

Ninth Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

 **FOUNDERS'**

DAY

*Bloody Sunday
Weekend*

**Friday, March 6th –
Sunday, March 8th 2026**

Theme:

**“This is What Vision Looks like
when History Meets Hope”**

And the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me?

Tell the children of Israel to go forward.”

~ Exodus 14:15

BROWN CHAPEL

African Methodist Episcopal Church
410 Martin Luther King Drive
Selma, Alabama 36703

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr., PRESIDING PRELATE
Supervisor Deana Y. McAllister, EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR
Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn Denson, PRESIDING ELDER
Reverend Leodis Strong, PASTOR



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

The Episcopal Word

On this Founder's Day, we celebrate the enduring legacy of the African Methodist Episcopal Church! an ecclesial institution that has stood as a pillar of faith, justice, and liberation since 1787 and incorporated in 1816. As we gather in 2026 at the Historic Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma, Alabama, for our Founders 'Day–Bloody Sunday Weekend, we honor the vision and courage of Richard Allen, Sarah Allen, Daniel Payne, Morris Brown, Henry McNeal Turner, Jarena Lee, and countless others whose unwavering conviction laid the foundation for a denomination rooted in God's Word and committed to justice, equality, and the uplift of those marginalized by oppression. Their legacy calls each of us to embody the spirit of Christ as we continue His work in a more excellent way.

The observance of Founder's Day within the Ninth We are grateful for the faithful leadership of our host pastor, Reverend Leodis Strong, and the Brown Chapel AME Church family, whose sacred space continues to serve as holy ground in the ongoing struggle for justice and righteousness. Brown Chapel remains a beacon of hope and a reminder that the church must forever stand at the intersection of faith and freedom.

Episcopal District compels us to give thanks to God for His guiding hand from the very beginning of our existence to this present moment. Indeed, we can declare with great fervency, "We have come this far by faith!" As we reflect on this year's commemoration, we are reminded of the continuing call to activism, justice, and faithful witness. The spirit of Selma still speaks, and the mandate of the church remains clear: to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.

As we gather for Social Justice Night on Friday, March 6, 2026, we are reminded that the work of justice is not confined to history but it is a present and ongoing assignment. The same God who strengthened those who marched, prayed, and stood in the face of adversity continues to empower us today to confront injustice in all its forms. We honor the courage of those who left the walls of Brown Chapel and stepped onto the Edmund Pettus Bridge, demonstrating that faith must be lived out in action.

We are honored to welcome Bishop Frank Madison Reid III, the 138th elected and consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, as our Founders 'Day preacher. We are confident that through the proclamation of the Gospel, he will inspire, challenge, and equip us to continue the work of ministry with renewed strength and holy boldness.

Additionally, we are privileged to have the editor of The Christian Recorder, Dr. John Thomas III, who will serve as our symposium lecturer. His insights and scholarship will provide a deeper understanding of the church's role in advancing justice and shaping the future of ministry in a changing world.

It is also my honor and sacred privilege to serve as the preacher for the Bloody Sunday Worship Service. As we stand on holy ground and reflect upon the sacrifices made for freedom and justice, we will seek God's guidance to continue the work that still lies before us, proclaiming a Gospel that liberates, transforms, and calls us to faithful action.

Beloved, as we commemorate this sacred occasion, let us not only remember the past, but also recommit ourselves to the work ahead. The legacy we have inherited is not merely to be celebrated, it is to be continued. May we stand firm in our faith, steadfast in our witness, and committed to ensuring that the next generation inherits a church that remains faithful to its mission and fearless in its pursuit of justice.

In His Name because of Christ and Calvary,

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

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister
Episcopal Supervisor
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

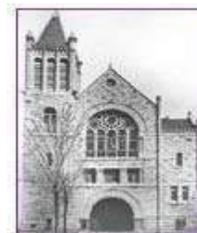
Bethel AME was dedicated with Allen as pastor. To establish Bethel's independence from interfering white Methodists, Allen, a former Delaware slave, successfully sued in the Pennsylvania courts in 1807 and 1815 for the right of his congregation to exist as an independent institution. Because black Methodists 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

Friday, March 6, 2026

7:00PM

Social Justice Worship Service

Reverend Dr. Jamal H. Bryant, Preaching

Saturday, March 7, 2026

10:00 AM

Founder's Day Worship and Celebration

Bishop Frank Madison Reid, III, Preaching

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Complimentary Lunch

Bullock Community Center

1428 Broad Street

Selma, Alabama (Bus service will be provided)

2:00 p.m.

