THE NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

PLANNING MEETING 2026







Preaching
THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 12
7PM

Rev. Sheryl SHIPMAN
Pastor
Bryant Chapel AME Church
Birmingham, Alabama

Workshop
FRIDAY
NOVEMBER

Dr. William CAMPBELL SR.
Director of
Global Kingdom Expansion
Second Episcopal District AME Church

FRIDAY
8:30

Rev. Tomeko HARRIS
Pastor
Hardaway AME & Jones Chapel AME

Opening Service
FRIDAY
NOVEMBER
7

Rev. Dr. Bobby COX
Pastor
Bethel AME Church
Columbia, S.C

Ordination Sermon
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 14
11AM

Bishop Harry L. SEAWRIGHT
The 133rd Elected and Consecrated Bishop
SecondEpiscopalDistrict AME Church

November 11-14, 2026

SAINT JOHN'S AME CHURCH

807 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

- HOST PASTORS -

Reverend Roosevelt **WILLIAMS, III** | Reverend Shelia D. **WILLIAMS**

Renaissance Hotel and Spa Montgomery
201Tallapoosa Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

WORSHIP GUIDES

The Planning Meeting of the

NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT *of the* AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NOVEMBER 11 – 14, 2026

Conference Year Theme:
Impact: Transforming Lives, Strengthening Churches, and Changing Communities" John 15:8

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

The Evening Glory Worship Service

Thursday, November 12, 2026~ 7:00 p.m.

Saint John's African Methodist Episcopal Church
807 Madison Avenue | |Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr.
Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister
Episcopal Supervisor

Reverend Gloria A. Hall
Host Presiding Elder

Reverend Roosevelt Williams, III
Reverend Sheila Williams
Host Pastors

The Evening Glory Worship Service

Thursday, November 12, 2026
7:00 p.m.

The Reverend Antonio James
Worship Leader

THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP

THE PRAYER **The Reverend James Williams**

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

"Alpha And Omega"
You are Alpha and Omega.
We worship you, our Lord.
You are worthy to be praised.
(Repeat)

We give you all the glory.
We worship you, our Lord.
You are worthy to be praised.

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT **The Reverend James Platt**
Haggai 2:6-9

THE EPISTLE **The Reverend Cynthia Johnson**
Ephesians 3:14-21

THE NEW TESTAMENT **The Reverend Dr. Melvin Hitchens**
John 15:1-8

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC **The Ninth Episcopal District Conference Choir**

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP **The Reverend Emma Constant**

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PROCLAIMER — **Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.**
Presiding Prelate,
Ninth Episcopal District

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC — **The Ninth Episcopal District Conference Choir**

THE PROCLAMER — **The Reverend Sheryl Shipman**
Pastor, Bryant Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Birmingham, Alabama

DECISION TIME — **The Reverend Celeste Adams**

THE OFFERING — **The Stewardship Committee**

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

All things come of Thee, O Lord,
And of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS — **The Reverend Roosevelt Williams, III**

THE CLOSING REMARKS — **Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.**

THE BENEDICTION — **Reverend Shipman**


AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL

The Planning Meeting
of the
NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NOVEMBER 11-14, 2026

Conference Year Theme:
"Impact: Transforming Lives, Strengthening Churches, and Changing Communities" John 15:8

Quadrennial Theme:
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The Morning Glory Worship Service

Friday, November 13, 2026 ~ 8:30 a.m.

Saint John's African Methodist Episcopal Church
807 Madison Avenue | |Montgomery, Alabama 36104

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Reverend Shelia Williams
Host Pastors

NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Morning Glory Worship Service

Friday, November 13, 2026
8:30 a.m.
The Reverend Paul Horn, Worship Leader

THE MORNING GLORY HYMN **Reverend Marcus Sims**

Hymn No. 378
I Am Weak, and I Need Thy Strength
(Lead Me, Guide Me)

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

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

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
Refrain

I am lost, if you take your hand from me;
I am blind, without Thy Light to see;
Lord, just always let me Thy servant be,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
Refrain

THE PRAYER **The Reverend Antonio James**

THE SCRIPTURE READING **The Reverend Wayne Baker**

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP **The Reverend Emma Constant**

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER **Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.**
Presiding Prelate,
Ninth Episcopal District

THE SERMONIC HYMN **The Reverend Dr. Jacqueline Long**

Hymn No.461
"Love Lifted Me"

I was sinking deep in sin,
Far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within,
Sinking to rise no more;
But the Master of the sea
Heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me,
Now safe am I.

Refrain
Love lifted me, Love lifted me
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me, Love lifted me
Love lifted me
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me.

