

129th Annual Session
**Hammond Hill Sunday School and
Congress of Christian Education
Hernando, Mississippi
July 18-20, 2023**

Pastor Bernard Montgomery, President
Ms. Patricia Hurt, Secretary
Ms. Anise Jefferson, Assistant Secretary
Dr. Michael O. Minor, Dean

 	<p>Hammond Hill Congress 2023 July 18-20, 2023 Pastor Bernard Montgomery, President Ms. Patricia Hurt, Secretary Dr. Michael O. Minor, Dean</p> <p>The Hill-Hernando Baptist Church 1775 Memphis Street; Hernando, MS</p>	
	 <p>Theme: The Gideon Principle: The Power of Weakness (Judges 7)</p>	<p>For more information or to register, e-mail info@faithmonet.org or call (901) 603-0762.</p>

Theme:
“The Gideon Principle: The Power of Weakness”
(Judges 7)

The Hill Hernando Baptist Church
1775 Memphis Street
Hernando, Mississippi
Dr. Michael O. Minor

**HAMMOND HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL AND
CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**
www.faithmonet.org/hammond_hill_congress

Auxiliary to the Pleasant Hill-Bethlehem Association

Pastor Isaac Slack, Moderator

Ms. Annette Dunbar, Secretary

Pastor Bernard Montgomery, President
Ms. Patricia Hurt, Secretary
Dr. Michael O. Minor, Dean

**Annual Congress of Christian Education
President's Letter**

June 2023

We greet you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We're thankful to see another annual session. We thank God for blessing us with a successful virtual session last year. We look forward to an in-person only session this year as we explore our theme "The Gideon Principle: The Power of Weakness."



We thank God for keeping our Congress through the COVID-19 pandemic. We are ready for the next chapter in the storied history of our Congress. We also want to thank Pastor Darnell Tate for his years of service as Vice-President. He has been challenged by his health and had to resign. We look forward to celebrating his service during the Congress.

To help expand our work, your Hammond Hill Congress Team has worked to maintain our partnerships and sponsors. We will acknowledge each of them during our annual session. I'm thankful for Dr. Michael O. Minor and the Hill-Hernando Family for so graciously hosting our session this year without charge.

Our "Dean Team" led by Dr. Michael O. Minor has prepared a wonderful slate of seminars and workshops. Please take advantage of all the Congress has to offer including our Dean's Address Tuesday evening and my Annual Address Thursday evening. On Wednesday evening, I will share about several special initiatives. Finally, we are preparing a special children's, youth, and young adult activity that will take place this summer. We certainly want to support our children and youth.

In closing, we look forward to another Spirit-led week of learning, praise, and worship. Join us as we all work together for the glory of God.

Yours for the cause of Christ,
Pastor Bernard Montgomery
Your Congress President

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**Annual Congress of Christian Education
Deans' Letter**



Greetings in the name of our risen Savior!

We welcome you to the 129th Annual Session of the Hammond Hill Sunday School and Congress of Christian Education. President Bernard Montgomery and Your “Dean Team” look forward to a great week of learning, worship, and fellowship.

In keeping with our theme: *“The Gideon Principles: The Power of Weakness,”* our addresses will focus on different aspects of God’s call to Gideon. In support of this theme, we have designed a supportive schedule of seminars. To keep our curriculum relevant, we’re offering all new adult seminars and re-designed our approach to young adult, youth, and children’s workshops. Please refer to the seminar listing and descriptions for details. Let’s do all we can to support our youth as we strategize on opportunities for them to showcase their talents.

Finally, we ask each of you to share about your experience this week through social media using the hashtag **#HHC2023**. We want to promote our Congress across Northwest Mississippi. Feel free to contact us with any questions or requests for additional information at (901) 826-8355, (901) 497-5731, or info@faithmonet.org.