The Founder's Day Symposium

Dr. John Thomas, III Ph.D., Lecturer

Sunday, March 8, 2026

9:00AM

Bloody Sunday Celebration

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr., Preaching

Social Justice Worship Service

Friday, March 6, 2026

7:00 p.m.

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Worship Leader

Praise & Worship

The Prayer (Please Remain Standing)..... The Reverend Sheryl Shipman

**The Congregational Hymn #306.....The Reverend Grandville Anderson
“Lead Me to Calvary”**

The Scripture Lesson.....Exodus 14:10-16.....The Reverend Anre’ Faush

The Scripture Lesson.....John 15:14-25..... The Reverend Twilla Burns

The Ministry of Music.

The Presentation of the Bishop..... The Reverend Gregory McLeod

The Introduction of the RevivalistBishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.

The Ministry of Music

**The MessageThe Reverend Dr. Jamal H. Bryant, Pastor
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, Stonecrest, Georgia**

Decision Time.....Reverend Dr. Bryant

The Ministry of Giving

The Announcements.....The Reverend Leodis Strong

The Doxology Hymn #45...”God Be with You”

The Benediction Reverend Dr. Bryant

The Founder's Day Worship Service

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Ten O'clock in the Morning

The Reverend Dr. Frederick Sherrod, III, Worship Leader

Presiding Elder of the Dothan-Eufaula District

THE PROCESSIONAL

AMEC Hymn No. 25 Holy, Holy, Holy

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

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 Dr. Jacquelyn Denson
Presiding Elder, Montgomery-Selma District

*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 239 years and 210 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 Gloria A. Hall
Presiding Elder,
West Birmingham-Ensley-Greensboro 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 Antonio Thomas
Presiding Elder, Camden 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

The Ninth Episcopal District Conference Choir

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

(All readings in NRSV.)

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter

Presiding Elder,
South Birmingham-Huntsville-Bessemer District

THE EPISTLE

Romans 10:8-13

The Reverend Raymond B. Swafford

Presiding Elder, Tuskegee District

THE GOSPEL

St. Luke 4:16-20

The Reverend Dr. Willie E. Marshall

Presiding Elder, Ozark-Troy 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 Dr. Letitia Watford
Presiding Elder, Phenix City 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 Brian Blackwell
*Executive Director,
Department of Retirement Services
The African Methodist Episcopal Church*

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 Dwight E. Dillard
*Presiding Elder,
Birmingham-Florence-Tuscaloosa 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 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 EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR The Reverend Maurice Wright II

Why Are We Here?

Supervisor Deana Young McAllister

**THE PRESENTATION
OF THE BISHOP**

The Reverend Leodis Strong
Pastor, Historic Brown Chapel AME Church
Selma, Alabama

**THE PRESENTATION
OF THE PREACHER**

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

THE SERMONIC HYMN

**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 Frank Madison Reid, III
*Retired Bishop,
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Bishop Reid*

**THE INVITATION TO
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

*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)

GREETINGS

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister
Episcopal Supervisor
Ninth Episcopal District

THE WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Leodis Strong

THE BENEDICTION

Bishop Frank M. Reid, III

The Founder's Day Symposium

Saturday, March 7, 2026

2:00 p.m.

The Reverend Dr. Eric Brown, Convener

Singing the Lord's Song

The Reverend Maurice Wright

The Prayer of Invocation

The Reverend Debra Ballard

The Scripture Reading
Matthew 19:13-15 NRSV

The Reverend Joshua Mann

The Presentation of the Bishop

The Reverend Trevor E. Woolridge

The Occasion
and Presentation of the Speaker

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

The Guest Presenter

Dr. John Thomas, III Ph.D.
Editor, The Christian Recorder

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

The Closing Prayer

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister
Episcopal Supervisor,
Ninth Episcopal District

Bloody Sunday Worship Service

Sunday, March 8, 2026

9:00 A.M.

