative for Payne Theological Seminary.

Committed to the vision he advanced as an aspirant for the Episcopal service, Bishop Ingram was passionate and intentional in advancing his holistic multi-dimensional approach to effective ministry he conceptualized in 1998 and in the three Episcopal Districts he served. His initial 7-Point Partnership Plan evolved into a 10-Point Partnership Plan that included modules on “Health and Human Services,” “Stewardship,” “Church Growth and Evangelism,” Political Empowerment,” and “Management, Marketing & Administration.” Later, the 10-Point Partnership Plan was augmented into 10 Guideposts strategies for improving every aspect of life for the people of the AME Church.

Prior to his election to the Episcopacy, Bishop Ingram served as the Senior Minister of Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church in Detroit, Michigan. During his 12-and-a-half-year/nearly 13-year pastorate, the church prospered both numerically and financially. Under his visionary leadership and spiritual direction, 2,600 people united in membership, and more than 1,420 were inspired to become tithers. While pastor of Oak Grove, Bishop Ingram liquidated all church debts, including paying off in five years all costs related to a multi-million-dollar building and expansion project, the purchasing of four commercial properties four weeks before leaving Oak Grove and earlier purchased a transitioning (Samaritan) house for men. Upon his election as a bishop, he left in the church treasury more than \$1.2 million dollars. Before being assigned to Oak Grove, Bishop Ingram served as pastor of AME churches in Chicago, Springfield and Alton, Illinois. He also served two years on the religious staff at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville Campus.

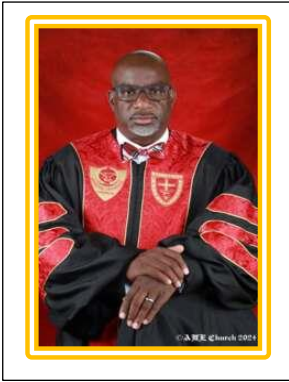
Bishop Ingram distinguished himself throughout African Methodism, in particular, and the religious community in general, a gift and expertise on stewardship and tithing. A visionary, dynamic preacher, lecturer and writer, Bishop Ingram has authored a number of publications in the Church. Included among them are *The S.A.T. Manual on African Methodism: A Study Guide on the Faith, Beliefs, History and Structure of the World’s Oldest Denomination Founded by Blacks*, *Equipping the Saints for Service*, *The Joy of Giving More Than Enough*- a book on stewardship, *The African Methodist Episcopal Church Pastor’s Journal and Quarterly Conference Record Book*, and edited two books of sermons, *Go Preach My Gospel and Ain’t That Good News?*

Bishop Ingram was privileged to chair the General Conference Commission for the 49th Quadrennial Session, honored to serve as chairman of the Bicentennial Committee, and served as the host bishop for the historic 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which was held in Philadelphia, PA, the birthplace of the denomination. As chairman of the Bicentennial Celebration, Bishop Ingram was the compiler and editor-in-chief for two significant publications: a 365-day devotional, entitled *Moments of Meditation: Celebrating the Bicentennial of the*

African Methodist Episcopal Church, and *The Encyclopedia of African Methodism: Bicentennial Edition*. Additionally, Bishop Ingram was the visionary behind the Richard Allen Statue and Memorial Courtyard at Mother Bethel AME Church, as well as the 25-by-45-foot mural of Bishop Richard Allen that graces the exterior of First District Plaza at 38th and Market streets in Philadelphia, where the First Episcopal District is headquartered.

Bishop Ingram holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wilberforce University, a Master of Arts degree in Teaching from Antioch College, a Master of Divinity degree from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary. His religious, civic, community, professional and social affiliations, past and present, are many. Bishop Ingram has been privileged to serve as chairman of the Board of Trustees of The African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc., as well as board chair of Payne Theological Seminary and Paul Quinn College. He is a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc; and is a Thirty-Third Degree Mason-Prince Hall Affiliation.

Bishop Ingram is married to Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram, the proud parent of one daughter Jennifer Eman' Keanne and grandparent of two treasured granddaughters, Jayda Eman' and Gabrielle.



