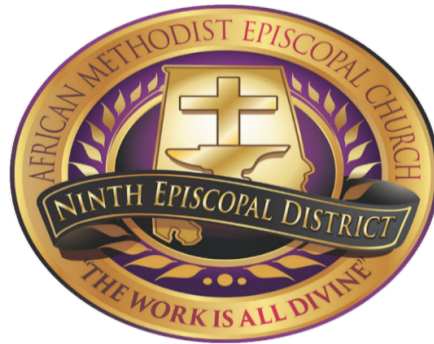


*The Planning Meeting*  
*of the*  
**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**  
**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**NOVEMBER 19 – 22, 2025**

*Conference Year Theme:*  
*Always Moving Forward with Excellence*  
*Philippians 3:13-14*

*Quadrennial Theme:*  
*The Work Is All Divine Romans 8:28*



***The Service of Ordination***  
***and the Sacrament of Holy Communion***  
***Saturday, November 22, 2025 ~ 11:00 a.m.***

**Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
**706 E. Patton Avenue | Montgomery, Alabama 36111**

**Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr.**  
*Presiding Prelate*

**Mrs. Deana Young McAllister**  
*Episcopal Supervisor*

**Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson**  
*Host Presiding Elder*

**Reverend Dr. Agnes Lover**  
*Host Pastor*

# ***The Order of Service***

Saturday, November 22, 2025 ~ 11:00 a.m.

***Worship Leader:***

**The Reverend Dr. Ronald D. Sterling**

## **The Processional**

### **Hymn No. 25**

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty;  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee;  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth, and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity! Amen.

## **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.

## **The Call to Worship**

**The Reverend Benjamin Lightner**

**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 Opening Hymn**

**The Reverend Tracy Horn**

#### **Hymn No. 1**

#### **“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.

Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,  
'Tis music in the sinners' ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood availed for me.

He speaks and listening to His voice, new life the dead receive;  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor, believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold your Savior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy. Amen.

### **The Invocation**

**The Reverend Dr. Isaac N. Hudson, Jr.**

### **The Choral Response**

#### **“We Need to Hear From You”**

We need to hear from you. We need a word from you.

If we don't hear from you, what will we do?

Wanting you more each day. Show us your perfect way.

There is no other way that we can live.

### **The Worship Through Music**

**The Ninth Episcopal District Conference Choir**

### **The Scripture Reading**

**The Reverend Dr. Carmen Walker Ellerbee**

*1 Timothy 3:8-13; 1 Timothy 5:17; Ephesians 5:15-17, 20-21; Ephesians 6:11-13*

Likewise must the Deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a Deacon, being found blameless. Let the Deacons be the mate of one spouse, ruling their children and their own homes well. For they that have used well the office of a Deacon will purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. Even so must their spouses be grave, not slanderers, but sober, faithful in all things.

Let the elders that rule be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.

See then that you walk circumspectly not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is; giving thanks always for all

things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God.

Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

#### **The Introit to the Decalogue**

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 Summary of the Decalogue**

**The Reverend Alvelyn Sanders Swafford**

And he said to Him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like unto it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend 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.

#### **The Worship in Giving**

**The Committee on Stewardship**

#### **The Presentation of the Bishop**

**The Reverend Dr. Willie Eugene Marshall**

#### **The Presentation of the Preacher**

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

#### **The Worship Through Music**

**The Ninth Episcopal District Conference Choir**

#### **The Ordination Sermon**

**Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.**  
*The 115<sup>th</sup> Elected and Consecrated Bishop  
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

#### **The Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

**The Reverend Dr. Agnes Lover**

**Hymn No.551**  
**"Completely Yes"**  
(AAHH)

"Yes, Lord! Yes, Lord!" From the bottom of my heart to the depths of my soul,  
"Yes, Lord!" Completely yes! My soul says, "Yes!"