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Worship Leader

Processional

Doxology... ..”Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow”

Rev. Maurice Wright, II, Ms. Cynthia Moore, Mr. Ahmad Hall

The University of Alabama Afro American Gospel Choir

The Call to Worship... .. The Reverend Leodis Strong

The Hymn of Praise”Lift Every Voice and Sing”

The Invocation..... The Reverend Brandon Thornton

The Choral Response Congregation, Musicians, Choirs

The Ministry in Music.....The University of Alabama Afro American Gospel Choir
Mr. Ahmad Hall

Old Testament Scriptures 2 Chronicles 7:14-16 (NIV) ... The Reverend Dexter Patterson
Ward Chapel AME Church

The Epistle.....Romans 8:35-39 (NIV) The Reverend Glen Laster
Loma Nazarene University Department of Sociology

The Gospel.....Luke 4:16-26..... The Reverend Valtoria Jackson
St. Peter AME Church

The Ministry in Music.....The University of Alabama Afro American Gospel Choir
Mr. Ahmad Hall

The Welcome Ms. Joyce O’Neal, Steward Pro-Tem
Historic Brown Chapel AME Church

Special Greetings and Remarks

***Mr. Brent Leggs, Executive Director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund
National Trust for Historic Preservation***

Congresswoman Terri Sewell, Alabama's 7th District

*The Reverend Al Sharpton, President & Founder, National Action Network
Host of Politics Nation on MSNOW*

Mr. Ryan P. Haygood, Esq., President & CEO, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

Ms. Jenai Nelson, President & Director Counsel, Legal Defense Fund

The Ministry in Music.....The University of Alabama Afro American Gospel Choir
Mr. Ahmad Hall

The Offering... ..Ms. Tiffany Tolbert
Executive Director, National Trust for the Preservation of Historic Black Churches

The Presentation of the Bishop of the Ninth Episcopal District The Reverend Dwight Dillard
Senior Presiding Elder of the Ninth Episcopal District

Special Musical Selection... .. The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
Executive Director, Music and Arts Ministry, AME Church

The Keynote Message The Right Reverend Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr.
Presiding Bishop of the Ninth Episcopal District of the AME Church

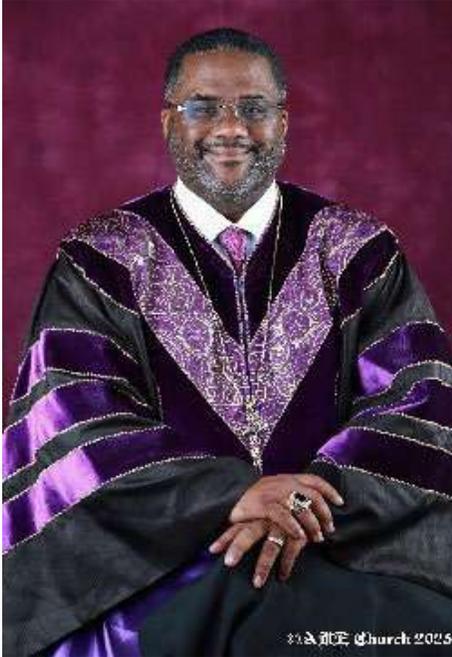
The Invitational Selection... .. The University of Alabama Afro American Gospel Choir
Mr. Ahmad Hall

Acknowledgements and Recognitions The Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn Denson
Presiding Elder, Montgomery/Selma District

The Hymn of Affirmation... .. "We Shall Overcome"

The Benediction... .. Bishop McAllister

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
144th Elected and Consecrated Bishop
African Methodist Episcopal Church



Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr. was elected and consecrated the 144th bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 2024 in Columbus, Ohio. He was assigned to the Ninth Episcopal District which makes up the state of Alabama. Bishop McAllister, Jr., and Bishop McAllister, Sr., are the first father and son bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church to serve in active episcopal ministry at the same time in the history of the church which dates back to 1816. In the 2024-2028 quadrennial, he will serve as commission chair of the AME Women In Ministry. Bishop McAllister served as the 35th anointed Senior Minister of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Tallahassee, Florida. A fourth-generation minister, he answered the call to ministry in 1992.