All my heart to Him I give,
Ever to Him I'll cling
In His blessed presence live,
Ever his praises sing;
Love so mighty and so true
Merits my soul's best songs;
Faithful, loving service, too, To Him belongs

Refrain

THE SERMON **Reverend Tomeko Harris**
Pastor, Hardaway AME
and Jones Chapel AME

DECISION TIME **Reverend Tyeshia Thomas**

THE BISHOP SPEAKS **Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.**

The Planning Meeting
of the
Ninth Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

November 11 – 14, 2026
Conference Year Theme:
"Impact: Transforming Lives, Strengthening Churches, and Changing Communities" John 15:8

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

The Opening Worship Service

Friday, November 13, 2026 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Saint John's African Methodist Episcopal Church
807 Madison Avenue | | Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr.
Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister
Episcopal Supervisor

Reverend Gloria A. Hall
Host Presiding Elder

Reverend Roosevelt Williams, III
Reverend Shelia Williams
Host Pastors

The Opening Worship Service

Friday, November 13, 2026
7:00 p.m.
Reverend Gloria A. Hall, Worship Leader
Presiding Elder of the Alabama River Region

PRAISE AND WORSHIP
THE PROCESSIONAL

"Every Praise"

Every praise is to our God
Every word of worship with one accord
Every praise, Every praise
Is to our God

Sing hallelujah, to our God
Glory hallelujah is due our God
Every praise, Every praise
Is to our God

God my savior
God my healer, God my deliverer
Yes, He is, Yes, He is
God my savior
God my healer, God my deliverer
Yes, He is, Yes, He is

THE DOXOLOGY

Hymn #647 [Tune: Old 100]

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

THE CALL TO WORSHIP **Reverend Dwight Dillard**
Presiding Elder, Birmingham-Florence-Tuscaloosa District

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE OPENING HYMN **Reverend Dr. Letitia Watford**
Presiding Elder, Phenix City District

Hymn No. 513
"Hold to God's Unchanging Hand"

Time is filled with swift transition,
Naught of earth unmoved can stand,
Build your hopes on things eternal,
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

Refrain:
Hold to God's unchanging hand;
Hold to God's unchanging hand;
Build your hopes on things eternal;
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

Trust in Him who will not leave you,
Whatsoever years may bring;
If by earthly friends forsaken,
Still more closely to Him cling.
Refrain

Covet not this world's vain riches,
That so rapidly decay;
Seek to gain the heavenly treasures:
They will never pass away.
Refrain
When your journey is completed,
If to God you have been true,
Fair and bright the home in glory
Your enraptured soul will view.
Refrain

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

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

"The Goodness of God"
And all my life You have been faithful,
And all my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC **The Ninth Episcopal District Conference Choir**

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT **Reverend Raymond B. Swafford**
Presiding Elder, Tuskegee District

THE EPISTLE **Reverend Dr. Frederick Sherrod, III**
Presiding Elder, Ozark-Troy District

THE GOSPEL **Reverend Charles Lewis**
Presiding Elder, Mobile District

THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE

Hymn #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 (SUMMARY) **Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn Denson**
Presiding Elder, Dothan-Eufaula District

Hear what Christ our Savior says, "You shall love the Lord Your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. The second is like unto it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

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

THE MISSION OFFERING	**Reverend Jesse Grooms, Pastor** *Mount Zion* *African Methodist Episcopal Church* *Opelika, Alabama*
THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP	**Reverend Antonio Thomas** *Presiding Elder, Camden District*
THE PRESENTATION OF THE PROCLAIMER	**Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.** *The 144th Elected and Consecrated Bishop* *African Methodist Episcopal Church* *Ninth Episcopal District*
THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC	**The Ninth Episcopal District Conference Choir**
THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD	**Reverend Dr. Bobby Cox** *Pastor, Bethel AME Church* *Columbia, South Carolina*
THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP	**Reverend Dr. Willie E. Marshall** *Presiding Elder, West Birmingham – Ensley* *Greensboro District*
THE WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING	**The Stewardship Committee**
THE ANNOUNCEMENTS	**Reverend Roosevelt Williams**
THE BENEDICTION	**Reverend Cox**



Reverend Dr. Bobby Cox, Pastor
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Columbia, South Carolina

Bobby Bernard Cox, Jr. was born to Mr. Bobby Bernard Cox, Sr. and Mrs. Dorothy Jean Cox-Owens. He is a native of Rochester, New York, yet stems from the nurturing roads of Ashford, Alabama. He was reared by his maternal aunt and uncle, Mr. Bradfield and Mrs. Viola (MaDear) Bennett, both of whom instilled in him the importance of hearing and heeding to the voice of God. He is the devoted husband of Reverend Angie Crawford Cox and the loving father of Tenecia and Bobby "Brad" III and the grandfather of Avery Grace.