I Love you! I love you! From the bottom of my heart to the depths of my soul,  
I love you! I really do. My soul says, "Yes!"  
(Sandra Crouch)

### **The Consecration of Deaconesses**

**Pastor:** Reverend Father in God, I present these holy women to be consecrated Deaconesses.

**Bishop:** Take heed these women you present be proper persons to perform the work of Deaconess, and that they be of sober minds, modest in all their ways and possessed of large charity.

**Pastor:** They have been examined and are believed to be well qualified to enter upon the sacred duties of Deaconesses.

**Bishop:** It becometh the Deaconess that she shall be pious, chaste, temperate in all things, modest, humble, industrious, and devout, as she is to serve the Church of God to His praise and glory. Throughout the history of the Church, God has been pleased to call and qualify certain women for the gentle and holy service of ministering to the Church and the ministry. Such women were Deborah, Mary, the Holy Mother, Eunice, Lois, Pricilla, Lydia, and Phoebe. And in the latter days many others. May the Lord bless and acknowledge these persons according as He has blessed the ministration of all holy women. May they withdraw themselves from all wordly cares and vocations and give themselves up entirely to the ministrations of the Church and to suffering humanity.

*Then shall the Bishop inquire of the candidate(s) as follows:*

**Bishop:** Have you duly considered the sacredness, the exactions and responsibilities of the office which you have come to enter?

**Answer:** I have considered them all.

**Bishop:** Are you determined to observe all the rules for a Deaconess, give yourself up to such life and duties as these rules require, and keep yourself unspotted from the world, and all its vanities and frivolities?

**Answer:** I am so determined.

**Bishop:** Will you be governed by the Discipline of the AME Church and subject to the direction given in the discharge of the duties of your office?

**Answer:** I will be so governed.

*Then shall the person(s) to be consecrated kneel. The Bishop taking each candidate by the hand, shall say to her:*

**Bishop:** Be thou consecrated to the office and work of a Deaconess in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Then shall the Sponsor place the bonnet on the head of candidate.*

## **The Order of Changing from Local to Itinerant Ministry**

*A Liturgy by Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.*

*115 Elected and Consecrated Bishop*

*African Methodist Episcopal Church*

**Bishop:** By the grace of God, and the vote of the Annual Conference, you have been granted the privilege and opportunity to move from Local (Elder/Deacon) status, with its limitations of function and service in the congregation, to Itinerant ministry and a broader field of function and service in the Church and Annual Conference. Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to this place of ministry in the Church?

**Candidate:** I do believe so.

**Bishop:** Do you willingly and fully accept the responsibility of Itinerant ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, to travel and, as need may require, to pastor the flock of Christ, and to perform other such ministries as your gifts and graces may demand and opportunity may afford?

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

**Bishop:** Will you reaffirm your vows as a Deacon/an Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church?

### **For DEACONS**

**Candidate:** I will faithfully assist the Elder in Divine Service; to assist with the distribution of the Holy Communion when requested; to read, study, and expound the Scriptures; to instruct the youths; to engage in ministries of compassion and outreach; and in the absence of the Elder to baptize.

### **For ELDERS**

**Candidate:** I will faithfully fulfill the vows of an Itinerant Elder in Divine Service in the Church; to serve the priestly and prophetic duties of Itinerant ministry in the Church, to consecrate and distribute the Elements of the Holy Communion; to baptize, to bury the dead, to read, study, and expound the Scriptures; to instruct the youths; and to engage in ministries of compassion and outreach.

**Bishop:** Will you reverently submit to the godly judgment of them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonition?

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

**Bishop:** May this change in ministerial status inspire and encourage you to be of greater usefulness in the Church of Jesus Christ. Congratulations. God bless you in Itinerant ministry. Amen. Amen. Amen.

**(The Reverend Dr. Marques Wheeler)**

**The Elder:** Bishop McAllister, we present these persons to be admitted Itinerant and Local Deacons.

**Bishop:** Take heed that the persons whom you present to us be apt and meet, by their godly conversation, to exercise their ministry duly to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church.