As pastor of the Greater Institutional AME Church in Chicago, Illinois, his devotion to community growth and development led to the creation of Come Home For Christmas that serviced nearly 5,000 homeless, poor, and underprivileged adults and 2000

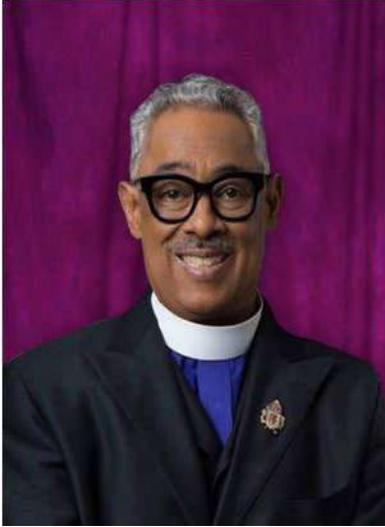
children; raised \$750,000.00 to support needy families in Chicago during the Christmas season.

During his pastoral tenure, Bishop McAllister showed that the ministry experiences should reflect not only the enduring love for Jesus Christ, but also for one another. He insists that “our focus, as we turn the proverbial pages of time, should show the outside world that we are on the CARING END of ministry.” To this end, as former President/CEO of the Bethel Community Development Corporation (Bethel CDC), an affiliate church ministry, Bishop McAllister has supervised the construction and rehabilitation of 85 homes for low income families in the city of Tallahassee at a cost of 15 million dollars, and has led the church in the building of ten homes for new construction of single homes for rental for low income families. He served as Chairman of the Board of the A Life Recovery Center that provided drug and alcohol rehabilitation to residential and outpatient clients; nearly a two thousand men and women have been able to overcome their drug addiction. Under his leadership, Bethel’s annual Thanksgiving Basket Project provides hearty meals for nearly twenty-five hundred people. A few years ago, Reverend Julius inspired the members of Bethel to renovate Bethel By The Lake. The camp is a ten acre camp site three miles from the main worship, study, and community complex. The commercial swimming pool was renovated, six basketball courts were added, and the fellowship hall was completely restored. The church raised a quarter of a million dollars in 22 months to liquidate the mortgage.

Bishop McAllister is passionate about Christian Stewardship. As he has led congregations to understand and accept stewardship as a biblical mandate, he teaches that managing and giving one’s time, talent, and material resources to glorify and serve God is an expression of one’s faith and an integral part of Christian commitment and responsibility to build up the body of Christ. During his sixteen-year tenure the number of tithers increased and led the Bethel Church in averaging nearly 2 million dollars in tithes and offerings over the last 16 years.

Bishop McAllister, Jr., is married to the former Deana Elizabeth Young. They are the proud parents of three children: Julius Harrison McAllister III, (A graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and he works as a Housing Specialist for the Tallahassee Housing Authority) Collin McKinley Young McAllister, (a rising Junior at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University in Tallahassee, where he carries a 3.9 GPA with a major in Finance and will study abroad at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy in the fall) and Dillan David Jeremiah McAllister is a rising senior at Florida State University High School in Tallahassee, Florida.

Bishop Frank Madison Reid, III
Retired Bishop,
African Methodist Episcopal Church



Bishop Frank M. Reid, III is an innovative thought leader, powerful speaker, dynamic preacher and an international change agent.

Born in Chicago, IL., in 1951, Bishop Reid is a 5th generation AME minister. Both of Reid's Grandfather and Father, Frank M. Reid, Sr. and Frank M. Reid, Jr. served the African Methodist Church as Bishops. Bishop Frank M. Reid, III is a 3rd generation Bishop.

As a child, Bishop Reid was surrounded by books and raised to treasure educational excellence and achievement. Bishop Reid is a life-long learner and an avid reader. The statement, "readers become leaders" is a driving force in his life.

