



**AME Women in Ministry**  
*Embracing Our Divine Design for Kin-dom Impact*  
Rev. Dr. Joy Gallmon, President  
Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr., Commission Chair

We submit this report on behalf of our Commission Chair, Bishop Julius McAllister, Jr. and the Executive Board of Connectional AMEWIM, a professional clergy organization committed to defining, enhancing, supporting and expanding the presence of women in ministry in leadership in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Global Sacred Gathering – 18th Episcopal District**

AME Women in Ministry gathered in the 18th Episcopal District in Maputo, Mozambique beneath the banner: *Ubuntu: Rooted in Purpose, United in Spirit, Transforming the Work.*

What unfolded was not simply a one-day convening. It was a theological alignment and a strategic awakening to what it truly means to be a global ministry. Attendance including Women in Ministry from all GDC Districts, five U.S. Districts (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>) and six Executive Board members.

**Rooted in Divine Purpose**

Following devotions led by Worship Leader Rev. Mmalorato Kgositlou (15<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District), our morning meditation, given by Rev. Joelynn Stokes (4<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District) from 1 Kings 11:1–3, reminded us that we cannot please humanity and God simultaneously. To remain rooted in God’s ordained purpose requires patience and the discipline of waiting in God’s presence. Global ministry demands that same rootedness. We cannot be shaped primarily by cultural expectations, institutional comfort, or U.S.-centric assumptions. We must build according to divine design. Ephesians 2:10 declares that we are God’s workmanship created for good works prepared in advance. Our divine design is not regional. It is global.

**Welcome & Global Grounding**

Our gathering was grounded by Presiding Elder Rev. Betty Schroeder, Africa Regional Coordinator, who introduced and framed the spirit of Ubuntu, “I am because we are.” Ubuntu was not presented as a cultural slogan but as a theological lens for global ministry. It reminded us that interdependence is not weakness; it is design. No district thrives alone. No vessel carries the treasure alone. We belong to one another.

Connectional President Rev. Dr. Joy Gallmon then led us into intentional engagement that dismantled global barriers. Through facilitated dialogue, we moved beyond titles, geography, and assumptions to truly see and hear one another across cultural contexts. Before we strategized, we connected. Before we planned, we listened. Before we built, we recognized each other as co-laborers. That foundation shaped everything that followed.

## **Kin-Dom Economics: Equity & Resource Justice**

In the plenary on Kin-Dom Economics, Presiding Elder Beatrice Motokoa (18<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District) challenged us to examine how resources, influence, access, and opportunity move across districts. Kin-Dom Economics is not charity. It is equity. It asks: Who benefits from our structures? Who has access to leadership development? How do resources circulate across the global church? Does our financial practice reflect our theological commitments? If we are navigating growth in faith, then our economics must reflect justice, not hierarchy. Growth that ignores equity is not Kin-Dom growth.

## **Discernment for the Road Ahead**

Our session on Discernment for the Road Ahead coordinated by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Rev. Dr. Mila Cooper (3<sup>rd</sup> Episcopal District), Presiding Elder Betty Schroeder (15<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District) and Herstorlographer Rev. Stephanie Atkins (1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District), functioned as a strategic spiritual assessment, a prayerful SWOT analysis. We named our strengths: resilient women, theological depth, intergenerational leadership, and global presence. We acknowledged challenges: structural gaps, uneven access, communication silos, language barriers, and inconsistent collaboration across districts. We identified opportunities: cross-district partnerships, leadership pipelines, shared economic empowerment models, and theological exchange. And we confronted threats: financial inequities, cultural assumptions, and the quiet tendency to operate as though the Church revolves around one geographic center.

## **Women as Architects of Kin-Dom**

Rev. S. Odell Swen (14<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District) grounded us in 2 Corinthians 4:7, reminding us that we carry treasure in earthen vessels. Being here in Mozambique clarified something powerful: The treasure is global. The vessels are diverse. The design is divine. Drawing from Genesis 3:15, she reminded us that the seed of the woman carries crushing authority. Women in ministry are not auxiliary to the Church, we are architectural to its future. Architects do not build randomly. They design with blueprint, vision, and intention. If we are truly embracing our divine design, then we must construct structures that reflect a global Kin-Dom not a local imagination.

## **Ubuntu and Pathways to Possibilities**

Ubuntu - “I am because we are” reframed our understanding of global ministry. Navigating growth in faith requires mutuality. Pathways must move in more than one direction. Learning must flow both ways. Resources must circulate equitably. Leadership must be recognized globally.

## **Our Commitment Forward**

Women in Ministry leave the 18<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District committed to:

- Expanding intentional global collaboration
- Practicing Kin-Dom Economics rooted in equity
- Strengthening cross-district discernment
- Designing structures that reflect divine design rather than geographic limitation
- Building pathways that are reciprocal, sustainable, and Spirit-led

We are God’s masterpiece. We carry treasure in earthen vessels. And as architects of Kin-Dom, we are committed to building globally. If we truly embrace our divine design, then let us build a Kin-Dom where no district is peripheral, no vessel is overlooked, and no pathway flows in only one direction.

### **Recommendation to the Global Development Council**

In light of our discernment and our commitment to reciprocal global pathways, Women in Ministry respectfully offer the following recommendation:

1. That the Global Development Council continue to formally support and encourage consistent AMEWIM participation across Connectional, regional, and structural gatherings, including GDC convenings, the AMEWIM Quadrennial Conference, and other global strategic forums to ensure that women’s theological insight, leadership voice, and architectural vision are present wherever pathways for growth are being shaped.

Sustainable global growth requires the wisdom, leadership, and lived experience of women at every table where strategy is formed and resources are aligned. If we are navigating growth in faith, then we must do so together fully represented, globally engaged, and intentionally aligned.

2. That the African Methodist Episcopal Church intentionally address language barriers across the Connection by utilizing in-house qualified translators and/or investing in translation platforms to ensure equitable access, full participation, and meaningful engagement for all districts in connectional gatherings and communications.