**(The Reverend Dr. Ronald D. Sterling)**

**The Elder:** I have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and think them so to be.

Itinerant Deacons: Sis. LaDonna Jackson Amos, Sis. Krystal Arnese Blackmon, Sis. Sabrina Regnae Henry, Bro. Jonathan Townsend, Sis. Tasha Williams, and Sis. Kelsey Wilson.

Local Deacons: Sis. Lois Elaine Miles and Sis. Robbie Thomas

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

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 God's people?

**The Ordinands:** *I trust so.*

**Bishop:** Do you unfeignedly believe all the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

**The Ordinands:** *I do believe them.*

**Bishop:** Will you diligently read and expound the same to the people whom you may be appointed to serve?

**The Ordinands:** *I will.*

**Bishop:** It appertains to the office of a Deacon to assist the Elder in Divine Service. And especially when the elder administers the Holy Communion, to help in the distribution thereof and to read and expound the Holy Scriptures; to instruct the youths, and in the absence of the Elder, to baptize. And furthermore, it is the office of the Deacon to search for the sick, poor, and impotent, that they may be visited and relieved. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

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

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

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

**Bishop:** Will you reverently obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonition?

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

## **The Act of Diaconate Ordination**

**Bishop:** Take authority to execute the office of an Itinerant Deacon in the Church of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

**The Congregation: Amen.**

**Bishop:** Take authority to read the Scriptures, and to preach the same in the Church of God.

**The Congregation: Amen.**

**(The Reverend Alvelyn Sanders Swafford)**

**The Elder:** Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning, and you yourselves like unto those who wait for their Lord, when He will return from the wedding; that when He comes and knocks, they may open unto Him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when He comes shall find watching.

Verily I say unto you that He shall gird Himself, and make them sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if He shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

### **The Liturgy for the Ordination of Elders**

**(The Reverend Ruby Heard Bustamonte)**

**The Elder:** Bishop McAllister, we present unto you these persons to be admitted Itinerant and Local Elders.

**Bishop:** Take heed that the persons whom you present to us be apt and meet, by their godly conversation, to exercise their ministry duly to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church.

**(The Reverend Dr. Eric Brown)**

**The Elder:** We have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and think them so to be.

Itinerant: Reverend Theresa Brown, Reverend Stephany Colenburg,  
Reverend Desi Aranaz Morgan, Sr., and Reverend Carlos Redding.  
Local: Reverend Bobby Leon Jakes.

**Bishop:** Members of the Conference, these are they whom we purpose this day, God willing, to ordain Itinerant Elders, for after due examination we find not the contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same. But if there be any of you who know any impediment or crimes in any of them, for which they ought not be received into this holy ministry, come forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

You have heard, as well in your private examinations as in the exhortation which was just made to you, and in the writings of the Apostles, of what dignity and of what great importance this office is, whereunto you are now called. And now again we exhort you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you remember how high a dignity and to 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 of His children who are in the midst of this evil world, that they may be saved through Christ forever.

**(The Reverend Leodis Strong)**



**The Elder:** Have always, therefore, printed in your remembrance what 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 may be privileged to serve, are His Spouse, and His Body.

**(The Reverend Dr. Eric Nathan)**

**The Elder:** And if it should happen the same church or any member thereof, 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 ensue. Wherefore consider within yourselves the end of the ministry towards the children of God, 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 such as are or shall be committed to your charge unto that agreement in the faith, and to that 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 Sheryl Shipman)**

**The Elder:** Forasmuch then as your office is both of so great excellence, and of so great difficulty, you surely see how great care and study you ought to apply yourselves, as neither you yourselves offend, nor be occasion that others offend. Howbeit, you cannot have a mind and will thereunto of yourselves; for that will and ability are given of God alone. Therefore you ought, and have need, to pray earnestly for His Holy Spirit. And seeing that you cannot by any other means compass the doing of so weighty a work pertaining to the salvation of humankind, but with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same, consider how studious you ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures and in framing the manners both of yourselves and of them that pertain unto you, according to the rules of the same Scriptures, and for this selfsame cause how you ought to forsake and set aside as much as you may all worldly care and studies.