During his 28-year tenure at Bethel Baltimore, Bishop Reid led the congregation to become one church in two locations and became a pre-eminent spiritual beacon to the nation. His TV Ministry ("Outreach of Love") flourished as well, reaching millions via the BET, The Armed Services Network and Word Networks. Adding to his media offerings, Bishop Reid authored three influential and bestselling books, "The Nehemiah Plan", "Restoring the House of God" and "Up From Slavery." He also co-authored (with Dr. Jeremiah Wright) "When Black Men Stand Up for God: Reflections on the Million Man March." Notably, Bishop Reid and Bethel Baltimore received numerous mentions and were featured in the HBO television series, "The Wire."

In July, 2016, Bishop Reid was elected as the 138th Bishop of the A.M.E. Church, marking the first time in A.M.E. history that three generations from the same family were elevated to the Episcopacy. Bishop Reid served as the Ecumenical Officer, Chair for Social Justice and the Endorsing Agent for the AME Chaplaincy. While serving as the Endorsing Agent Bishop Reid created the Victory Tour visiting chaplains around the globe, increasing morale and strengthening the chaplaincy. In 2019, Bishop Reid served as Bishop of the Third Episcopal District. Bishop Reid retired from the 11th Episcopal District in 2024. During his tenure in the Eleventh Episcopal District he intentionally facilitated and developed a strong cyber presence, creating an on-line presence for local churches during worship, Annual Conferences and other district wide meetings. Purposefully, Reid developed a district expert IT team that supported virtual meetings and the upgrade of local churches to expand the footprint of the district.

Although Bishop Reid has received countless awards and accolades, his greatest legacy is his faith and family. He has been married to the woman he calls "Lady" Marlaa Reid since March 15, 1980. Together they are the proud parents of three wonderful children: Shane, FranShon Reid Barnes (Rev. Willie Barnes), and Faith; and the grandparents to Harleaux Barnes. At this stage of his life and ministry, Bishop Reid is most intentional about directing his investment of time and wisdom into equipping future generations to glorify God in faith, family, fitness and finance. During his restructured life (retirement) He will continue to build The Recover All Network, a Spiritual & Strategic Ministry for global prayer and conferences.

Reverend Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church
Stonecrest, Georgia



Visionary. Civil Rights Activist. Community Organizer. Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient. 2X Grammy Award Winning Artist; Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant combines sound biblical teaching, business acumen, and political insight to propel the Body of Christ to action and greater levels of faith.

Since his youth, Dr. Bryant has prevailed against the odds – rising from a G.E.D. to a Ph.D. Before pastoring, he served as the National Youth and College Director of the NAACP for six years, where he helped to mobilize over 70,000 youth worldwide in non-violent campaigns.

Dr. Bryant, a third-generation minister, was the founding pastor of Empowerment Temple AME Church in Baltimore, Maryland, acclaimed as the fastest-growing African Methodist Episcopal church in the denomination's 200-year history.

With an undeniable gift to bridge generations from the Civil Rights movement to the Black Lives Matter era, Dr. Bryant incites change in the faith community. His ability to reach across social, economic, and political barriers has helped people experience the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ and activate success in their everyday lives.

His ministry has become an incubator for entrepreneurs, homeowners, and the like. Additionally, programs under his guidance have aimed to spread the gospel, develop strong leaders, empower the economically disadvantaged, and challenge social injustices.

In December 2018, Dr. Bryant was appointed as the Senior Pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Stonecrest, Georgia. His leadership efforts have strengthened the multi- generational bond among members, cultivated families, and expanded community outreach as well as the Church's cultural significance.

*Dr. John Thomas, III, Ph.D.
Editor, The Christian Recorder*



A native of Nashville, Tennessee, John received the Bachelor of Arts degree (summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) in 2004 from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia with double majors in International Studies and Spanish. Upon completing his degree, he was awarded a 2004-2005 U.S. Student Fulbright Fellowship to Peru. John enrolled in the Princeton University School of Public and International Affairs in Fall 2005 in the Development Studies Program.

After obtaining the MPA degree, John enrolled in the Political Science Department of the University of Chicago. His dissertation focused on the evolution of Black Politics in Peru and Ecuador from 1980-2016. John has authored several papers, articles and presentations in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. He has held academic appointments at Chicago State University

and Payne Theological Seminary. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department at the College of Charleston.