Yours for the cause of Christ,

Dr. Michael O. Minor

Your Congress Deans

129th Session
2023 Hammond Hill Sunday School and Congress of Christian Education
Congress Officers

Pastor Bernard Montgomery (New Bethany), President

Ms. Patricia Hurt (Rising Sun), Secretary
Ms. Anise Jefferson (The Hill-Hernando), Assistant Secretary
Pastor Robert Ruth (New Hope-Walls), Director General

Pastor Andrew Miller, Performing Arts/Youth & Young Adult Director

Pastor Glen Newson (Greater Lake Cormorant), Children's Coordinator
Ms. Lois Tipton-Curry (Halliburton), Youth & Young Adult Rally Coordinator

Dr. Michael O. Minor (The Hill-Hernando), Dean

Associate Dean: Pastor Dorothy Jones (New Faith Bible)
H.O.P.E. Health Coordinator: Ms. Minnie Wilkinson (The Hill-Hernando)
Classification Secretary: Ms. Annette Dunbar (Pleasant Hill)

Annual Awards and Recognition Opportunities

Attendance Awards. The top five participating churches are given awards for overall attendance, youth, and seniors.

Deacon Dan Robinson Leadership Award. One Christian educator from one of the member churches or supporting entities are recognized for outstanding service in the cause of Christian education. The award is named after the first president of the Sate Congress. **Sponsored by New Hope-Walls.**

Dean C J Thomas Christian Educator of the Year Award. This award is given to an exemplary Christian education instructor from one of the member churches or supporting entities. **Sponsored by Mid-South Churches Cooperative Conference State Convention.**

Professor Clifton L. Moseley Outstanding Service Award. A Christian educator from one of the member churches or supporting entities is recognized for outstanding service in the cause of Christian education. **Sponsored by the Minor Family in memory of Juanita Minor Barnes.**

Annual Regional Collaborative Efforts

Regional Teachers' Workshop. We participate in an interactive teacher workshop focused on creative ways of teaching along with an overview of the new Vacation Bible School material. The next workshop will be Saturday, February 3, 2023, 9:30 am, at Ebenezer.

Annual Sunday School Workshop. We also participate in an interactive Sunday School Workshop focused on making Sunday School transformational. This year's workshop will be Saturday, August 5, 2023, 9:30 am, at Antioch - Walls.

129th Session
2023 Hammond Hill Sunday School and Congress of Christian Education
Annual State, Regional & National Christian Education Events

SUNDAY SCHOOL PUBLISHING BOARD

www.sspbnbc.com

Dr. Derrick Jackson, Executive Director
Dr. Michael O. Minor; Southwest Region I - Regional Coordinator
SSPB Conference: November 27-29, 2023, Opryland-Nashville
Southwest Region I Conference; April 26-27, 2023, Mobile, Alabama

NATIONAL BAPTIST CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (COCE)

www.nationalbaptist.com

Dr. Elliott Cuff, President
Dr. Carl Washington, Dean Dr. Edward Rogers, General Secretary
Annual Session: June 17-23, 2024, TBA
Auxiliaries to the National Baptist Convention, USA, Incorporated
Dr. Jerry Young, President
Dr. Carl Washington, Dean
Dr. Alvin Edwards, General Secretary

MID-SOUTH CHURCHES COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE STATE COCE

www.midsouthchurches.com

Dr. Michael O. Minor, President
Pastor Dorothy Jones, State Dean
Annual Session:
May 7-9, 2024, The Hill-Hernando, 1775 Memphis Street; Hernando
Educational Arm of the Mid-South Churches Cooperative Conference State Convention
Dr. Michael O. Minor, President
Ms. Loretta Henderson-Miller, State Director of Christian Education
Pastor Dorothy Jones, State Dean

NMBEC NORTH MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STATE COCE

www.nmbscce.org

Pastor J. P. Myers, II, President
Mr. David Brown, Dean
Annual Session: March 5-7, 2024, Brown-Swinnea Road Campus
Auxiliary to the North Mississippi Baptist Educational (State) Convention, Incorporated
Dr. Sherman Helton, President
Ms. Annie Tigue, State Director of Christian Education
Mr. David Brown, Dean

Supporting Independent Organizations

Rising Sun Usher Federation/H.O.P.E. Health Ministry

Pastor Bernard Montgomery, President

Ms. Anise Jefferson Secretary

North Mississippi Baptist Ministry Association

Pastor Andrew Miller, President

129th Session
2023 Hammond Hill Sunday School and Congress of Christian Education
Schedule-at-a-Glance