The Reverend Mark Kelly Tyler, Ph.D.
Executive Director,
Department of Research
and Scholarship/Historiographer

In August 2024, Reverend Mark Kelly Tyler, Ph.D. was elected as the Executive Director, Department of Research and Scholarship/ Historiographer of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the 52nd Quadrennial Session of the General Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

Mark Kelly Tyler is a native of Oakland, CA, the third child of Bill and Elroy Tyler. He accepted God's call to preach the Gospel of Christ in 1987. He is an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

He is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University (B.A., Religion), Payne Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity), and the University of Dayton (Ph.D., Educational Leadership). In 1994, Dr. Tyler began serving full time in pastoral ministry in the AME Church. He served as a pastor of congregations from coast to coast: Oakley Chapel (Tebbetts, Missouri); Quinn Chapel (Jefferson City, Missouri); Allen Chapel (San Francisco, California); Prince Chapel by the Sea (La Jolla, California); Bethel (Oxford, Ohio); Bethel (West Chester, Pennsylvania); and Macedonia (Camden, New Jersey).

Dr. Tyler served with distinction as the 52nd pastor of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. Mother Bethel, founded by Bishop Richard Allen, has been a spiritual, social, and community force since the late 1700s. Mother Bethel is also the site of the final resting place of church founder, Bishop Allen. It is an international destination for pilgrims and tourists alike. Dr. Tyler's love for ministry, combined with his passion for history, led to many exciting initiatives and programs at Mother Bethel.

Dr. Tyler led the drive to secure funding for *Bishop Richard Allen: Apostle of Freedom (The Documentary)*, serving as Executive Producer and Writer on the project. He also served as the Producer and Writer for the Council of Bishops' production of *The Anvil: Echoes from the General Conference* which made its debut at the 2012 General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Most recently, Dr. Tyler was interviewed by Dr. Henry Louis "Skip" Gates in the PBS documentary, *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*. Additionally, Dr. Tyler has appeared in various other documentaries, including multiple episodes of *Philadelphia: The Great Experiment*; *The Scroll: Evidence of the Life Unseen*, Volume 2; the PBS series, *A Taste of History*; *Philly Firsts*; and *Coltrane's Philadelphia*.

Dr. Tyler has also been active in the world of theological education, currently serving as a Fully Affiliated Faculty Member at the Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio. He is a member of the Adjunct Faculty at Payne Theological Seminary (PTS) and a past Adjunct Professor at New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NBTS).

Dr. Tyler is the past Director of Church Relations and Alumni Affairs at PTS and the past Director of Church Vocations at NBTS. He serves on the Advisory Board for the Urban Theological Institute at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and served on the Advisory Board for Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, New York.

Dr. Tyler is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and in his "spare time" enjoys traveling to new places, riding his mountain bike, and roller skating. He and his wife, Leslie, live in the Philadelphia area. He has four wonderful children.

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AND VENUES
NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT A.M.E. CHURCH
Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor
16th Session of Annual Conferences

Alabama River Region Annual Conference

Date	August 20-22, 2025
Host Church	Saint John’s A.M.E. Church, Montgomery
Host Pastors	The Reverend Roosevelt and The Reverend Shelia Williams
Host Presiding Elder	The Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson

Northwest Alabama Annual Conference

Date	September 10-12, 2025
Host Church	Bryant Chapel A.M.E. Church, Birmingham
Host Pastor	The Reverend Damien Littlejohn
Host Presiding Elder	The Reverend Gloria A. Hall

Southeast Alabama Annual Conference

Date	September 24-26, 2025
Host Church	Saint John A.M.E. Church, Eufaula
Host Pastor	The Reverend Carlton Worthen
Host Presiding Elder	The Reverend Dr. Frederick D. Sherrod, III

Northeast Alabama Annual Conference

Date	October 8-10, 2025
Host Church	St. Luke A.M.E. Church, Opelika
Host Pastor	The Reverend Monique Summers
Host Presiding Elder	The Reverend Raymond B. Swafford

Southwest Alabama Annual Conference

Date	October 22-24, 2025
Host Church	Samuel Chapel A.M.E. Church, Pritchard
Host Pastor	The Reverend Vernon McLeod
Host Presiding Elder	The Reverend Charles Lewis

Ninth Episcopal District Planning Meeting	November 20-22, 2025 Renaissance Hotel – Montgomery
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2025 YPD and WMS Annual Days

Alabama River Region Annual Conference	YPD Annual Day, Saturday August 16 WMS Annual Day, Tuesday August 19
Northwest Alabama Annual Conference	YPD Annual Day Saturday, September 6 WMS Annual Day, Tuesday, September 9
Southeast Alabama Annual Conference	YPD Annual Day, Saturday, September 20 WMS Annual Day, Tuesday, September 23
Northeast Alabama Annual Conference	YPD Annual Day, Saturday, October 4 WMS Annual Day, Tuesday, October 7
Southwest Alabama Annual Conference	YPD Annual Day, Saturday, October 18 WMS Annual Day, Tuesday, October 21