**Bishop:** We have good hope that you have all weighed and pondered these things long before now; and that you have clearly determined by God's grace to give yourselves to this office whereby it has pleased God to call you, so that as much as lies in you, you will apply yourselves 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 Savior Jesus Christ, for the Heavenly assistance of the Holy Spirit, that by daily reading and weighing of the Scriptures you may wax riper and stronger in your ministry, and that you may so endeavor yourselves, from time to time, to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to fashion them after the rule and doctrine of Christ that you may be wholesome and goodly examples and patterns for the people to follow.

And now that this present congregation of Christ here assembled may also understand your minds and wills 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 His Church, shall demand of you touching the same.

**Bishop:** 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?

**The Ordinands:** *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 conducted and proved by Scripture?

**The Ordinands:**        *I am so persuaded and have determined by God's grace.*

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

**The Ordinands:**        *I will do so, by the help of the Lord.*

**Bishop:**                Will you be ready with faithful diligence always to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrine 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?

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

**Bishop:**                Will you be diligent in prayer and in reading 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?

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

**Bishop:**                Will you be diligent to frame 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?

**The Ordinands:**        *I shall apply myself thereto, 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 may be committed to your charge?

**The Ordinands:**        *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?

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

**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 He may accomplish His work which He has begun, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS**

Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire  
**And lighten with celestial fire;**

Thou the anointing Spirit art  
**Who doth thy sevenfold gifts impart**

Thy blessed unction from above  
**Is comfort, light, and fire of love.**

Enable with perpetual light  
**The dullness of our blinded sight;**

Anoint and cheer our soiled face

**With the abundance of Thy grace.**

Keep far our foes; give peace at home;  
**Where Thou art guide, no ill can come.**

Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
**And Thee of both to be but one!**

That through the ages all along  
**This may be our endless song;**

Praise to Thy eternal merit,  
**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**(The Reverend Willie White)**

**The Elder:** Almighty God, Heavenly Father, who of Your infinite love and goodness towards us have given us Your only and most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redemption by His death and was ascended into heaven, sent abroad into the world His Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Teachers, and Pastors by whose labor and ministry He gathered together a great flock in all parts of the world, to set forth the eternal praise of Your holy name; for these so great benefits of Your eternal goodness, and for that You have vouchsafed to call these Your servants here present to the same office and ministry appointed for the salvation of humankind, we render unto You most hearty thanks.

**(The Reverend Wendell Jones)**

**The Elder:** We praise and worship You, and we humbly beseech You by the same blessed Son to grant unto all, who either here or elsewhere call upon Your name, that we may continue to show ourselves thankful unto You for these and all Your other benefits, and that we may daily increase and go forward in the knowledge and faith of You and Your Son, by the Holy Spirit. So that as well by these Your ministers as by them over whom they shall be appointed Your ministers and Your holy name may be forever glorified and Your blessed kingdom enlarged through the same, Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

*The bishop, with seven elders, shall lay their hands severally upon the head of every one that receives  
The Order of Itinerant Elder*

*The receivers humbly kneeling and the bishop saying:*

**Bishop:** The Lord pour upon You the Holy Spirit for the office and work of an Itinerant Elder in the Church of God, now committed unto 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 Congregation: Amen.**

*Then shall be delivered to each of them, kneeling, the Bible into their hands, saying:*

**Bishop:** 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. Amen.

**The Congregation: Amen.**

**(The Reverend James Platt )**

**The Elder:** Most merciful Father, we beseech You to send upon these Your servants Your heavenly blessings that they may be clothed with righteousness and that the word spoken by their mouths may never be spoken in vain. Grant, also, that they shall deliver out of Your most Holy Word, or agreeably to the same, as the means of our salvation; and that in all our words and deeds may seek Your glory and the increase of Your kingdom through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**The Service of Holy Communion**

**Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.**  
**Chief Celebrant**

**The Communion Hymn**

**Hymn No. 137**  
**“The Blood That Jesus Shed for Me”**  
(AMECH)

The blood that Jesus shed for me, Way back on Calvary,  
The blood that gives me strength from day to day, It will never lose its power.