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

6:00 p.m. Registration/Church School Representation
Devotional Period/Plenary Session
Dean Minor's Twenty Second Annual Address (Judges 6)

7:00 – 9:15 p.m. Class Period 1

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

6:00 p.m. Church School Representation
Plenary Session/Business Period/Special Projects/Congress Rally

7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Class Period 2

Thursday, July 20, 2023

6:00 p.m. Church School Representation
Devotional Period/Plenary Session/Business Period
President Montgomery's Sixteenth Annual Address (Judges 7)

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Class Period 3

8:30 – 9:30 p.m. Youth and Young Adult Rallies

Are you or someone you know currently uninsured? If you answered "yes," you may have options to #GetCoveredMississippi through:

- A Special Enrollment Period (SEP)
- A federally qualified community health center
- Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Medicare.



**To find out if you qualify,
contact your Healthy Kids Mississippi/Get Covered Mississippi
Teams at (662) 298-3584.**



Get Covered Mississippi! Healthy Kids Mississippi!

1775 Memphis Street, Suite B
Hernando, MS 38632

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Oak Hill Regional Community Development Corporation

www.oakhillregionalcdc.com

Affordable Care Act Navigator and Connecting Kids to Coverage Grantee

OAK HILL REGIONAL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



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Hammond Hill Sunday School and Congress of Christian Education Brief History

(From the files of the late Ms. Gemenie Bowdre)

The Hammond Hill Sunday School and Congress of Christian Education was initially organized as the Hammond Hill Sunday School Convention, in 1893 or 1894, at the Hammond Hill M. B. Church in Como, Mississippi. Rev. P. M. Martin was selected as the first president and served for about five years. During his administration, he attended and became affiliated with the National Sunday School and B.T.U. Congress.

The Convention stated the following objectives in its constitution:

1. To supply destitute areas with missionaries;
2. To promote education among the people especially the Baptist Industrial High School; and
3. To establish Missionary Baptist Sunday Schools and give to same as it may deem best.

Adequate records are not available for the first forty years of the convention. However, we do know that succeeding presidents included Rev. R. W. Smith, Rev. J. C. Brownlee, and Rev. A. D. Williams.

The Hammond Hill Sunday School Convention functioned under the original constitution from 1893-1962. At the 1962 annual session, the convention name and function changed to the Hammond Hill Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress at St. Paul M. B. Church – Olive, Branch, Mississippi. Rev. W. H. Walker (Pleasant Hill) was president. Along with Rev. Walker, Rev. L. S. Biles, Rev. M. L. Scott, Rev. Jacob Davis, Rev. J. A. Woods, Rev. J. D. Baptist, Bro. Dan Robinson, Sis. Alice Taylor, Sis. Julia Bowdre, and Sis. Ethel Dabney served on the constitution revision committee. As dean, Rev. L. S. Biles (Carroll Bluff) advanced the training phase of the Congress. The Hammond Hill Sunday School and B.T.U. Congress opened with the pre-Congress Musical on Monday evening after the third Sunday in July and continued through Friday. The Youth Rally on Friday night climaxed Congress activities.

During the year of 1970-71 the President, Rev. W. H. Walker and Vice President, Mr. Elias Johnson were called from labor to rest. The Dean, Rev. V. B. Brown, resigned, but the Congress experienced a successful session under the leadership of the secretary Ms. Gemenie Bowdre (Morgan Grove). In the session that year, Bro. L. L. Jones (Pleasant Hill) was elected president. During the Jones Administration, the congress sponsored the first fully accredited religious institute under the auspices of the Sunday School Publishing Board, sponsored a delegate to the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education (NBC), encouraged churches to send delegates to the NBC especially young people, and provided or assisted in securing transportation for delegates to the NBC.

Bro. L. L. Jones served until he retired in 1979. His vice-president Bro. Samuel D. Minor, Sr., (Mt. Calm and Dean Minor's grandfather) was elected president. The Congress continued its tremendous growth during the Minor Administration. "Dinner of the Grounds" returned and the youth were given their own class and rehearsal area. In 1981, Bro. Minor retired, and his vice-president Bro. Robert King (New Hope-Southaven) was elected president.

Bro. King served for over 20 years. During his tenure, the Congress outgrew the historical B. I. High School Campus. During the early years of Bro. King's presidency, new programs of study such as the Certificate of Progress Program (COPP) was instituted, area coordinators were assigned, and the format of the annual session was re-designed to improve the overall performance and viability of the Congress.

After Bro. King retired, Bro. Hebert H. Brown (New Hope-Walls) served from 2006-2007. During the Brown Administration, Congress attendance continued to grow. Bro. Brown retired in 2007. That same year, the Congress elected Pastor Bernard Montgomery (New Bethany) president. He was the first minister to serve as president in nearly 40 years.

After Rev. Biles, Rev. T. J. Denson (West Antioch #2) served as dean. In the mid-1970's Pastor CJ Thomas (Pleasant Hill) became dean. Under his leadership Christian education and Congress attendance grew tremendously. In 2001, Dean Thomas resigned. It was his desire to leave the position while he was still capable of offering guidance and assistance to his replacement. Pastor Michael O. Minor (The Hill-Hernando) succeeded him. The 2002 Congress under the direction of Dean Minor and with the skillful guidance of Immediate Past Dean Thomas was a success; attendance and finance reached a record high. Since 2007, Pastor Bernard Montgomery (New Bethany) has served as president. Under his tenure, the Congress has adopted new techniques for outreach to diversify our mix of attendees resulting in more millennials and youth attending. Although it has longer continuous tenure, the Hammond Hill Congress is the educational arm of the Pleasant Hill-Bethlehem Association.

129th Session
2023 Hammond Hill Sunday School and Congress of Christian Education
2023 Courses, Seminars & Workshops

➤ **Seminar 1. The Gideon Principle: Empowering Sunday School and Bible Study**

Dr. JeVon Marshall

➤ **Seminar 2. The Gideon Principle: The Power of Weakness**

Pastor Callaway Bain

➤ **Workshop 1. The Gideon Principle Inspiring Our Youth (Ages 5-12)**

Dr. Krystal Polk; New Fellowship, Southaven, MS; and Ms. Robin Jones; Antioch-Walls, MS

➤ **Workshop 2. The Gideon Principle Empowering Our Teens (Ages 13-18)**

Ms. Lois Tipton Curry; Haliburton, Southaven, MS

➤ **Workshop 3. The Gideon Principle Moving in Praise**

TBA

****Seminar 1. The Gideon Principle for Gideon: The Power of Weakness**

Pastor Callaway Bain (Mt. Olive-Horn Lake)

In life, too many Christians give up because they feel that they are too weak, or they don't have the necessary resources. In Christ, that should never be our thought. The story of Gideon is a powerful reminder for all of us that, in God, there is power in weakness. In this study, we will share about Israel's unlikely hero Gideon.

****Seminar 2. The Gideon Principle: Empowering Sunday School and Bible Study**

Dr. Jevon Marshall

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sunday School attendance dropped dramatically. Most Bible Study sessions went virtual. Many churches now do not even bother to purchase Sunday School literature. Yet, we need Sunday School and Bible Study now more than ever before. In this interactive seminar, Dr. Marshall will discuss how we can harness the "faithful few" in our Sunday School and Bible Study attendance to grow our congregation's Christian education and evangelism ministries.

Workshop 1. The Gideon Principle Inspiring Our Youth (Ages 5-12) (Ages 5-12)

Dr. Krystal Polk; New Fellowship, Southaven, MS; and Ms. Robin Jones; Antioch-Walls, MS

The story of Gideon for kids is an amazing example of God's power. It's also very active and includes many object lessons for teaching to children.

Workshop 2. The Gideon Principle Empowering Our Teens (Ages 13-18)

Ms. Lois Tipton Curry; Haliburton, Southaven, MS

The primary theme of the Book of Judges is that if you put your trust and dependence on the Lord, He will give you direction. Gideon expresses this theme and gives us reminders we can use in our lives today.

Workshop 3. The Gideon Principle Moving in Praise

TBA

This workshop is open to liturgical dance teams and their coordinators. During interactive sessions, participants will focus on the Biblical basis for the liturgical dance, creative ways to perform, and appropriate dance attire. Participants will perform during the Youth and Young Adult Rally on Thursday night and will receive a study guide. Participants should come dressed in work-out attire nightly.