Pastor Bobby B. Cox, Jr., whom we affectionately call Pastor Bob, is a life-long African Methodist. He has been in the ministry for thirty-nine years and has served the church in various capacities. He has served on the Board of Examiners as the Chairman, Conference Treasurer, Episcopal District Finance Co-Chairperson, and Ministerial Efficiency Committee. He has been a delegate to the 1988, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 (Co-Leader of the Delegation), 2016, 2021 and 2024 General Conferences; General Board Member 1996-2000; 2012-2017.
He has served as the Pastor of the following churches: White Oak, Eufaula Alabama (1985-1986); Shiloh Clayton Alabama (1985-1990); Tabernacle Clayton Alabama (1988-1990); St. Luke Eufaula Alabama (1990-1992); Greater St. Paul Troy Alabama (1992-2001); St. John Downtown Birmingham Alabama (2001-2005); Bethel Mobile Alabama (2005-2017) Mount Calvary Towson Maryland (2017-2024) and currently he serves as the Pastor of Bethel Columbia South Carolina.

He has given Legacy Pastoral Care. He had the distinguish honor to follow the Reverend Doctor P. H. Lewis, who served as the pastor of Bethel AMEC in Mobile Alabama for thirty-five (35) years and the Reverend Doctor Ann Lightner-Fuller, who served as the Pastor of Mount Calvary for thirty-one (31) years.

Pastor Bob earned the Bachelor of Science degree from Troy State University (now Troy University), Troy Alabama and the Master of Divinity degree from Turner Theological Seminary at The Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Pastor Bob is a former Board of Education member of the Troy City Schools, Troy Alabama as well as a members of other civic and community organizations.

Pastor Bob has been the recipient of numerous awards, honors and accolades, but what he treasures most is being obedient to the calling God has placed upon his life.

He tries daily to exemplify what it means to be a faithful leader and a living example by walking according to the will of God.

The Planning Meeting

of the

Ninth Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church
November 11-14, 2026

Conference Year Theme:
"Impact: Transforming Lives, Strengthening Churches and Changing Communities" John 15:8

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

The Service of Ordination

and the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Saturday, November 14, 2026 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Saint John's African Methodist Episcopal Church
807 Madison Avenue | |Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr.
Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister
Episcopal Supervisor

Reverend Gloria A. Hall
Host Presiding Elder

Reverend Roosevelt Williams, III
Reverend Shelia Williams
Host Pastors

The Order of Service

Saturday, November 14, 2026 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Worship Leader:

The Reverend Dr. Ronald Sterling

The Processional **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
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee
God everlasting through eternity.

Holy, Holy, Holy, through the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye made blind by sin, Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee
Perfect in pow'r in love, and purity

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 Ligthner**

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 Carmen Dr. Walker Ellerbee**

Hymn No. 91
"How Great the Wisdom"

How great the wisdom, pow'r and grace which in redemption shine!
The heavenly hosts with joy confess, the work is all divine
The work is all divine, the work is all divine

Before His feet they cast their crown-those crowns which Jesus gave-
And with ten thousand thousand tongues,
Proclaim His pow'r to save, proclaim His pow'r to save, proclaim His pow'r to save

They tell the triumphs of His cross, the sufferings which He bore;
How low He stooped, how high He rose;
And rose to stoop no more, and rose to stoop no more, and rose to stoop no more

O let them still their voices raise, and still their songs renew;
Salvation well deserves the praise of men and angels too,
Of men and angels too, of men and angels too

The Invocation **The Reverend T. Eric Nathan**

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 Agnes Lover**

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 Kimberly Martin**

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 Reverend Dr. Isaac Hudson**

The Presentation of the Preacher **Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.**
Presiding Prelate,
Ninth Episcopal District

The Sermonic Hymn **The Reverend Alvelyn Sanders-Swafford**

Hymn No. 283

"I Am Thine, O Lord"

I am Thine, O Lord
I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of
faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee

Refrain
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer
blessed Lord, To the cross where
Thou hast died
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer
blessed Lord, to Thy precious,
bleeding side

Consecrate me now to Thy service
Lord, By the pow'r of grace divine
Let my soul look up with steadfast hope,
And be lost in Thine

Refrain

O, the pure delight of a single hour
That before Thy throne I spend
When I kneel in prayer and with Thee, my God
I commune as friend with friend

Refrain
There are depths of love that I cannot know
Till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
Till I rest in peace with Thee
Refrain

The Ordination Sermon **Bishop Harry L. Seawright**
The 133rd Elected and Consecrated Bishop
African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship **The Reverend Tracey Horn**

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

Sister Naomi Minley, Sister Beatrice Smith, Sister Mary Turner

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 Liturgy for the Ordination of Deacons

The Reverend Dr. Ronald Sterling

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 Alvelyn Sanders-Swafford

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

Itinerant Deacons: Bro. Brandon Cleveland, Sis. Denedra Hawkins, Bro. Jeremy Joseph, Sis. Hermajesty Queen Favor.
Local Deacon: Sis Beverly Fields Williams

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 Roosevelt Williams, III

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 Ronald Sterling

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 Leodis Strong

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

Itinerant: Reverend Starr Culpepper-Jackson, Reverend Sherri Radney, Reverend Monica Montgomery, Reverend Deborah Maldanado
Local: Reverend Lillie Rivers.