*Refrain*

*It reaches to the highest mountain; It flows to the lowest valley;*  
*The blood that gives me strength from day to day, it will never lose its power.*

It soothes my doubts and calms my fears, And it dries all my tears;  
The blood that gives me strength from day to day, It will never lose its power.  
(Andraé Crouch)

**The Bidding:** You that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbor, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in His holy ways; draw near with faith to receive the holy Sacrament, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, in the presence of His church.

**The General Confession**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed against Your divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father for Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Prayer of Consecration**

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 thereby 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 that He was betrayed 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.” Likewise after supper He took the cup and when He had given thanks He gave it to them saying, “All of you drink this, for this is My blood of 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 Sharing of the Elements**

(Bishop, Presiding Elders, Board of Examiners, the Ordinands, their families, the congregation.)

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

### **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of grace, we give You praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Hymn No. 525**

#### **What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine (AMECH)**

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

#### *Refrain*

*Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

## ***The Commissioning Service***

### **The Prayer for Guidance**

**Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr.  
129th Elected and Consecrated Bishop  
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

### **The Reading of the Scripture**

**The Reverend Leodis Strong  
The Reverend David Reddick**

*Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:2-3)*

*“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:19-20)*

### **The Dispatching Hymn**

**Hymn No. 220**

**The Reverend Joseph Hall**

## **“Go, Preach My Gospel”**

(AMECH, Retreat)

“Go, preach My gospel,” saith the Lord.  
“Bid the whole earth My grace receive.  
Explain to them My sacred word;  
Bid them believe, obey, and live.

“I’ll make My great commission known, and ye shall prove  
My gospel true by all the works that I have done  
And all the wonders ye shall do.

“Go, heal the sick; go, raise the dead;  
Go, cast out devils in My name;  
Nor let My prophets be afraid,  
Though Greeks reproach and Jews blaspheme.

“While thus ye follow My commands I’m with you till  
The world shall end; all power is trusted in My hands;  
I can destroy and can defend.”

He spake, and light shone round His head,  
On a bright cloud to heaven He rode.  
They to the farthest nation spread  
The grace of their ascended God.

**The Reading of Appointments**

**Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.**

**The Doxology**

**The Benediction**

**Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.**

### **Hymn No. 45**

#### **“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”**

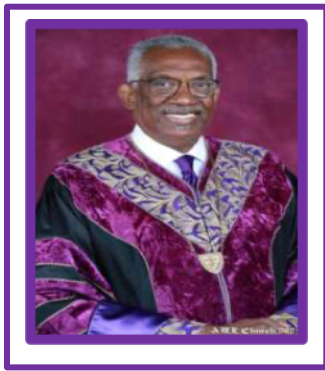
(AMECH)

God be with you till we meet again; by His counsels guide uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; ‘neath His wings protecting hide you,  
Daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; when life’s perils thick confound you,  
Put His arms unfailing round you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; Keep love’s banner floating o’er you;  
Smite death’s threatening ways before you: God be with you till we meet again  
*(Words by Jeremiah E. Rankin; Tune by William G. Tomer)*



***Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.***  
***The 115<sup>th</sup> Elected and Consecrated Bishop***  
***African Methodist Episcopal Church***

**Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.** was elected and consecrated the 115th Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1996 at Louisville, Kentucky. He was assigned to the 14th Episcopal District which included six countries in West Africa. In the 2000 – 2004 quadrennial, he served as chair of the Lay Commission and as a member of the World Methodist Council. He has chaired the Health Commission, and twice as chair of the Commission on Seminaries, Universities, Colleges and Schools. In 2002, Bishop Richardson served as President of the Council of Bishops and the Presiding Bishop of the 19th Episcopal District with headquarters in Johannesburg, South Africa. Beginning in 2004, he served as the presiding bishop of the Second Episcopal District which includes North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC. For eight years, the Second District saw phenomenal growth in membership, educational support, missions-related ministries, and ministry to men, health, prisons, the advancement of women in ministry, and a commitment to social justice and political action. Bishop and Mrs. Richardson took great pride in the district's embrace of ministries to youths and young adults. At the 2012 General Conference, Bishop Richardson was elected president of the General Board and was assigned to the Eleventh Episcopal District which includes Florida and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. For nine years, he chaired the Board of Trustees at Edward Waters College while also serving as board chair of his seminary alma mater, the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta.

Prior to his election as a Bishop, he was senior minister of the Bethel AME Church, Tallahassee, FL. For eighteen years his leadership and teaching skills produced a major ministry of growth in membership, new and expanded facilities, outreach to the poor and dispossessed, with an active presence in the community. Under his leadership, a ten-acre camp was acquired called Bethel-By-the-Lake. In honor of he and Mrs. Richardson, the well-appointed recreational site has been renamed Camp Richardson.

Bishop Richardson began his educational pursuit in the public schools of Tampa, Florida. He received the B.A. degree in Philosophy and Religion from the Florida A&M University (where he was also noted as the head drum major of the famed Marching '100 'Band). He received the Master of Divinity degree from the Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta and the Doctor of Sacred Theology (STD) degree at the ITC through the Atlanta Theological Association.

His ministry has included teaching at the Interdenominational Theological Center and Morris Brown College in Atlanta, and as an adjunct instructor at his alma mater, Florida A&M University. He has received recognition from the City of Tallahassee, the State of Florida and the many places he has taken his message of hope and encouragement. In 1994, he was cited by Tallahassee Magazine as one of the most influential people of that city in the past fifteen years. Bishop Richardson has contributed articles or chapters in several books, including: "The Great High Priest" in the African American Devotional Bible, 1997 (Congress of National Black Churches); "Courage to Face the Battles of Life" in *Ain't That Good News*, 1984 (the Rev. Gregory G. M. Ingram, ed.); "An Introduction to the New Testament" and "Pastoral Care" in *The Pastor's Manual of the AME Church*, 1976 and 2000 (Dr. George L. Champion, ed.); and has written several instructional manuals for discipleship training and spiritual formation for churches he has served and for use on the lecture circuit, which include *Take Me To The Water: A Manual For Christian Baptism*, 1996; *African Methodism 101*, 1996; *Traditional and Charismatic Styles of Ministry*, 1996; *The Wedding Manual*, 1994; *The Funeral Manual*, 1995; and *Headlines to Homilies: Sermons on Political, Commercial*

and Other Popular Annoyances, 2000. His most recent publication is "Let the Church say Amen: Liturgy, Litany and Homily," published in 2012.

His travels outside of the United States have taken him to 50 countries, commonwealths and nation states. Bishop Richardson currently serves as the Senior Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. At the close of the 51st General Conference, Bishop Richardson was assigned to the Terrific, Talented Tenth Episcopal District embracing the state of Texas. He proudly serves as vice chair of the Board of Trustees of Paul Quinn College in Dallas, Texas. Bishop Richardson is the recipient of honorary doctoral degrees from Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Edward Waters University of Jacksonville, and Florida A&M University, Tallahassee.

He and his wife of 50+ years, Dr. Connie Speights, are the proud parents of two adult children, Monique (an elected County Judge), and Trey (a certified radiographer and recipient of two master's degrees in music theory and classical saxophone performance).