THE 2025 CALENDAR

January 1	New Year's Day
January 5	Bishop McAllister preaching engagement; Gaines Chapel AME- Phenix City , AL.
January 12	Bishop McAllister preaching engagement; St. John's AME, Montgomery, AL.
January 13-16	37 th Church Growth Seminar, Union Bethel A.M.E. New Orleans, LA
January 15	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday, Celebrated January 20 th as Federal Holiday
January 19	Supervisor Deana McAllister speaking engagement; Allen Chapel, Skipperville, AL.
January 23-25	Bishops' Council Retreat Hyatt Regency, Garden Grove, California
January 22-25	Women's Missionary Society Executive Board Meeting and Leadership Training Institute Hyatt Regency Garden Grove, California
January 26	Bishop McAllister preaching engagement; Nichols Chapel AME- Phenix City, AL.
February 1	CDMC Orientation Tea, Location TBD
February 1	Henry McNeal Turner's Birthday
February 11	Jerena Lee's Birthday
February 8	9 th Episcopal District Founder's Day Worship and Symposium, Saint John AME, Birmingham, AL.
February 9	Bishop McAllister preaching engagement Saint John AME Birmingham, AL.
February 12	Founder's Day of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

February 14	Birthday of Richard Allen
February 14	Birthday of Frederick Douglass
February 16	Bishop McAllister preaching engagement; Saint John AME, Ft. Mitchell, AL
February 23	Bishop McAllister preaching engagement; Jones Chapel AME Church, Fairfield, AL.
February 24	Daniel A. Payne's Birthday
March 1	Bishop McAllister preaching engagement; Ward Chapel AME, Selma, AL.
March 20-22	Annual Ministries in Christian Education Training and Planning Meeting Nashville, TN.
March 21-22	9 th District Sons of Allen Men of Valor
March 23	Bishop McAllister preaching engagement; Greater Allen AME, Baton Rouge, LA
March 30	Bishop McAllister preaching engagement; First Community AME, Grand Rapids, MI
April 5	Alabama River Region WMS Conference Institute
April 20	Easter Sunday - Bishop McAllister preaching engagement; Saint John AME Huntsville
April 23-25	9 th District Mid-Year Conference Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL.
April 25-26	CLO Executive Board Meeting Virtual via ZOOM
May 3	Northwest WMS Conference Institute
May 14	Mother's Day
May 17	Southeast WMS Conference Institute
May 24	Northeast WMS Conference Institute
May 29	Memorial Day
May 31	Southwest WMS Conference Institute
June 1-5	Hampton University Ministers Conference
June 16	Bishop McAllister is preaching Monday, June 16th- The Connectional Council Worship Service during the AME Church General Board Meeting in Oklahoma City
June 16-18	AME Church General Board Meeting - Omni Oklahoma City Hotel-Oklahoma City, OK.
June 17	Remembrance of "Emanuel Nine"
June 18	Father's Day
June 30-July 3	Christian Education Congress

July 4	Independence Day
July 7-11	Connectional Lay Biennial Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta GA.
July 11-13	Connectional YPD Leadership Training Institute & Executive Board Meeting
August 16	Alabama River Region Annual Conference YPD Annual Day
August 19	Alabama River Region Annual Conference WMS Annual Day
August 20-22	Alabama River Region Annual Conference
September 6	Northwest Alabama Annual Conference YPD Annual Day
September 9	Northwest Alabama Annual Conference WMS Annual Day
September 10-12	Northwest Alabama Annual Conference
September 20	Southeast Alabama Annual Conference YPD Annual Day
September 23	Southeast Alabama Annual Conference WMS Annual Day
September 24-26	Southeast Alabama Annual Conference
October 4	Northeast Alabama Annual Conference YPD Annual Day
October 7	Northeast Alabama Annual Conference WMS Annual Day
October 8-10	Northeast Alabama Annual Conference
October 18	Southwest Alabama Annual Conference YPD Annual Day
October 19	Supervisor Deana McAllister speaking engagement: Saint John's, Montgomery, AL.
October 21	Southwest Alabama Annual Conference WMS Annual Day
October 22-24	Southwest Alabama Annual Conference
November 14 - 15	9 th Episcopal District Lay Organization 66 th Annual Convention
November 20-22	9 th Episcopal District Planning Meeting Renaissance Hotel Montgomery, AL
November 27	Thanksgiving Day
December Dates TBD	Christmas Gathering with Bishop and Supervisor McAllister in the Five Annual Conferences
December 25	Christmas Day
December 31	New Year's Eve