In 2011 at the 20th World Methodist Conference in Durban, South Africa, he was elected to a five-year term as the Youth and Young Adult Coordinator of the World Methodist Council. In this role, he was responsible for facilitating youth and young adult initiatives for its 80-member denominations in the Methodist, Wesleyan, Holiness, and Uniting/United Church traditions.

John Thomas III is a lifelong member of St. John African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, Nashville Tennessee and has represented the Tennessee Annual Conference at the 2004, 2008 and 2016 General Conferences. John served as the Young Adult Representative of the Connectional Lay Organization from 2009-2013 and as a Women's Missionary Society Sojourner to the Dominican Republic in 2002 and 2009. He was a Connectional Lay delegate to the General Conference in 2012 and served as an at-large member of the General Board from 2012-2016.

On July 11, 2016 John Thomas III was elected to serve as the 21st Editor of The Christian Recorder—the official organ of the 2.5-million-member AME Church. He is the first layperson and the second youngest elected General Officer in the history of the AME Church. The Christian Recorder is published by the AME Church Sunday School Union in Nashville, Tennessee and is the oldest continuously published periodical by persons of African descent in the world. In continuous production since 1852, its readership encompasses 41 countries on five different continents. He also serves on the boards of the Associated Church Press and the North American Section of the World Association of Christian Communicators. John is a life member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated.

The 2026 Calendar

MARCH 2026	
March 4	Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr., Birthday
March 6-8	<p>Founder’s Day and Bloody Sunday Weekend, Brown Chapel A.M.E Church, Selma, Alabama Host Pastor - The Reverend Leodis Strong</p> <p>Friday, March 6, 2026 – Social Justice Night Guest Preacher - The Reverend Dr. Jamal Bryant, New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia</p> <p>Saturday, March 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. – Founder’s Day Worship Guest Preacher - Bishop Frank Madison Reid III, 138th Elected and Consecrated Bishop, African Methodist Episcopal Church</p> <p>Saturday, March 7, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. – Founder’s Day Symposium Presenter - Dr. John Thomas III, The Christian Recorder</p> <p>Sunday, March 8, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. – Bloody Sunday Worship Service Preacher - Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.</p>
March 20-21	Ninth Episcopal District Sons of Allen Men of Valor Conference – Allen Temple AME Church – Bessemer
March 29	Palm Sunday
APRIL 2026	
April 4	AME Women in Ministry Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil
April 4	Northeast WMS Meeting

April 5	Resurrection Sunday
April 8-11	Music & Christian Arts International Conference (MCAM) – Bishop McAllister preaching April 8 at 7:00 p.m.
April 11	Alabama River Region WMS Meeting
April 18	Northwest WMS Meeting
April 23-25	Ninth Episcopal District Mid-Year Meeting, Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, Alabama

MAY 2026	
May 7-14	YPD Self-Denial Week
May 14	Mother's Day
May 16	Southeast WMS Meeting
May 30	Southwest WMS Meeting
JUNE 2026	
June 21	Emanuel Nine Remembrance
June 22-24	AME Church General Board and Bishops' Council Meeting, Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel, Orlando, Florida
June 24-27	AME Church Department of Christian Education: 30th Quadrennial Christian Education & Youth Congress
June 29-July 2	Christian Education Congress – Ninth Episcopal District Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, Alabama
JULY 2026	
July 17-19	Connectional Young People's and Children's Division Leadership Training Institute & Executive Board Meeting, Montgomery, Alabama
July 20-23	AME Women in Ministry Quadrennial Conference, Sheraton Charlotte Hotel, Charlotte, NC
AUGUST 2026	
August 11	Supervisor Deana Young McAllister, Birthday
August 29	YPD Annual Day – Alabama River Region Annual Conference
SEPTEMBER 2026	
September 1	WMS Annual Day – Alabama River Region Annual Conference
September 2-4	Alabama River Region Annual Conference, Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, Selma, Alabama
September 12	YPD Annual Day – Northwest Alabama Annual Conference
September 15	WMS Annual Day – Northwest Alabama Annual Conference