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 Eric Little

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 Eric Brown

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 Emma Constant

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 James Platt

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 Willie White, Jr.

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 Sheryl Shipman

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

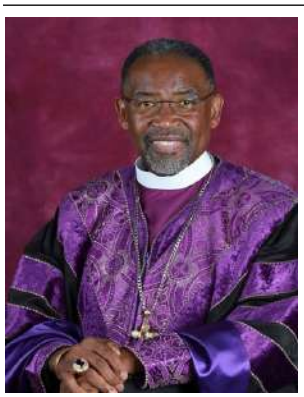
Hymn No. 525
What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
(AMECH)

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 Reading of Appointments **Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.**

The Benediction **Bishop Harry L. Seawright**



Bishop Harry L. Seawright
The 133rd Elected and Consecrated Bishop
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Bishop Harry L. Seawright serves as the 133rd elected and consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. His election marked a historic moment during the church's 50th Quadrennial General Conference as he became only the second bishop to be elected on the first ballot.

On December 12, 2025, he was appointed by the Council of Bishops to the Second Episcopal District to serve as the Presiding Prelate over five Annual Conferences: Baltimore, Washington, Virginia, North Carolina, and Western North Carolina. He also serves as Chair of the AME Commission on Christian Education From 2019 to 2020, he faithfully led the denomination a President of the Council of Bishops. From 2016 to 2024, Bishop Seawright served as Presiding Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District, (the State of Alabama). On August 28, 2024, during the 52nd Quadrennial Session of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbus, Ohio, he received his Episcopal assignment as Presiding Prelate of the Thirteenth Episcopal District (the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the State of Tennessee).

Born in Swansea, South Carolina, Bishop Seawright is the youngest child of the late Joe Nathan and Mary L. Seawright. A fourth-generation AME, his faith was deeply nurtured at Prodigal AME Church in Swansea, South Carolina. His humble beginnings and spiritual foundation continue to illuminate and sustain his lifelong commitment to faith and service.

Bishop Seawright earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. He received the Master of Divinity degree from Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, D.C. where he was honored with the award for "Student Most Likely to Excel in Pastoral Ministry." He earned the Doctor of Ministry degree from Howard University and was named "Doctor of Ministry Student of the Year" for his exceptional doctoral project. He has received numerous additional honors including participating in the University of Oxford Roundtable in Oxford, England.

Throughout his ministerial journey, Bishop Seawright was admitted to the Central Annual Conference of the Seventh Episcopal District by the late Bishop Frank Madison Reid, II and appointed to serve as Interim Pastor of St. Stephen AME Church in St. Mathews, South Carolina. He was ordained an Inerrant Deacon by the late Bishop Henry Wendell Murph and an Inerant Elder by the late Bishop John Hurst Adams. Over a distinguished pastoral career spanning 35 years, he served congregations at Payne Memorial AME Church in Jessup, Maryland; Hemingway Temple AME Church in Washington, D.C.; and Union Bethel AME Church in Brandywine and Temple Hills, Maryland.

Bishop Seawright is the author of More Than Bricks and Mortar: Building a Church Without Losing Your Mind, Don't Faint: Help for Hurting Pastors and Their Families, and Purple Robe. Through his practical, transparent and insightful writings, he continues to encourage, equip, and strengthen pastors, leaders, and congregations.

In additions to his pastoral and Episcopal leadership, Bishop Seawright has served the church and broader community in numerous capacities, including the AME International Commission on Economic Development, the AME International Health Commission, Second Vice President of the Trustee Board at Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center, the Church Mutual Insurance African American Leaders Advisory Committee, and the AstraZeneca U.S. Health Equity Advisory Council. In 2018, he was inducted into Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

As an entrepreneur, Bishop Seawright is the founder and co-owner of We Kleen, Inc., HLS Consulting Trinity Group, and Prestigious Property Management. He continues to apply his business expertise to advance community development and promote positive societal change.

Bishop Seawright is married to the former Sherita Gayle Moon. They are the proud parents of Ms. Shari Nicole and the Reverend Harry Mathew Seawright, and the loving grandparents of Reverend Cameron Isaiah Seawright.