September 16-18	Northwest Alabama Annual Conference, Saint Paul A.M.E. Church, Birmingham, Alabama
September 19	YPD Annual Day – Southeast Alabama Annual Conference
September 20	International RAYAC Sunday
September 22	WMS Annual Day – Southeast Alabama Annual Conference
September 23-25	Southeast Alabama Annual Conference, Hines Chapel A.M.E. Church, Dothan, Alabama
OCTOBER 2026	
October 3	YPD Annual Day – Northeast Alabama Annual Conference
October 6	WMS Annual Day – Northeast Alabama Annual Conference
October 7-9	Northeast Alabama Annual Conference, St. John A.M.E. Church, Fort Mitchell, Alabama
October 17	YPD Annual Day – Southwest Alabama Annual Conference
October 20	WMS Annual Day – Southwest Alabama Annual Conference
October 21-23	Southwest Alabama Annual Conference, Bethel A.M.E. Church, Mobile, Alabama
NOVEMBER 2026	
November 11-14	Ninth Episcopal District Planning Meeting, Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, Alabama
November 19-21	Ninth Episcopal District Lay Organization 68th Annual Convention
DECEMBER 2026	
December 4-5	Connectional Lay Organization Executive Board Meeting, Virtual via Zoom
December 14-16	YPD-YAM Global Gathering, Century City Convention Centre,

	Cape Town, South Africa
December 19	“Christmas Around the District” –Northwest Annual Conference – 9:00 a.m.
December 19	“Christmas Around the District” –Alabama River Region Annual Conference – 1:00 p.m.

December 19	“Christmas Around the District” –Northeast Annual Conference – 6:00 p.m.
December 21	“Christmas Around the District” -Southwest Annual Conference – 9:00 a.m.
December 22	“Christmas Around the District” -Southeast Annual Conference – 3:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day
December 31	New Year’s Eve

2026 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
17th Session of Annual Conferences
2026 Annual Conference Schedule and Venues

Alabama River Region Annual Conference

Date September 2–4, 2026
Host Church Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, Selma, Alabama
Host Pastor The Reverend Leodis Strong
Host Presiding Elder The Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson

Northwest Alabama Annual Conference

Date September 16–18, 2026
Host Church Saint Paul A.M.E. Church, Birmingham, Alabama
Host Pastor The Reverend Brian Blackwell
Host Presiding Elder The Reverend Dwight Dillard

Southeast Alabama Annual Conference

Date September 23–25, 2026
Host Church Hines Chapel A.M.E. Church, Dothan, Alabama
Host Pastor The Reverend Paul Horn
Host Presiding Elder The Reverend Dr. Frederick Sherrod, III

Northeast Alabama Annual Conference

Date October 7–9, 2026
Host Church Saint John A.M.E. Church, Fort Mitchell, Alabama

Host Pastor The Reverend Isaac N. Hudson, Jr.
Host Presiding Elder The Reverend Dr. Letitia Watford

Southwest Alabama Annual Conference

Date October 21–23, 2026

Host Site Bethel A.M.E. Church, Mobile, Alabama

Host Site Pastor The Reverend Brandon Thornton

Host Pastors and Churches The Reverend Emma Francine Constant (Antioch AME Church), The Reverend LaDarrell Thames (Spencer Chapel AME Church), and The Reverend Dr. G. Dianne Lewis (Wilson Chapel AME Church)

Host Presiding Elder The Reverend Antonio Thomas

2026 YPD and WMS Annual Days

Alabama River Region Annual Conference

YPD Annual Day: Saturday, August 29

WMS Annual Day: Tuesday, September 1

Northwest Alabama Annual Conference

YPD Annual Day: Saturday, September 12

WMS Annual Day: Tuesday, September 15

Southeast Alabama Annual Conference

YPD Annual Day: Saturday, September 19

WMS Annual Day: Tuesday, September 22

Northeast Alabama Annual Conference

YPD Annual Day: Saturday, October 3

WMS Annual Day: Tuesday, October 6

Southwest Alabama Annual Conference

YPD Annual Day: Saturday, October 17

WMS Annual Day: Tuesday, October 20

**The Ninth Episcopal District Planning Meeting will be held
November 11–14, 2026 at the Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery**