

2016-2021 Commission on AME Women in Ministry Report



REPORT TO THE 51ST QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Senior Bishop
Bishop Michael L. Mitchell, President of the Council of Bishops
Bishop Wilfred Messiah, President of the General Board
Bishop E Anne Henning Byfield, Commission on Women in Ministry, Chairperson
Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, Connectional President, Women in Ministry

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COMMISSION ON WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield, Chairperson

2016 – 2021 Commission Members

1st District: Presiding Elder Jocelyn Hart Lovelace

2nd District: Presiding Elder Ernest Montague

3rd District: Ms. Kimberly Brooks

4th District: Ms. Betty Tuggle

5th District: Rev. Fran Cary

6th District: Rev. Jonetta Prater

7th District: Ms. Vergie Tennison

8th District: Ms. Darlene Gordon

9th District: Rev. Albert Hyche

10th District: Miss Kendra Hill-Daughton

11th District: Bro. Charlie Nichols

12th District: Rev. Marcelle Fields

13th District: Rev. Troy Thomas

14th District: Rev. Margaret Fadehan

15th District: Bro. Theodore Messiah

16th District: Rev. Carlene Sobers

17th District: Rev. Moses Achola

18th District: Ms. Beatrice Mutokoa

19th District: Sis. Thumekile Mthanti

20th District: Presiding Elder Rosetta Swinton

****No At-Large Members****

CONNECTIONAL AME/WIM EXECUTIVE BOARD LEADERSHIP

Reverend Dr. Erika D. Crawford is the Connectional President of AME/WIM and former Third Vice President of Connectional AME/ WIM (2012-2016). She received her Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from Voorhees College (Denmark, SC), her Master of Divinity from New York Theological Seminary (New York, NY), her Doctor of Ministry from Fordham University (New York, NY) and has done post-graduate work at Regent Park College of Oxford University (Oxford, UK).

Rev. Crawford is the Pastor of Mt Zion African Methodist Episcopal Ebenezer Church of Dover, DE. There she led the congregation in total debt liquidation, the acquisition of land, and the re-zoning of all its properties while becoming a total tithing church.

In addition to her Pastoral responsibilities and commitment to Women In Ministry, she is a Chaplain/Pastoral Consultant for the WNBA Chaplains Association, member of the First Episcopal District Self-Help Committee, member of the Delaware Annual Conference Board of Trustees, Dean of the Delaware Annual Conference Ministerial Institute, member of the Pan-Methodist Commission; a co-founder and convener of High Heels Seeking Higher Ground Women's Retreat Ministry; a life member of the NAACP; co-founder of The ToolShed Community a forum for racial dialogue, a member of the Trauma Delaware Resilience Working Group, member of The Village, a community education support group; Director of Stewardship for the First Episcopal District of the AME Church as well as several other leadership positions in the AME Church and community.

Reverend Ammie L. Davis is the First Vice President of Connectional AME/WIM. Rev. Davis is a member of the Eighth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the South Mississippi Annual Conference, and the Brookhaven-Hattiesburg District. Reverend Davis earned a Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree in Business Administration and Human Resource Management in 2000 from Southern New Hampshire University. In May of 2004, she graduated with honors from Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), Atlanta Georgia with a Master of Divinity (MDiv) Degree in Psychological of Religion and Pastoral Care and Counseling. Reverend Davis graduated with a Master of Arts (MA) Degree in Management and Leadership in 2011 and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) Degree from Webster University in 2014. She is a 3rd year Ph.D. student at Regent University matriculating in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Ecclesial Leadership. While a student at Turner Theological Seminary, Rev. Davis was elected President of the Turner Fellowship, inducted into the International Society of Theta Phi and Who's Who among Students in American Universities and College. In February 2005, Rev. Davis was elected President of Turner Theological Seminary Alumni Association.

Rev. Davis is also the Chaplains' Executive Liaison to The Right Reverend Frank Madison Reid, III., member of Turner Theological Seminary Trustee Board, Board of Examiners Chair of the South Mississippi Annual Conference, and First Vice-President of the NAACP Forrest County Branch Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Rev. Davis served 14.5 years enlisted (Hospitalman Corpsman) and 13.5 years as an officer (Chaplain) in the United States Navy. After 28 years of military service, Reverend Davis retired from active-duty service on October 1, 2016, as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Chaplain Corps.

Reverend Joelynn T. Stokes, Esq., is the 2nd Vice President of the Connectional AME/WIM. She is a graduate of Vanderbilt University (BA), Hofstra Law School (JD), University of Detroit (MA Religious Studies), and Ashland Theological Seminary (MA Counseling). She has served as adjunct faculty for Michigan State Detroit College of Law and Ashland University Seminary. She serves as pastor for the merged congregations of Saunders Memorial and Allen Temple AME Churches (aka Saunders Allen)

In addition to her private law practice, Rev. Stokes holds the office of General Counsel for the 4th Episcopal District of the AME Church. She also serves on Ashland's Advisory Board and the board of Heritage Center for Religious Studies. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc

Joelynn loves to preach God's Word and is blessed to have sermons published in The African American Pulpit and The Living Pulpit; and her biblical insights quoted in Joshua and Judges: Text @ Context. She is also featured in Pardon My Dust: I'm Under Construction a motivational book that highlights successful Michigan women.

Reverend Dr. Monica L. Spencer is the 3rd Vice President Connectional AME/WIM Reverend Dr. Monica L. Spencer is the 3rd Vice President Connectional AME/WIM. Before serving in this position, she served as the Connectional Corresponding Secretary, (2008-2016). She has also served as the Second Vice President for Second Episcopal District AME/WIM and as the Virginia Annual Conference Coordinator. Dr. Spencer is the pastor of Bethel AME Church, Montezuma, GA, Southwest Georgia Annual Conference of the 6th Episcopal District. Her former pastorates are: Chapel of Christ Our Redeemer AME Church; Jamaica Annual Conference, 16th Episcopal District; Greater Ebenezer AME Church, Richmond, VA; Centerville Chapel AME Church, Chesapeake, VA and St. Michael AME Church in South Boston, VA in the 2nd Episcopal District

Dr. Spencer earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work from Virginia State University; a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University. She also received a Certificate in Parish Pastoral Care from the Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care in Richmond, VA. And most recently completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at the Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems in Richmond, VA. She is currently a Resident Chaplain at St. Francis Hospital in Columbus, GA.

As adjunct faculty at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology; Dr. Spencer instructs in the areas of AME Church Studies and Missions/Cultural Immersion. Dr. Spencer is an experienced trainer and is a former participant in the Lott Carey Pastoral Excellence Program. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Association of Clinical Pastoral Counselors.

Reverend Louise Jackson is the General Secretary of AME/WIM Reverend Jacksons is the Pastor of Greater Mitchell Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Mansfield, OH, in the Third Episcopal District. Rev Jackson is an active and financial member of WIM since 2001 on the local, conference, Episcopal, and connectional level. WIM offices formerly held: Presiding Elder District Coordinator of the Cleveland District for three consecutive terms; Second Vice President of the Third Episcopal District AME/WIM for two terms and President of the Third Episcopal District AME/WIM for one term. Rev. Jackson presently holds the position of Commissioner with the City of Cleveland in Cleveland, Ohio for twenty-two years; responsible for administering direct service programs for the City. Possess over thirty years of experience in administrative, financial, budgeting, and organizational management; as well as have over twenty years experience as a secretary in various organizations. Educational background is as follows: the University of Georgia – BBA Degree in Business Information Systems; Masters of Divinity from Ashland Theological Seminary and received her Doctor of Ministry from Ashland Theological Seminary. Rev. Jackson is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Reverend Garland D. Higgins is the Communications Secretary for Connectional AME/WIM. Rev. Higgins is a native of Hartford, Connecticut where she attended Windsor Public Schools until graduation. She grew up at Bethel AME Church in Hartford where she answered the call to ministry in 2000. She has a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism from Howard University, M.A. in Communications from Regent University, and an M.Div from Yale University Divinity School. She relocated to Atlanta in 2013. Currently, she serves as the Chair of the Board of Christian Education for the Atlanta East District. Rev. Higgins works as full-time Director of Christian Education for Antioch AME Church in Stone Mountain.

She is a published author and founder of a non-profit organization, God's Glorious Girls, Inc. She is the proud mother of a 25-year-old daughter, Perri Higgins, who is a graduate of Hampton University; and

adoptive mother to her 24-year-old niece, Khalina Davis, along with great-nephews, Ayden, and Zander. Her love for God and God's people have given her a passionate heart for ministry. Her favorite scripture is "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path." Proverbs 3:5-6

Reverend Tyronda Howse Burgess is the Financial Secretary for Connectional AME/WIM. This is her second term in this office, coming to the position with over 25 years of ministry experience and nearly 35 years of experience in Finance and Accounting. Reverend Burgess holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and a Master's in Business in Administration in Human Resource Management and Organizational Behavior. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Rev. Burgess has served congregations in the 13th Episcopal District, where she was effective in reviving and revitalizing several declining congregations and she procured a permanent worship facility for the Kairos Community AME Church. She currently serves in the 10th Episcopal Districts as the Presiding Elder of the Greater Dallas District.

She is the Executive Administrator for the Tenth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is married to Rev. Lish Burgess Jr., and they have two sons, Lish III and Landon, and five grandchildren.

Reverend Angelique Mason is the Treasurer for Connectional AME/WIM. She has served as the Pastor of Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church in Hillsboro, Maryland, on the southern Eastern Shore from October 2011 to the present. She served as Pastor to the historic Holy Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church in Edesville, Maryland, from April 2007 until October 2011. She was ordained an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1995.

Rev. Mason earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Morgan State University and a Masters of Divinity from Howard University School of Divinity. Rev. Mason's sermon titled "For Real, For Real" was published in "Those Sisters Can PREACH! 22 Pearls of Wisdom, Virtue, and Hope", edited by Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie. She also has contributed a commentary in "Sisters in Faith Holy Bible" commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. She is a member of both the Baltimore Metropolitan Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and the NAACP.

Reverend Dr. Janie Dowdy-Dandridge is the Herstoryographer of Connectional AME/WIM. She serves as the proud pastor of Brown Chapel AME Church Union City, TN. As a prophetic voice, Dr. Dowdy-Dandridge is a preacher, pastor, life coach, motivational speaker, and entrepreneur. She is an advocate and activist for women's issues, a servant of God, and author of "You Have What It Takes to Lead, What's Stopping You?" Dr. Dowdy-Dandridge is also a contributing author in the New Revised Version of "Not Without a Struggle: Leadership Development for African American Women in Ministry. She is married to Dr. John Dandridge, Pastor at Quinn Chapel, Paris, TN, and together they have 6 children and 8 grandchildren.

She received her bachelor's degree from American Baptist College in Nashville, a Master of Divinity Degree from Central Baptist Theological Seminary Shawnee KS, and the Doctor of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary, Dayton Ohio where she focused on Congregational Development: Developing New Faith Communities from a Womanist Perspective. Her dissertation Title and Project is The Two Shall Become One: A Womanist Model of Healing and Wholeness in the Life of Merged Congregations. Dr. Dowdy-Dandridge most recently completed one unit in Clinical Pastoral Education at The Alvin York Veterans Administration Medical Center in Murfreesboro, TN. She is proud a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Reverend Pamela Rivera serves as the Director of Worship and Liturgy of the Connectional AME/WIM. This is her second term in this position. She serves in the Tenth Episcopal District. Rev. Rivera served as the President of the Tenth Episcopal District AME/ WIM (2003-2011), a member of the Board of Examiners and Trustees. Rev. Rivera currently serves as the Presiding Elder of the 'Austin Capital District' in the Southwest Conference.

Rev. Rivera earned a Bachelor of Arts from Concordia University at Austin, Austin, Texas; a Master's of Divinity from George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University, Waco Texas, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry in African American Congregational Leadership at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois, and a certificate in non-profit management from The Kellogg School of Management Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. She is a contributor in the book, "What We Love About The Black Church: Can We Get A Witness?" and she was a recipient of the Robert Jackson Robinson Preaching Award from Truett Theological Seminary. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the NAACP. She Rivera is a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

CONNECTIONAL CONSULTANTS

Our Consultants embody the wisdom, grace, and breath of giftedness of AME Women in Ministry. They represent the academy, the pastorate, and the chaplaincy. Our Consultants are leaders and administrators who diligently serve in the local and connectional church context. We are honored to have them serve as our consultants

- **The Reverend Sandra Smith Blair** is a former Connectional President of AME/WIM and serves as an Associate Minister at St. Paul AME Church, Berkeley, CA (5th Episcopal District)
- **The Reverend Teresa Fry Brown, Ph.D.**, is a General Officer serving as Director of Scholarship and Research Historiographer for the AME Church and the Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology. (6th Episcopal District)
- **The Reverend Jacquelyn Grant Collier, Ph.D.**, the former AME/ WIM Ad-Hoc Chair and leading theologian who made significant contributions to Womanist Theology. Dr. Grant Collier is the founder and director of the Office of Black Women in Church and Society and the Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Systematic Theology at the Interdenominational Theological Center. (6th Episcopal District)
- **Chaplain Benita Livingston** serves as a ministerial associate at St Andrew AME Church in Memphis, TN, and as a Chaplain at the Memphis VA Medical Center. (13th Episcopal District)
- **The Reverend Brenda Payne**, a Presiding Elder, and preacher who has served in various Conferences and Districts. She currently serves as the Presiding Elder of the South Houston District (10th Episcopal District).

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION ON WOMEN IN MINISTRY



Greeting to our Bishops, Episcopal Supervisors, General Officers & Spouses, Connectional Officers, Presidents and Deans of Universities, Seminaries and Schools, and the wonderful people of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

On behalf of the Commission on Women In Ministry, I am excited to present to you this Quadrennial Conference Report, which reflects and details the work of both the Commission on Women in Ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Executive Board on behalf of the commission.

This quadrennial, under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Erika Crawford, women in ministry throughout the connection continued the work of God as dedicated servant leaders engaged in their local churches, Presiding Elder Districts, Annual Conferences, across the Connection and Christendom.

I am proud to say that AME/WIM continues to be intentional in equipping and empowering women despite challenges and limited resources. I applaud AME Women in Ministry as they celebrate successful quadrennial Standing United, Moving Forward, Stronger Together! It has been a great joy to serve with and support the work of AME/WIM as the Commission Chair.

Anchored In Christ,

The Right Reverend E. Anne Henning Byfield

The Right Reverend E. Anne Henning Byfield, Chair

GREETINGS FROM THE CONNECTIONAL PRESIDENT OF AME/WIM



The Lord Be Praised!

I am thankful for the opportunity to make this Quadrennial Conference report as the Connectional President of AME/WIM. It is a joy to be counted among the servants of God and particularly among the mighty clergywomen in the AME Church and I am humbled by the awesome responsibility of leading, encouraging, and advocating for the more than 4,500 clergywomen.

As women in ministry, we believe that at its heart the AME Church is a Social Justice Church, fully committed to a Liberating Faith that continues to look for ways to encourage, support, and elevate the gifts, purpose, and call of women in the AME Church. Therefore, AME/WIM remains steadfastly and unswervingly committed to the partnership established by the 1977 delegation of clergywomen gathered before the Council of Bishops in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

We want to thank our Commission Chair and former Connectional AME/WIM officer, Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield, for her continued support and insight into ways for us to respectfully challenge the church to live out its proclamation of justice as we embrace Kingdom assignments through kin-dom work. Additionally, I take a point of personal privilege to thank the members of the Connectional AME/WIM Executive Board and the Connectional AME/WIM Consultants for their support of the vision cast and new territory conquered this quadrennium.

Like the daughters of Zelophehad, who are the foundation for our Quadrennial Theme, we remain before you, our beloved Zion proclaiming, “The daughters are right in what they are saying,” as we look for our inheritance among our brothers and our father’s brothers.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our good works.

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, President

ABOUT WOMEN IN MINISTRY

African Methodist Episcopal Women in Ministry (AME/WIM) is the official professional organization for women pursuing excellence in ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

AME/WIM is an international organization serving the 20 Episcopal Districts of the AME Church in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and the continents of Africa, Asia, South America, and Europe.

AME/WIM is led by an Executive Board elected by the active membership - women preachers from across the Connectional AME Church.

AME/WIM currently serves, supports, and encourages more than four thousand women serving in ministerial capacities at every level throughout the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

AME CHURCH 2016-2021 QUADRENNIAL THEME

“The African Methodist Episcopal Church: A Social Justice and Liberating Faith”

Political Justice (2016); Criminal Justice (2017); Environmental Justice (2018); Economic Justice (2019). “And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8 (NASB)

AME/WIM 2016-2021 QUADRENNIAL THEME

In September of 2016, the Executive Board of AME/WIM intentionally assessed the state of Women In Ministry in the AME Church by reviewing the commissioning mission, purpose, and objectives of AME/WIM. In doing so, the board gave prayerful thought and consideration to the denomination’s Quadrennial Theme - “The African Methodist Episcopal Church: A Social Justice and Liberating Faith.”

Trusting in the stated and inferred commitment of the AME Church to justice, and believing that the pursuit of justice includes Gender Justice, Connectional AME/WIM established the **2016-2020 Quadrennial theme: “Standing United, Moving Forward, Stronger Together” based on Numbers 27:6-7 (NRSV)**

6 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 7 The daughters of Zelophehad [the women] are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father’s brothers and pass the inheritance of their father on to them.

About Our Theme

#Standing United

AME/WIM is unified and focused on empowering and encouraging WIM across the connection.

#Moving Forward

AME/WIM is intentional about focusing on the future of our church, we are faith

forward. We belong to a new generation and we are focused on exercising our gifts, fulfilling our purpose, individually and collectively, in possessing the promises of God.

#Stronger Together

AME/WIM pursues justice for all. All WIM are equally valued, and we seek to have everyone share equitably in the distribution of power, knowledge, resources, and access to leadership.

About The Text:

The story of Zelophehad's daughters is one of encouragement, empowerment, and engagement.

The Bible mentions Zelophehad's daughters by name five times and gives legitimacy to their pursuit of justice – Gender Justice.

- Numbers 26:33; 27:1-7; 36:1-12;
- Joshua 17:1-6; and
- 1 Chronicles 7:15

AME/WIM 2016-2021 QUADRENNIAL GOALS

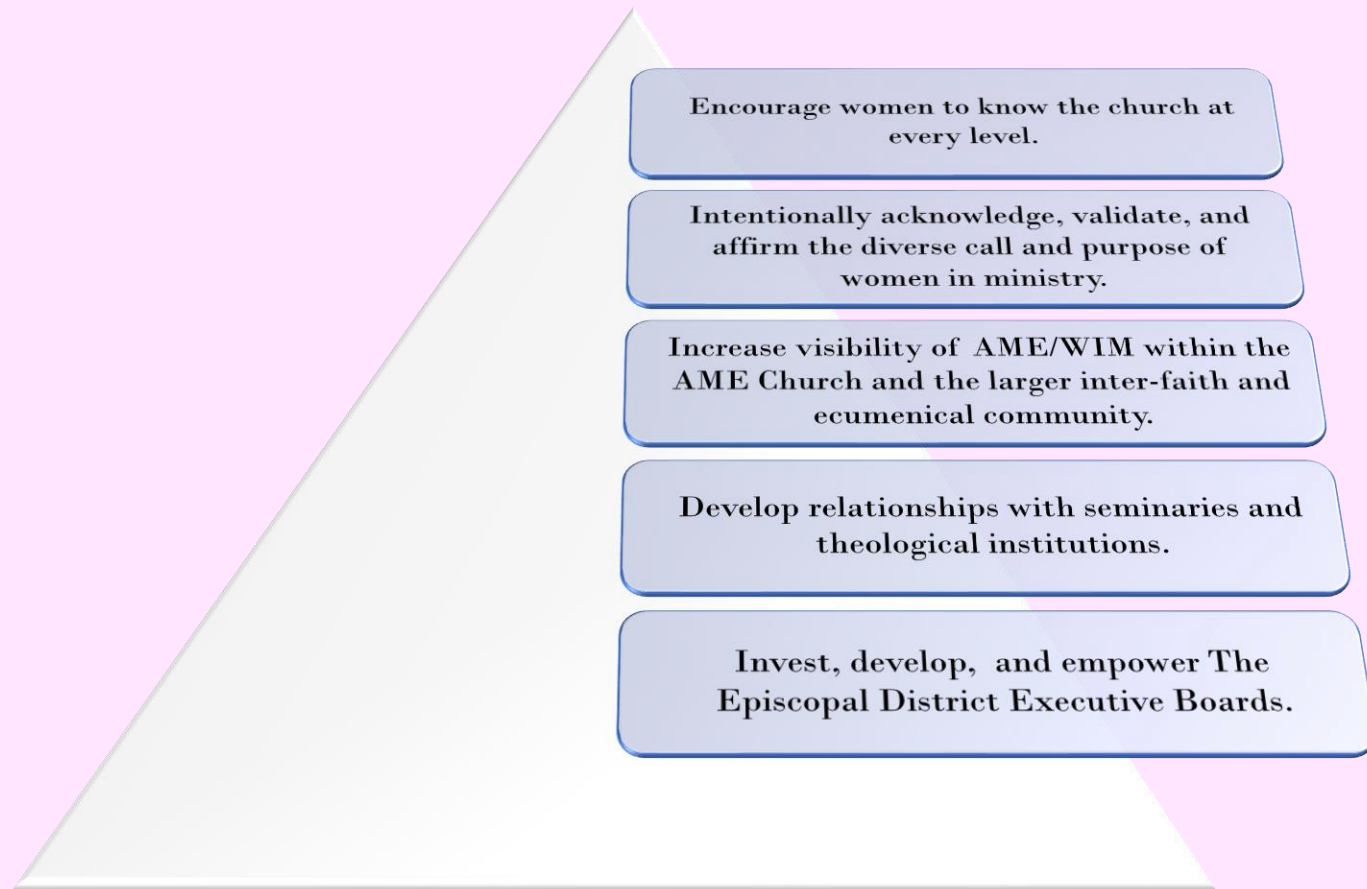
Realizing that there are times when we must go back before we can go forward, the 2016-2020 Quadrennial Goals of Connectional AME/WIM take us back to the original mission, purpose, and bylaws of AME/WIM as adopted by the 44th Session of The General Conference (1992) which emboldened and empowered AME/WIM to:

- Recognize and support women in ministry as an integral part of the AME Church.
- Raise the consciousness of the A.M.E. Church on women's issues.
- Address the issue of sexism in the A.M.E. Church.
- Address issues of opportunities for women in ministry in the A.M.E. Church.
- Support women in the pastoral ministry.
- Encourage academic training for ministry.
- Support, assist, and outreach to women in ministry in the “Global Districts.”
- Compile a complete and accurate record of all women in ministry in the A.M.E Church.

During the 2016-2021 quadrennial the focus was:

- Unity
- Preparation
- Relationships
- Gender Justice

We established the following as our fivefold **Quadrennial Goals**:



SUMMARY OF OUR WORKS

Women in ministerial offices at every level of the African Methodist Episcopal Church labored with great joy and Godly pride to bring to fruition the quadrennial vision cast by the Connectional Executive Board under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford.

AME/WIM began our work at the Connectional level with a transition meeting between the 2012-2016 Executive Board under the leadership of the Rev. Kimberly L. Detherage, Esq. and the 2016-2021 Executive Board. This transitional meeting served as a visible continuum of sisterhood, solidarity, and sanguinity as we celebrated the good works of the past administration and steadied ourselves to stand on their shoulders to move AMEWIM forward, higher and further as new leaders serving for the Glory of God, the good of our sisters, and the strength of our Zion.

Connectional AME/WIM was invited to present a report on “state of women in ministry” in the African Methodist Episcopal Church to the Council of Bishops in January of 2018, articulating our concerns, highlighting our strengths, tracking our progress, reckoning with weaknesses, and advocating for equity and parity in the church.

As we lived into our quadrennial theme - **“Standing United, Moving Forward, Stronger Together” based on Numbers 27:6-7 (NRSV)**, we were committed to advocating for our inheritance and preparing every woman to take hold of it through full proof of their gifts.

Connectional AME/WIM engaged in a plethora of works but most impactful and noteworthy are the following:

THE 10TH QUADRENNIAL CONFERENCE

AME/WIM gathered in the 9th Episcopal August 7th – 10th, 2018 for our **10th Quadrennial Conference**. This was the largest quadrennial conference sponsored by AME/WIM with more than 400 women in ministry from across the globe. Bishop Harry Seawright, Supervisor Rev. Sherita Seawright, Rev. Deborah Peppers, Presiding Elder Tish Watford, and the great people of the 9th Episcopal District welcome us and set the atmosphere for a mighty move of God.

Rev. Ammie L. Davis, 1st Vice President, and the Connectional AME/WIM Executive Board worked enthusiastically, intentionally, and diligently to be inclusive and bold in our choices of preachers, workshop facilitators, morning vespers, and panels. The selection of voices highlighted the intersections of God’s servants in ministry having engaged Bishops, Episcopal Supervisors, seasoned preachers, emerging leaders, and our male counterparts in the work, the preaching, and the teaching of the conference. Additionally, the conference navigated the spaces between our spirituality with worship, our history with tours and cultural immersion, and our humanity with a moment of levity during the comedy show.

During the conference, we established the **President’s Luncheon**, as an opportunity for the Connectional President to lift and celebrate the work of the Episcopal District Presidents and the sacrifices they made to carry out the vision.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMEWIM SCOUTING PATCHES

We were proud to partner with Christian Education and the Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts through Rev. Dr. Missouri McPhee to develop a series of scouting patches celebrating women of the AME Church – both lay and clergy.

Six women representing diverse disciplines, calls, and generations were selected for the inaugural patches. Each patch was sponsored by an Episcopal District who assumed responsibility for financially supporting the patch and developing a guide on the person selected.



We are also grateful for the opportunity to support the production of the AAMES Patch for Bishop Vashti Murph McKenzie, the first elected and consecrated woman Bishop of the AME Church.



THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AND CANDIDATE FORUM

Believing that an informed voter (delegate) is crucial to a representative democracy, Connectional AMEWIM hosted a **Candidate Forum** during the 10th Quadrennial of AME WIM (Birmingham, AL, USA) and the Global Quadrennial Conference (Cape

Town, South Africa) providing a platform for candidates to articulate to the general populace of the AME Church, and women in ministry specifically, their gifts, skills, experience, and platform. Seventeen candidates participated in the forum being asked thought-provoking questions covering Spiritual Character, Office and Vision, and Ability.

The **AME/WIM Connectional Legislative Committee** led by Rev. Joelynn T. Stokes, 2nd Vice President engaged clergy and lay, male and female from across the Connection, in reading through and reviewing the Book of Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church while giving special attention to concerns and legislation impacting clergy and women in the AME Church.

As a result, AME/WIM was actively involved in the 2019 Convo submitting and partnering with other components to propose legislation addressing a broad array of issues and policies adversely impacting the Church as a whole and/or Women in Ministry disproportionately. Additionally, an internal comprehensive review of the AME/WIM By-Laws resulted in the submission of proposed by-laws changes and updates.

THE CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

During the 2017 Lenten Season, meditations were written by Sisters from every Episcopal District. The season covered Ash Wednesday to Holy Week including the ‘*Ascension of the Lord*’s day and ‘*The Day of Pentecost*.’ In 2018, the Worship and Liturgy Director, Presiding Elder Pamela Rivera worked with Herstoryographer, Reverend Dr. Janie Dowdy-Dandridge to present sermons, Bible studies, and meditations for Women’s Herstory Month.

In 2020 and 2021, we engaged the people of God in a 24-Hour Holy Saturday Virtual Prayer Vigil. From 6 am (EST) Holy Saturday through 6 am (EST) Resurrection (Easter) Sunday with prayer warriors from across the connection and beyond interceding every 5-minutes.

In 2019 a publication entitled ‘**Celebrating The Reverend Jarena Lee and 200 Years of Women Answering the Call to Preach in the African Methodist Episcopal Church**’ was produced.

One of the responsibilities of The Commission on Women in Ministry is to challenge the AME Church to live out its proclamation of justice. Supports of the commission and AME/WIM did this by remembering and celebrating the undeniable call of the now, Reverend Jarena Lee and the existential leap of faith Bishop Richard Allen took when he broke with tradition in 1819 to license her the first woman preacher in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Now, more than 200 years after Jarena Lee was licensed, we are proud to say that the AME Church boasts of more than 4,000 women serving in a ministerial capacity. The celebration guide produced on September 29, 2019, by AME/WIM was a deliberate opportunity to recognize the work and witness of Rev.

Jarena Lee across the connectional church.

As we celebrated the call of women in the AME Church, we humbly asked (and now continue to ask) every believer in the AME Church to personally advocate for us as daughters of the church; we asked (and ask) that you intentionally provide us with access to information and resources as your sisters; and that you affirm our gifts by using them to build up the kingdom and kin-dom.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEADERS

The Global Pandemic, COVID 19, created a coveted opportunity for AME/WIM to virtually partner mentors and mentees together to elevate leaders, exposing participants to excellence in ministry and opening doors of dialogue between generations, continents and calls.

Our Maximizing Ministry Mentoring Series beckoned hundreds of men and women monthly to hear from experienced leaders. Subjects and Mentors were:

- Communicating at Every Level of The Church (Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry)
- Bloom Where You Are Planted: Nurturing & Growing A Congregation (Rev. Dr. Anne Lightner Fuller)
- Maximizing Marriage & Ministry: A Conversation With Clergy & Spouses (Bishop & Episcopal Supervisor Bryant, Presiding Elder Elaine Gordon, Rev. John & Maria White)
- The Unspoken Culture, Protocol and Policies of the AME Church (Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield)
- Leading When You're Not The Pastor - A Tribute To Jarena Lee
- Between Sisters – A Conversation Between Women in Leadership (Sis. Deborah Taylor King, Presiding Elder Michelle Goodloe, Sis. Martinique Mix, Sis. Starr Battle, Esq.)
- Navigating New Spaces (When You're The First Or Experience A First) – Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie
- Ministry Beyond The Walls (Chaplaincy & The Academy) - TBA
- Politics and Collective Power At The General Conference - TBA

THE DIGITIZING OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS, MINUTES, RECORDS, AND HISTORY

To ensure there is a permanent record, over the years AMEWIM created and now maintains an electronic filing system of the business Minutes of monthly WIM Connectional meetings, starting with the September transition meeting, the December 2016 General Board meeting, and all other special meetings.

The Minutes also include all meeting agendas from the Connectional Officers, informational handouts, and information from Episcopal District Presidents to ensure they are placed into the electronic file. The file also includes any attachments, along with any other special WIM correspondence.

Ongoing evaluation of the most effective and economical way to develop and house an electronic file-syncing and storage systems. The system will not only provide sharing of documents but will create a permanent house for the historical records of the Connectional Women In Ministry.

Understanding the importance of open dialogue and communication we:

- Continued visibility throughout the Connection via Mailchimp for communications to AME/WIM and others.
- Continued presence on AME/WIM Facebook page to announce various events (i.e. Women's Herstory Month, Maximizing Ministry Mondays)
- Press releases were written in response to various issues with clergywomen in other denominations.
- Submitted articles to The Christian Recorder to announce any upcoming events or strides that AME/WIM made throughout the Connection.
- Actively communicating with over 4,000 women and men across the Connection to share news of women in ministry.

THE STRENGTHENING OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY IN DISTRICTS 14-20

One of the works that we are most proud of is our intentional and successful effort to connect women across the globe.

An interim Central Southern Africa Coordinator was appointed to assist us in communicating with women on the continent as we continue to work to understand the difference in cultural nuances and traditions. In that position, the Rev. Lerato Pitso formally organized districts 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, and 20. Some additional highlights of our international work are:

- In August 2018, ten women from districts 14-20 traveled to the 9th Episcopal District to attend the Quadrennial Conference. Connectional AMEWIM worked with their Episcopal District leadership to subsidize the expense of this event.
- In February 2019, the first Global AME/WIM was held in Cape Town
- In April 2020, AME/WIM from the CSA region participated in the first 24-hour Virtual Prayer
- In January 2021 the First Monthly AME/WIM Global Districts Meeting was held, with most "Global Districts" in attendance
- In March 2021, the 15th District launched its mentoring-partnership with the 7th District. Since then other partnerships have been confirmed:
 - Districts 2 and 17
 - Districts 5 and 20
 - Districts 11 and 19
 - Districts 13 and 18
 - Districts 1 and 16
 - District 14 is yet to be assigned.

- In March 2021, all presidents from the CSA region were connected and they held their first meeting in April 2021 (with Districts 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, and 20)
- In April 2021, AME/WIM from the CSA region participated in the first 24-hour Virtual Prayer
- In April 2021, the interim CSA Coordinator launched the Regional Newsletter and Virtual Sisters Chat highlighting works done by AME/WIM in the region

THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY AND PROTOCOL GUIDE

We developed a draft training booklet for Episcopal District Presidents. The manual intends to ensure the mission of Connectional WIM is disseminated throughout the Connection and to aid in developing leadership skills for the women. Ongoing evaluation on how to provide a standardized model to develop the most impactful visions for each Episcopal District taking into consideration the strengths and needs for development. The ultimate goal is to include connecting the Mission of the Connectional WIM with the most critical needs of an Episcopal District. Part one of the model will focus on how the Episcopal Presidents develop and direct a mission that allows the Episcopal District to energize, educate, train, engage and prepare WIM for forward movement with a focus on supporting women in pastoral ministry and engaging all women in preparing for expanded leadership opportunities in the AME Church.

Additionally, a draft of a Policy and Protocol Guide for AME/WIM was written.

NECROLOGIES

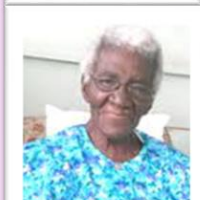
The sisterhood of clergywomen is unique and precious; therefore, we pause to recognize the transition of all of our beloved sisters in ministry and particularly these four women, who served God, the AME Church, and Women in Ministry well at the churches highest levels.



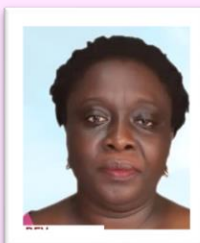
The Reverend Lillian Frier Webb – The third Connectional AME/WIM President (served Connectional AMEWIM 1988-1996)



The Reverend Jeanne B. Williams – The first Connectional AME/WIM President (served Connectional AMEWIM 1980-1984)



Presiding Elder Dorothy Millicent Morris– The first woman Presiding Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (Served the 16th Episcopal District)



Presiding Elder Margaret Fadehan – President of the 14th Episcopal District AME/WIM (served as Episcopal District President 2012-2019)



Dr. Leah Gaskin Fitchue, PhD. - President of Payne Theological Seminary from 2003 to 2015. She was the school's first woman president, the first African-American woman to serve as president of an accredited theological seminary, and the first woman to serve as head of any historically black theological seminary in the United States.

*Servants of God, well done! Rest from thy loved employ.
The battle fought, the victory won, Enter thy master's joy.*

FINANCIAL REPORT

A.M.E. Connectional Women in Ministry Quadrennial Finance Report June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2021

Reverend Angelique Mason, Treasurer
Reverend Tyronda H. Burgess, Financial Secretary

	Year 1 6/1/16 - 5/31/17	Year 2 6/1/17 - 5/31/18	Year 3 6/1/18 - 5/31/19	Year 4 6/1/19 - 5/31/20	Year 5 6/1/20 - 4/30/21	Quadrennial Total
INCOME						
Connectional Allocation	\$ 14,280.00	\$ 14,280.00	\$ 14,280.00	\$ 14,280.00	\$ 10,417.00	\$ 67,537.00
Connectional Dues	\$ 13,165.00	\$ 25,795.00	\$ 32,666.00	\$ 58,707.07	\$ 17,999.69	\$ 148,332.76
Quadrennial Conference	\$ -	\$ 28,141.13	\$ 102,835.26	\$ 3,860.50	\$ -	\$ 134,836.89
Jarena Lee Breakfast	\$ 58,810.28	\$ -	\$ 325.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,135.28
Public Offerings Received	\$ -	\$ 2,118.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,168.00
Scouting Patches	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Premium Item Sales (shites, stoles, pins, etc.)	\$ 3,733.00	\$ -	\$ 6,380.00	\$ 770.00	\$ -	\$ 10,883.00
Restricted Income - Robes	\$ 1,814.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,814.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 91,802.28	\$ 70,334.13	\$ 156,486.26	\$ 77,617.57	\$ 29,466.69	\$ 425,706.93
EXPENSES						
Benevolence	\$ 1,352.42	\$ 167.13	\$ 172.03	\$ -		\$ 1,691.58
Printing	\$ 5,300.83	\$ 1,721.20	\$ 409.61	\$ 168.00	\$ 1,293.00	\$ 8,892.64
Advertising & Marketing	\$ 2,365.22	\$ 983.88	\$ 2,434.74	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 6,383.84
Travel	\$ 50,469.23	\$ 20,120.73	\$ 13,982.93	\$ 20,435.33	\$ 1,554.40	\$ 106,562.62
General & Administrative Expense	\$ 2,243.72	\$ 1,617.96	\$ 1,196.84	\$ 2,058.80	\$ 2,522.74	\$ 9,640.06
General Conference Expense	\$ 600.00	\$ 3,954.15	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,554.15
Banking Fees	\$ 26.50	\$ 99.66	\$ 439.25	\$ 177.54	\$ 80.00	\$ 822.95
Honoraria - Public Worship	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 9,200.00
Premium & Promotional Expense	\$ 2,699.53	\$ -	\$ 6,525.00	\$ 3,950.00	\$ 3,958.49	\$ 17,133.02
Registration Fees	\$ -	\$ 970.00	\$ 610.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,580.00
Restricted Expense - Robes	\$ 2,990.00	\$ (1,104.85)	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,085.15
Quadrennial Conference Expense	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,838.62	\$ 187,345.57	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 190,684.19
Public Offerings Expense	\$ 100.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 510.00
Jarena Lee Breakfast Expense	\$ 21,902.45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,902.45
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 95,649.90	\$ 30,778.48	\$ 213,515.97	\$ 28,089.67	\$ 13,608.63	\$ 381,642.65
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ (3,847.62)	\$ 39,555.65	\$ (57,029.71)	\$ 49,527.90	\$ 15,858.06	\$ 44,064.28

EPISCOPAL DISTRICT REPORTS



Standing United. Moving Forward. Stronger Together



And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father's brothers and pass the inheritance of their father on to them.

Numbers 27:6-7 (NRSV)

1ST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Dr. Emilygail Dill, President

The First District WIM has embraced and promoted the Quadrennial Theme by consistently using it as the overarching theme for all of our meetings and events in conjunction with the Episcopal District Focus. We have developed workshops, conferences and programs at both the District and Conference level that uplifted the theme and strengthened our membership in the areas outlined in the theme. Each of our Conferences have been encouraged to embrace the theme and develop their programming around it. This has resulted in an abundance of creative and spiritually enriching experiences that have strengthened our sisterhood, addressed important issues and empowered the WIM for more effective service.

At each Episcopal District Gathering the WIM of the First has held general meetings for the membership that have been open to others. Engaging and innovative programs have been developed and presented that both increased the visibility of WIM and provide valuable information and insight to strengthen the ministry of the women of the District and increase their knowledge of the AME Church.

The First Episcopal District has sought to affirm the call and ministry of WIM in all of its programs and projects. Each of the District WIM meetings includes a teaching, training or empowering component that highlights specific ministry topics and/or opportunities. We held two Women in Ministry Summits in 2017 and 2021 that affirmed the call and ministry of WIM while providing sessions that were designed to strengthen the WIM in the District and beyond. We also held a service commemorating the life and ministry of Jarena Lee on the anniversary of her 200th Birthday along with presenting a Jarena Lee Award. The Bermuda, New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia Conferences have also held initiatives that recognized the contributions of WIM and uplifted their ministry in their respective Conferences.

Under the leadership of Bishop Gregory Ingram and Supervisor Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram the women in ministry of the First Episcopal District have been provided access to a multiplicity of opportunities. WIM have been selected by our leadership to be preachers and worship participants for many events where these opportunities have historically been reserved for males such as District Meetings, Annual Sermons, Workshops, etc. There have also been five new female Presiding Elders appointed and an unprecedented amount of new pastoral appointments for women under their leadership. Several women have been promoted to leading charges in their Conferences and women have been appointed as Ministerial Institute Deans and Members of the Board of Examiners, Conference Statisticians, Component Leaders and other Conference and District level committees. The District WIM has endeavored to include as many women as possible in each of our meetings and activities in order to provide greater visibility to the gifts and talents that the women in our District possess. In June of 2020 the First Episcopal District WIM held a combined worship service which included a sermon in 7 parts preached by a representative from each Annual Conference and our 2021 Summit had different sessions that highlighted women from throughout our District along with our global partners and guests.

In January of 2021 the First District AMEWIM held a Summit which included a Town Hall Meeting entitled "Faith on the Frontline" in which a panel of outstanding international leaders

discussed issues that are currently confronting women and our communities at large. We have also included guests at our District WIM Meetings to highlight specific issues that women are facing. The Bermuda Conference WIM has met and developed a partnership with the Women's Resource Center and invited other components within the AME Church to support this initiative.

Several of the presentations and panel discussions that were held during our District WIM meetings were designed to address the issue of sexism in the AME Church. In particular, the panel discussion in November 2017 entitled, "Hard Questions, Heart Answers: A Conversation With the Elders", which included all of the Presiding Elders in the First Episcopal District. We have also had discussions with our Presiding Prelate that provided an opportunity for women to ask questions and our leadership to share expectations and strategies for the advancement of women within the Church. We have also been blessed to have our Connectional WIM President to be present in the majority of our District sessions. She continues to highlight inequities and provide direction and insight as to how we can move towards the eradication of sexism within the Church.

The New Jersey Conference WIM held a session on "How to Respond when the Conversation does not Respect the Calling Because of Gender" and the Bermuda Conference held a Three Day - Preaching Women Empowerment Weekend that consisted of a variety of experiences that highlighted the challenges of women in ministry related to sexism in the church with Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry as a featured guest.

The First Episcopal District WIM has addressed issues of opportunities for women in ministry by constantly educating the women on the workings of the AME Church and encouraging them to fully equip themselves to be prepared to serve when opportunities arise. We have sought to develop a relationship with our Episcopal team and other leaders in the District and beyond who are responsible for making appointments and/or recommendations for key leadership roles.

In 2017 the First Episcopal District was paired with the 16th Episcopal District by the Connectional AMEWIM. We, in response, paired each Conference WIM in the First District with one of the seven Conferences in the 16th District. The Bermuda and New York Conferences have developed extremely strong partnerships with the Europe and Jamaica Conferences and the remaining Conferences have all begun to develop relationships with their partners. New York and Jamaica WIM meet regularly and have held joint conferences and the Bermuda Conference has supported the European Conference by providing financial support for the hosting of a meeting and weekend worship experience to explore planting new congregations in England and support for hosting of the European Annual Conference by a church hosted by a female. The First District also had 11 members of WIM to attend the 2019 Global AMEWIM Conference in Cape Town, South Africa and sponsored registration for over 50 persons from global districts. Members of the First District Executive Board also regularly attend Global AMEWIM meetings when invited and seek to strengthen our sisterhood. Each conference is committed to developing relationships and providing support for identified needs of our Global AMEWIM within their capability.

The 2016-21 quinquennial has been an amazing season for the women in ministry of the First Episcopal District. We have seen unprecedented advancement for women under the dynamic and

proactive leadership of Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram and Supervisor Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram. There have been 5 new females appointed to the office of Presiding Elder and several women throughout the District have received first pastoral appointments. We have seen a changing of the guard with females being appointed to major committees at the Conference and District level, and women being promoted to leading pastoral charges. Women have also been given the opportunity to preach and present at Annual Conferences, and District Meetings. The First District AMEWIM has met at each District gathering and provided innovative and enriching sessions to strengthen and equip the WIM within the District. Major initiatives included WIM Summits in 2017 and 2021, a special worship service to commemorate the 200th birthday of Rev. Jarena Lee at Mother Bethel in 2019 and the Rev Jarena Lee Award presentation. In the midst of the pandemic, we have demonstrated our ability to stand united and move forward, stronger together. The First District WIM had a Combined District-wide Virtual Worship Service in June 2020 in lieu of seven Annual Days with preachers from each Annual Conference. In January 2021 we held a Virtual Town Hall with Rev. Dr. Johnetta Cole, Bishop Leah Daughtry and The Hon. Renee Ming J.P., M.P as panelists and Rev. Dr. Regina Thomas as Moderator prior to our One-day Summit. In March 2021 we held a Book Study and Conversation with Rev. Dr. Renita Weems in honor of Women's History Month. Also, in 2021 our Lenten Devotional became available for the first time as an E-Book.

Each Annual Conference WIM has been encouraged to meet regularly and develop programs that will advance the mission and goals of AMEWIM. There have been worship services, panel discussions, information sessions, community partnerships developed, ecumenical gatherings and a plethora of other initiatives to advance WIM throughout the District. We have also partnered with the 16th Episcopal District WIM and paired each of our seven conferences with one of the seven conferences within the 16th District. 13 members of WIM from the First District attended the Global AMEWIM Conference in Cape Town, South Africa and the First sponsored over 50 registrations for global WIM attendees. It is with hearts of thanksgiving that we celebrate the nine years of "The Ingram Difference". We bid our Episcopal leadership a fond farewell and pray God's continued blessings upon them as they embrace their new season of ministry.

2ND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Anna E. Mosby, President

The Sisters in the Second are intentional about building strong and lasting relationships and empowering all for the work of Kingdom building. Each year our Mid-Winter/Founders Day component meetings focus on self-care, healing, and wholeness, including "1 hour of Information, Inspiration, and Impartation" and "240 Minutes of Meditation, Motivation & Mental Relaxation." Several WIM pastors were severely impacted by devastating hurricanes, storms, and the COVID-19 global pandemic. WIM has been intentional about reaching out and providing support and encouragement.

We have updated our website to make it more informative and engaging. We continue to increase our social presence to draw current and new members. Also encourage our colleagues to become Associate members of WIM.

"WIM CARES," launched in May 2020, as a virtual platform to celebrate our sisters who have advanced in ministry, to welcome those entering ministry, and to recognize the lives of those who have transitioned from labor to reward. Provide an opportunity to dialogue on health, self-care, social action, academic advancement, financial enrichment and mental health.

We have provided support and encouragement for sisters in the Board of Examiners and financial support to new pastors and those pastoring small congregations.

Monthly Districtwide virtual gatherings entitled WE Speak (WIM Empowered Speak) provide a platform for conversation, information, and encouragement. Issues affecting WIM has been discussed in workshops and WIM gatherings.

A session was held to highlight diverse ministry roles and how to use our gifts to fulfill our calling. During the event a \$300 grant was given to a WIM member to assist with beginning a new ministry endeavor.

The 2nd Episcopal District WIM is looking forward with excitement to begin partnering with the 17th Episcopal District WIM, providing sisterly support and assistance, and forging long-term relationships.

Current statistics for the 5 Annual Conferences include: 2 women Presiding Elders; Board of Examiners - 1 woman Chair, 3 Deans, 4 Secretaries; Ministerial Efficiency Committee - 1 woman Chair; Delegation to General Conference - 30% women delegates, 35% women alternates.

3RD EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Dr. Peggy E. G. Turner, President

We email all Third WIM information regardless of if they are dues paying or not. The Third District WIM and the conferences have retreats and activities that address women's issues and female clergy concerns. We help the WIM clergy that are in need of assistance, support WIM clergy programs, support those who are featured speakers, and those who receive awards. The Third District office emails our events to the entire district to help gain support from the other district organizations.

The retreat that focuses on clergy and women's issues. The winter retreat was open to all to all women. The Jarena Lee Scholarship program, and the herstory project also advocate for WIM in our district. Our outreach assistance and our mentoring initiative.

We have not initiated programs to address this area.

The Winter Retreat that was open to all women. We haven't had any structured programs but have discussions in meetings and conversations with some of the Presiding Elders.

Conversations with Presiding Elders and Bishop. We have provided monetary assistance when requested and gave some clergy shirt to a delegate to the 2018 WIM Quadrennial from the Sixteenth District.

The out of the three conferences, the Third District WIM has two WIM Presiding Elders that are active with WIM, one conference treasurer, one Dean of Board of Examiners, and a Director of Christian Education.

4TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Alene Styles- Glover

No report submitted.

5TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell, President

We have celebrated our WIM Quadrennial theme during District meetings as well as Conference events, workshops and seminars have focused on activities and practical ways to promote unity and solidarity such Sistering and Bonding. The Daughters of Zelophehad (Numbers 27) text has been preached and discussed by hour of power preachers as well as sessions during Annual Conference Days

- Fifth District and Annual Conferences development of brochures including the mission, objectives and AME WIM through distribution and discussion
- Fifth District and Annual Conference Sessions promoting the gifts of WIM through active participation of preaching and teaching.
- Fifth District Quarterly Newsletter highlighting the achievements and accomplishments of WIM throughout the District
- Annual Conference WIM developing videos and journals featuring WIM's herstory
- Fifth District and Annual Conference reporting of accomplishments of WIM in pastoral as well as specialized ministries of chaplaincy and community agencies.
- WIM have delivered Annual Sermons, presented meditations and workshops In Annual Conferences, planning meetings and midyear events.
- WIM serve as Conference Committee Chairs in Midwest-Rev. Dr. Karla Cooper, Chair of Finance Committee, Rev. Viola Jones, Treasurer and Rev. Dr. Karla Cooper, Dean of Conference; Southern California Conference-Rev Dr. Mary Minor is the Vice Chair of Trustee Board
- Fifth District and Annual Conference sessions provided awareness of mental, physical and spiritual wellness with focus on annual physical exams-mammograms, Blood pressure, heart; caring for aging parents; self-care; and domestic violence. Since COVID-19 onset, WIM has presented guidelines on coping skills such as dealing with stress and grief through presentations on mindfulness, survival practices and vaccination process. Many WIM pastors are engaged in PSA as well as offering facilities for testing and vaccination sites.

- Fifth District (Mandatory) and Annual Conference sessions were held regarding Sexual Harassment by Rev. Francine Nelson Brookins, Esq. Rev. Francine has also developed a Sexual Misconduct Training for Fifth District website.
- Fifth District and Annual Conference WIM reports expressing the urgency of WIM Gifts recognized and utilized.
- WIM are being included on Conference Committees; participants in worship; leading training/teaching during Fifth District, Annual Conference and PE District Conferences
- Rev. Cecelia Justice, District WIM Treasurer served as chair of Clothes Closet provided by AME WIM at the June 2017 General Board Meeting in Los Angeles and continues to serve as Leader in Black Suits and clergy vestment sharing by all Domestic WIM; We were able to present the donations from all 20 Districts at the WIM Global Conference in Cape town. Our district contributed toward a computer for one of our sisters overseas. Fifth District has partnered with 20th District to offer mentorship and support.
- Rev. Dr. Terry McCray Hill of Desert Mountain Conference sponsored travel for an overseas Sister to attend WIM Quad in Birmingham.

We have four female Presiding Elders serving:

- Presiding Elder Fran Cary - Midwest Conference
- Presiding Elder Darlene Smith - Missouri Conference
- Presiding Elder E. Teresa Nelson- Desert Mountain
- Presiding Elder Sheriolyn Curry- Desert Mountain

6TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Dr. Jonetta Prater, President

The Sixth Episcopal District (SED) Women In Ministry (WIM) are committed to the growth and development of women in ministry. This quadrennial we were intentional about increasing our participation and visibility in the church. As a result, our impact was felt throughout the district. We want to extend our gratitude to Bishop Reginald Jackson for his support and encouragement.

Significant Leadership Appointments:

- The Reverend Conitras Huston was appointed as the pastor Trinity AME Church – Atlanta. She was also appointed as chairperson of the SED Finance Committee
- The Reverend Marie Gordan and Reverend Dr. Debra Knight were appointed as Conference Dean(s) of the Board of Examiners
- The Reverend Dr. Susan Buckson was appointed as pastor of Allen Temple AME Church- Atlanta
- The Reverend Dr. Toni Belin Ingram was appointed as Presiding Elder

SED Mid-Year Convocation WIM Luncheon – we recognized SED female Presiding Elders and the Dr. Susan Buckson. She was appointed as pastor of Allen Temple AME Church- Atlanta

Annual Leadership Retreat Presentations on Leadership; Protocol and Procedures. The retreat was virtually held in 2020 with Bishop Vashti McKenzie as our guest presenter.

Inaugural Coffee and Conversation - Dr. Teresa Fry Brown was our presenter.

- Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology
- Executive Director of **Research and Scholarship for the AME Church**

Academic Achievements

The following women received a Doctor of Ministry

- Reverend Libya Baaqar
- Reverend Susan Buckson
- Reverend Toni Ingram

Inductee(s) Turner Theological Seminary Hall of Fame

- Presiding Elder Catharine Mathis
- Reverend Dr. Deborah Grant Scotland
- Reverend Dr. Eyvonne Hudson-Whitman (deceased)
- Reverend Dr. Susan Buckson
- Reverend Debbie Grant Neal
- Reverend Teresa Fry Brown, PhD

Financially Supported

- The Reverend Dr. Eyvonne Hudson-Whitman Whitman Scholarship at Turner Theological Seminary
- Community Partners: The Golden Harvest Food Bank, The Athens Area Food Bank, First AME Church Food Pantry and St. Paul AME Church Feed the Hungry Ministry.
- SED Ministries Spouses

SED WIM Supported Webinar(s):

- Maximizing Ministry sponsored by Connectional WIM
- Sponsored by the AME Church Research & Development Department

During the Pandemic, SED WIM pressed on in the name of Jesus! Helping, supporting, and guiding Women in Ministry through virtual events.

SED/WIM Annual Conference(s) Hosted:

- Seminars to discuss, assist, and prepare for navigation in this new virtual space. Etc. zoom, Cash app, Givelify, Facebook live.

- Encouragement Conference” with Author Dr. Shelia Thomas and her book W.A.I.T- Women Anticipating Incredible Turnaround.
- Weekly Prayer call.
- Virtual Zumba Class(s), Holiday activities, Revival(s), Worship events
- Virtual Game Night, a December to Remember, AME Founders Day and Jarena Lee Celebration.
- Virtual Mental Health Workshops,
- Virtual book discussion on “The Sisters Guide to Thrive & Survive in Ministry”, by Susan D. Johnson Cook.
- “The Value of Theological Education in a Changing World" with Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown,
- Overcomers: A Sacred Conversation with Women Survivors of Corvid-19
- Virtual Grief Counseling workshop(s)
- Virtual Stroll to the Polls with a member of the Georgia State legislature and members of the Divine 9 Sorority and Fraternity

Social Justice and Action Participation:

- Black Church ROCKS and New Georgia Souls to the polls
- Black Lives Matter Rallies
- St. Joseph-Candler Hospital and Savannah Black Clergy Partnership Covid-19 Vaccine Rollout
- Provided Community Internet Hotspot (s) sites for underserved students.
- Door-to-door canvassing, voter registration drives, hosted virtual town halls, served at polling centers as poll watchers, chaplains, and polling centers directors and staff
- ATL North Women in Ministry provided care and support to the spouse of the late Rayshard Brooks, a 27-year-old father who was fatally killed by Atlanta police

7TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Dr. Mary Rhodes, President

By implementing initiatives designed to promote support of the membership such as prayer calls, correspondences, fellowships, etc.; WIM Coordinators promote activities and encourage membership during Presiding Elder District meetings and conference activities. Also, our Bishop encourages participation in WIM during Episcopal District meetings.

The Episcopal District hosts an annual Jarena Lee Awards that honors women of distinction in the ministry. The Bishop provides worship experiences during the Annual Conference series devoted to WIM. Various Presiding Elder Districts have hosted workshops and trainings centered around domestic violence, mental health and self-care issues. Seasoned WIM shared personal encounters in the AME church regarding sexism as a means of imparting wisdom for all women.

Dialogue with our Bishop addressed the need for WIM to be considered in leadership positions.

As such, we have seen more WIM serving as Deans on the Board of Examiners, added another WIM as a Presiding Elder and WIM have been appointed to lead churches in the last five years.

The 7th Episcopal District partnered with the 15th Episcopal District to provide emotional, educational, and spiritual support to each district. WIM from the 7th Episcopal District participated on program during the 15th Episcopal WIM Convocation. This 7/15 Partnership is an ongoing project.

8TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Dr. Leoda Tops, President

The district has used the theme in worship services, workshops, banquets, and other events. The theme has been stressed and the point of focus as we stood united to support our sisters on numerous occasions.

Each WIM sponsored program and meeting on all levels promoted WIM and information was given to provide information about WIM's purpose and mission. The only activity has been small group discussions. We have addressed the issue of opportunities for WIM in our district, conference and presiding elder's district WIM meetings.

9TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Dr. Carmen Avery Walker, President

The district has embraced the theme in every activity sponsored and convened by our WIM. The theme is always prominent in every activity. We have promoted access for WIM, raised the consciousness of the A.M.E. Church on women's issues, addressed the issue of sexism in the A.M.E. Church through our PE Women's Conferences, our District WIM Forum and open conversations PE District with our Bishop, in each Presiding Elders district and with our women in ministry. We held Jarena Lee Sunday in majority of Churches.

10TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Gloria Cash-Sam, President

The District has embraced and promoted the Quadrennial Theme through personal sermons and inspirational presentations at WIM gatherings, and the inclusion on all WIM correspondence. Programs/projects that have affirmed the call and ministry of WIM include the weekly Friday prayer call, inspiration and praise conference call gatherings and WIM meetings and gatherings.

We have supported and provided assistance and outreach to women in ministry in the "Global Districts by assisting with the purchase of computer technology, collecting clergy attire and suits for sisters in 16th District and offering encouragement and support.

11TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Bettye Watson, President

We've used the theme and scripture reference on every level, on programs as well as retreats focus Retreats, SOS (Supporting Our Sisters) programs, Pack the Bags Projects for students of EWC each year, training for new WIM pastors, adoption of the Ronald McDonald House, Supporting Domestic Violent Shelters in each conference.

Our SOS Programs were held to ensure that all WIM pastors of small congregations turned in a complete budget. All presiding elder districts have made space and time for WIM to gather for workshops/meetings.

To address the concerns of WIM, we have held the SOS Programs, Conference level workshops, Yearly retreats/ workshops on the Episcopal level; as well as conversations held with Presiding Elders and our Bishop.

We have recently partnered with the 19th Episcopal Districts.

12TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Angela Brewster, President

The Quadrennial theme has and is being promoted and embraced by always using it as the devotional scripture on all levels at WIM meetings, retreats, training and at any gathering. In the leadership training it is taught as a lesson.

The programs, projects and activities that have advocated WIM in our district are the awareness workshops in our Presiding Elders meeting, Annual Conferences and Episcopal District Level meetings. Attention is given to the contributions that are and have already been made by our women clergy. We have also trained and encouraged persons to publicly address WIM by their title as Pastor or Reverend like our male colleagues.

Programs and projects that affirm the call and ministry of WIM include serving as mentors and assigning mentors to all new admittance on this journey. Access for WIM is promoted by ensuring WIM have opportunities to participate in programs and meetings. After WIM leaders gather the women's issues from the membership, we meet with our Bishop to address corners and seek to bring about a resolve. Workshop and seminars can and should be offered on self-worth, self-awareness. Women have been encouraged to report sexual misconduct/harassment. These issues have been addressed by offering educational, career and job fairs rendering information about all positions that can be held in the church. We have cooperatively participated at the Connectional church Level.

13TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Stephanie Raglin, President

Under the leadership of Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath the women of the 13th Episcopal District have many opportunities to serve in many leadership capacities. His support has been phenomenal and encouraging with the hope of continuation under the new leadership. 13th District WIM has been restructuring through the empowering, encouraging and engaging of all officers of the E-Board, the Conference Coordinators, and the members at large. We have met over and above the

recommended times in an effort to bridge the gap in our time of fellowship and worship one with another. We are praying and continuing to work to do ministry to the honor and the glory of God. The 13th District WIM Retreat, May 24-25, 2019, the first in many years was held in Murfreesboro, TN, Rev. Dr. Teresa Frye- Brown, keynote speaker. Using our Connectional theme of Standing United, Moving Forward, Stronger Together enabled us to know and trust that when God is in the midst we are "more than conquerors" and we can do anything. This retreat brought us together and made us stronger. "Connected in the Midst of the Disconnect" by the 13th District WIM via Zoom on April 23, 2021 with special guest Rev. Dr. Erika Crawford, Connectional WIM President. Other activities have been tabled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Women have served in worship experiences as preachers, served as leaders of committees, marshals, lead delegates, alternate delegates and other ministries in the district. Presiding Elder Linda F. Thomas Martin of West Tennessee Annual Conference served as head of the delegation in the 2016 General Conference. Rev. Stephanie M. Raglin served as head of the delegation for the Kentucky Annual Conference in the 2016 General Conference. She also was a marshal for the bishops at the 2012 General Conference.

Sharing our historical stories: The late Rev. Savannah B. Harris; Proclamation from the Mayor of Elizabethtown, KY to the 151st Session of the KY Annual Conference honoring Rev. Stephanie M. Raglin as the first female pastor of Embury Chapel AMEC. Rev. Raglin was accepted as a Beeson Scholar at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky matriculating in the DMin program with a focus on Preaching and Leading in July 2019. and appointed a member of the Board of Trustees for Asbury Theological Seminary. Rev. Melissa (George) Hale named Chaplain in the U.S. Air Force. Both stories shared with the Connectional AME WIM Herstoryographer. Legacy of Faith Brunch, coordinated by Rev. Dr. Maxine Thomas and Rev. Dr. Teresa Frye Brown, keynote speaker. Rev. Louise Spencer graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore Kentucky with Master of Divinity. Rev. Sherry Green graduated from Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. Rev. Candace C. Perkins also received her Master of Divinity. Rev. LaVeeshia S. Pryor is the Dean of the Ministerial Institute of the Kentucky Annual Conference. Rev. Terri Strong, Rev. Dr. Sonja V. Brown DeLoatch and Rev. Barbara Green received their doctoral degrees. We celebrated women on every level in all of our conferences through HerStory is OurStory Fellowship identifying those who were married, graduated from seminary, were ordained etc. We returned the fruits of their labors by having a luncheon in their honor. Rev. Ammie Davis, 1st Vice President of Connectional WIM joined us in this venue. We partnered with AME WIM/AME Scouts with the sponsoring of a patch Naia Craig Butler and working on project to publicize the victories won in excellence and leadership by this young Aerospace Engineer and all other women in ministry contexts who have pioneered in service to the church and the community.

We also invite those who are not ordained female clergy to join the ministry and other activities. Our ministry is open for any male, or other non-clergy persons to join in our activities.

The individual conferences have engaged in revivals, mentoring activities, prayer ministries birthed, spa days, book reading clubs, fellowship activities to bring awareness of women's issues. Women's Conference entitled "I'm Every Woman" held at Bethel A.M.E. Knoxville, Tn. on April 23, 2019 under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Sheila E. Harris. "Restoration and Renewal" held

via Zoom by Embry Chapel A.M.E. Church in Elizabethtown Ky. on April 11, 2021. "A Higher Calling" hosted by the Kentucky Annual Conference under the leadership of Rev. LaVeeshia Pryor

In 2019 Rev. June Anderson Dorsey was named the 13th District Pastor of the year and also the Kentucky Conference Pastor of the Year. In 2020 Rev. Stephanie M. Raglin, pastor of Embry Chapel A.M.E. Church was named pastor of the year for the Kentucky Annual Conference and also the 13th Episcopal District. Rev. LaVeeshia S. Pryor was named as Dean of the Ministerial Institute of the Kentucky Annual Conference. We have three females presiding elders; Rev. Linda Faye Thomas-Martin of the South Memphis District, West Tennessee Annual Conference, Rev. Dr. Eva Settles, Chattanooga Knoxville District, East Tennessee Annual Conference and Presiding Elder Colleen Gibson of the Memphis District. We have over half of our women who also pastor churches. There were several women who were ordained as itinerants and local elders, several admitted to the annual conferences and also preached during the annual conference series.

We have partnered with the 18th Episcopal District to bring unity, cultural sensitivity and diversity with our global sisters; thereby engaging in activities together that will enhance and broaden the scope of leadership roles in our perspective districts. WE participated in the robes and other clergy attire for those sisters globally. We also sponsored our global sisters to attend the Global Development Conference.

14TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Roseline Barnes, President

In light of the untimely passing of Presiding Elder and 14th District President Margaret Fadehan, the 14th District WIM is in the process of reorganizing. We continue to encourage ourselves as we lift of the name of Jesus.

15TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Betty Schröder, President

The District embraced and promoted the Quadrennial Theme through trainings, Worship services, webinars, sister to sister prayer groups, Connectional events, newsletters that raised the awareness of the theme. We have advocated WIM by our WIM Convention, 7:15 District Initiative, Southern Conference virtual platforms, support a sister projects, funeral support, talking sessions with Bishop, worship exchange. The call of ministry for EWIM was affirmed in our WIM Conventions, Worship exchange services, Sister to sister talks and prayer sessions, Connectional 7:15 Initiative, Black History month.

We raised the consciousness of the A.M.E. Church on women's issues through our WIM newsletter, Facebook posts, Connectional virtual worship platforms, Webinars, WIM reporting platforms, Eastern-Southern WIM platforms, Conventions, workshops, Black History month events. We have also had conversations with our Bishop and webinars and workshops, regarding the issue of sexism in the A.M.E. Church. Other actives have included: Awareness raising, flyers, Sister to Sister talks, the sharing of Herstories.

The WIM of the 15th Episcopal District wholeheartedly wishes to thank Bishop David R Daniels, Jr. and Supervisor Irene M Daniels for their unconditional support, prayers, and confidence they bestowed in our leadership. We particularly want to thank Bishop Daniels for his active and aggressive implementation of equality in leadership and ensuring that at least 11 female Presiding Elders and leaders were appointed in key positions of each Annual Conference.

We thank him and the Presiding Elders Council for embracing WIM leadership and supporting us throughout the years. We can confidently admit that we grew Stronger and more Confident under the leadership of our Episcopal parents over these 9 years. WIM in the 15th is recognized, active and Moving Forward. To God be all the glory. We also want to thank Dr. Monica Spencer for her efforts in keeping the Overseas districts connected, reaching out, praying, guiding, and providing endless leadership. To us, she became not only a leader but the “Mamma” to many sisters who felt left out or unnoticed. We thank her and pray blessings over her ministry and leadership. Lastly, to our own ever available Connectional President, Dr. Erika Crawford- you spoke, act, guide, reached and implemented leadership at all times. You portrayed care and advocate for the true meaning of Connectionism. You listened, you accommodated is and you made the Quadrennial Theme have meaning through your leadership and engagements. We appreciate you and wish God’s endless blessings on you and your Executive. Ubuntu is what we stand for.

16TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Dr. Emily Pardue, President

We established a working executive board that seeks to bring sisters in to inform and encourage. Through this venue and on WhatsApp chat we have been able to share information in English, Portuguese, Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole as we have four different languages in our district.

We maintain regular meetings and sharing sessions. We have been joining with our other conferences in the sixteenth and the first to share and support one another.

We held our women’s’ retreat to minister to the brokenness of women. We are planning for the follow up sessions. We are getting a training package together. And this year we are working on training areas in AME WIM, Chaplaincy, and preaching.

Our Bishop has been so supportive in helping us to reach out and connect across the district. We have completed our 16th district herstory. We share upcoming events in order to support. We have documented the gifts and talents of the sisters in order to support and encourage them. We have reached out to our younger sisters in order to encourage them in WIM.

We have been able to connect with New York/ Jamaica in sister sharing. We have had four shares which have been extremely rewarding for both. We are working on more, and also connecting with other conferences, such as Haiti/ Bermuda. The retreat as well as quarterly sharing sessions have spoken to the issues of sexism and encouraged spiritual growth for the sisters.

We have 80 members with 18 pastors and three Female Presiding Elders. Our Bishop has encouraged at every level to help make opportunities for women. That is one of our reasons for finding the gifts and talents. It is also one reason for reaching across cultural and language boundaries.

We are a Global District. We have reached out across language and cultural barriers for the four languages spoken in our district. As a Global District, we have connected with US districts.

We are humbled of the recognition on a scout badge of Rev. Dorothy Millicent Morris as the 1st Female Presiding Elder of the A.M.E. Church. Guyana has taken the lead in diligently working on the information for the badge project. Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield has given us so many ways and opportunities to be united, creative, supportive of one another. She set the standard and we are following. We are excited with the possibilities!

17TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev Margaret Nkana Mwanza, President

The 17th District has implemented a fund to raise money for the Women's Correctional Centres. Women in the correctional suffer greatly and we have taken the project to help them. We will also buy and provide toiletries and personal hygiene items. We are planning on operating a tailoring shop. We will be partnering with the 2nd Episcopal District.

18TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Beatrice Motokoa, President

We have been working tirelessly to help members build bonds and create ways of working together through Prayer Teams and partnerships. WE are also engaged in orphanage outreaches, street Soup kitchens, Hospital and Prison Ministry as well women empowerment and clergy Empowerment Sessions. We have been advocating providing free sanitary towels for the young girls in our AME schools, however this project has been postponed due to COVID-19.

We have partnered with the 13th Episcopal District.

19TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Dipeto Leepo, President

The women of the 19th District have continued to be faithful in their ministries as we have sought to organize the women in ministry in the district and learn about AMEWIM. Although few in numbers, we have encouraged and supported one another in our work.

We are excited about our partnership with the 11th District Women in Ministry.

20TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Rev. Fanny D. Mdzeka, President

The 20th District has embraced and promoted the Quadrennial Theme through teaching and advocating. Our programs have included: WIM hour of power and assistance programs whereby some conferences help one another with the little they have. We have been consistent to meet, worship and encourage.

We have affirmed the call and ministry of WIM in our Hour of power at the annual conference and meetings. We have raised the consciousness of the A.M.E. Church on women's issues through teachings and with posters. We have addressed issues of opportunities for women in ministry by sharing of responsibilities and positions from the local churches. We have supported other Global District through supporting training for the WIM members to attend and teachings in person and Zoom

We recently partnered with the 5th Episcopal District WIM.

We continue to grow as a district in light of the many challenges. We are still arranging and growing our district. Our membership is exceptionally low. The president and the conference coordinators are the district WIM Committee. Due to our geographical issues and finances, we have never met as a District. Our only means of contact is WhatsApp and due to challenges, that we are having we cannot meet on Zoom. Only the president has been able to travel throughout the District to the time of Annual Conference with the support from the Bishop. Pastors here are not paid and have many challenges, including communication.

APPENDIX



Standing United. Moving Forward. Stronger Together



And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father's brothers and pass the inheritance of their father on to them.

Numbers 27:6-7 (NRSV)

ADOPTED COMMISSION ON WOMEN IN MINISTRY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL BOARD

Year	Request/Recommendation	Status
2019	Connectional Executive Board of AME/WIM request that the Commission and subsequently the General Board accept the following recommendations, that all Episcopal Districts commit to assuring that male clergy are included in appointments to the Women in Ministry Committee in 2020, which was 1% male clergy in 2016.	Pending
2019	Connectional Executive Board of AME/WIM request that the Commission and subsequently the General Board accept the following recommendations, that all Episcopal Districts, commit to assuring that women clergy, as distinguished from lay women, are included in major committee appointments for the 2020 General Conference, like: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the Episcopal Committee, in which 95% of the ministerial seats were male clergy in 2016; and the Revisions Committee, in which 75% of the ministerial seats were male clergy in 2016. The General Board, in which 84% of the ministerial seats are male clergy 2016-2020. 	Pending
2019	Connectional Executive Board of AME/WIM request that the Commission and subsequently the General Board accept the following recommendations, that Annual Conferences who have not already elected 2020 General Conference delegates, be purposeful in assuring that clergywomen are equitably represented.	Pending
2019	Connectional Executive Board of AME/WIM request that the Commission and subsequently the General Board accept the following recommendations, that on the 5th Sunday in September, (September 29, 2019) that local churches lift up the work and witness of the now, Reverend Jarena Lee in celebration of her being the first woman to be licensed to preach in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1819, 200 years ago this year.	Pending
2018	We believe that the time has come for us to collectively and intentionally fulfill the commitments already made to the daughters of the church by re-visiting the wanting, unfinished, pending, and incomplete recommendations before the church. Therefore, the single recommendation of the Executive Board of AME/WIM is that the Commission and subsequently the General Board recommit itself to the incomplete recommendations of 2012-2017	Pending
2017	That the General Board empowers each WIM Commission Member to complete an introspective analysis of its Episcopal District's key leadership positions regarding female clergy and report the same to the commission within 90 days.	Ongoing We continue to be challenged in receiving information from Episcopal Districts and Annual Conferences
2017	That the General Board empowers the Commission Members to encourage WIM leadership at the Presiding Elder District and Conference Coordinators level to work in collaboration with their respective Presiding Elders to prepare and provide workshops and training to assist	Pending AME/WIM is preparing to meet with the Presiding Elders Council to discuss this project

	congregations in fulfilling the church's intentional commitment to gender justice and equality.	
2016	<p>The adoption of this policy/statement regarding the equality and the value of women:</p> <p><i>We, The African Methodist Episcopal Church, affirm that all men and women are created equal by God and therefore, entitled to the value of personhood, parity in employment, equal distribution of responsibility, and promotion in ministry.</i></p> <p><i>We, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, will work to eliminate gender-role stereotypes and discrimination in all aspects of voluntary and compensatory participation in the Church and society.</i></p> <p><i>We, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, will champion economic parity and justice by affirming the right of women to equal treatment and placement in key leadership decision-making positions at all levels of our Church, our Institutions, and our communities.</i></p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>This statement was adopted by the General Board in December 2016</p>
2016	That the General Board urges our elected officials and government agencies to retain and enact legislation and policies that protect women against all forms of misogyny, violence, and discrimination.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>We are unable to determine if General Board members followed through on this request. However, to date, there has been no public statement from the church regarding such an effort</p>
2016	That the General Board recognizes March as International Women's History Month and strongly encourages local churches to recognize and celebrate the work of women in our Zion.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The recommendation was adopted by the General Board in December 2016. AME/WIM continues to work and push for every local church to celebrate the theological, social, historical, and cultural significance of women.</p>

RESOLUTION ON FAIR TREATMENT AND EQUALITY OF WOMEN

December 2016

The following resolution was presented to and adopted by The Commission on Women In Ministry

WHEREAS, it is asked in Micah 6:8 “...*what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?*” We stand in solidarity with the Church, fully committed to the Quadrennial Theme “*The African Methodist Episcopal Church: A Social Justice and Liberating Faith*” and;

WHEREAS, justice is a human right that must encompass the indispensable right for persons to live and work in our churches, communities, and countries with dignity and pride free from oppression; and

WHEREAS, our pursuit of justice should include an intentional commitment to gender justice so that we might live in a world where everybody, women and men, boys and girls are equally valued and able to share equitably in the distribution of power, knowledge, resources, and access; and

WHEREAS, AME/WIM challenges the African Methodist Episcopal church to recognize that in addition to addressing Political Justice, Criminal Justice, Environmental Justice, and Economic Justice, A Social Justice and Liberating Faith must also address Gender Justice, both in the world and in the church; and

WHEREAS, we desire to see the sons and daughters of God, free from cultural, religious, institutional, and interpersonal systems of privilege which have long oppressed persons through violence, imperceptions, oppression, and repression based on gender; and

WHEREAS, as the adverse impact of gender injustice is primarily and most severely experienced by women and girls, who are discriminated against in the home, workplace, community, and church; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we consciously and intentionally work for the equitable and impartial treatment of all in accordance with the word of God which says to us God created them male and female, and God blessed them and called them “human” Genesis 5:2; and

WHEREAS, our Sister Communion, the United Methodist Church, having apologized to the AME Church for its injustice to people of color and desiring not to repeat a similar injustice to women has begun to address gender justice issues stating that:

“reliability as an agency of God's love assumes that we are paying attention to one another and we are seeking to empower, to unshackle, to raise up those who are still oppressed, repressed, derided and treated as "less than"; and

WHEREAS, the African Methodist Episcopal Church is, still on the journey towards fully respecting and valuing the gifts and call of all persons; and

WHEREAS, we trust that the AME Church will:

- Affirm the right of women to live free from violence and abuse,
- Affirm the importance of women by placing them in key leadership decision-making positions at all levels of the Church, our institutions and society,
- Urge our elected officials and government agencies to retain and enact legislation and policies that protect women against all forms of violence, economic injustice, and discrimination,
- Eliminate gender-role stereotypes in all aspects of voluntary and compensatory participation in the Church and society,
- Affirm the right of women to equal treatment through employment, promotions, economic parity, and justice.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that AME/WIM comes before you, ***“Standing United, Moving Forward, Stronger Together;”*** in support of human rights and asks The Commission on Women In Ministry to request of the General Board the following:

1. The adoption of this policy/statement regarding the equality and the value of women:

We, The African Methodist Episcopal Church, affirm that all men and women are created equal by God and therefore, entitled to value of personhood, parity in employment, equal distribution of responsibility and promotion in ministry.

We the African Methodist Episcopal Church-will work to eliminate gender-role stereotypes and discrimination in all aspects of voluntary and compensatory participation in the Church and society.

We will champion economic parity and justice by affirming the right of women to equal treatment and placement in key leadership decision-making positions at all levels of our Church, our Institutions and our communities.

2. That the General Board urge our elected officials and government agencies to retain and enact legislation and policies that protect women against all forms of misogyny, violence and discrimination.

3. That the General Board recognize March as International Women's History Month and strongly encourage local churches to recognize and celebrate the work of women in our Zion.

QUADRENNIAL AMEWIM STATISTICS

Total number of dues paying WIM										
Total # of WIM Itinerant Elders	Total # of WIM Itinerant Deacons	Total # of WIM Local Elders	Total # of WIM Local Deacons	Total # of WIM Licensed Evangelists	Total # of WIM Exhorters	Total # of WIM Licentiates	Total # of Superannuates	Total # of Associate Members		
128	9	33	3	36	4	15	9	53		290
115	24	1	26	2	5	10	9	4		196
28	3	8	0	0	0	1	0	0		40
78	18	24	7	7	2	6	9	7		158
79	16	5	3	1		0	2	1		107
30	2	3	0	0	0	0	4	1		40
41	7	4	3	2	0	5		0		62
41	3	1	2	1						48
184	94	35	49	19	16	80	120	3		600
35	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	2		41
41	7	4	2	2	0	5	2	1		64
39	24	2	0	36	1	7	1	4		114
40	17	6	5	2	0	7				77
20	2	18	1	18		2	0	0		61
22	10	0	1	0	2	2	0	0		37
12		0	0			3	0	0		15
933	237	144	102	129	30	143	156	76		1950

Total Number of Non Dues Paying WIM										
District	Total # of WIM Itinerant Elders	Total # of WIM Itinerant Deacons	Total # of WIM Local Elders	Total # of WIM Local Deacons	Total # of WIM Licensed Evangelists	Total # of WIM Exhorters	Total # of WIM Licentiates	Total # of Superannuates	Total # of WIM Admitted	
1	207	7	113	12	146	6	14	13	39	557
2	213	99	12	150	7	1	61	44	52	639
3	31	19	35	6	13	5	3	17	4	133
5	75	33	49	20	28	1	29	15	20	270
6	50	10	18	5	3	3	15	10	226	340
8	50	6	5	2	0	1	4	10	26	104
9	19	4	3	3	2	0	0	0	4	35
10										
11	56	46	27	24	15	16	36	112	35	367
12	25	8	6	0	6	9	4	19	5	82
13	54	29	12	3	5	6	9	13	195	326
15	52	24	2	0	36	1	7	1	2	125
16									80	80
17	20	0	0		0	10	2	0	2	34
18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2	9
20	0	2	0	0	5	51		1	3	62
	852	287	282	225	266	110	184	262	695	3163

Total Number of all WIM 2016-2021											
District	Total # of WIM Itinerant Elder	Total # of WIM Itinerant Deacons	Total # of WIM Local Elders	Total # of WIM Local Deacons	Total # of WIM Licensed Evangelists	Total # of WIM Exhorters	Total # of WIM Licentiatees	Total # of Superann uates	Total # of Associate Members	Total # of WIM Admitted	
1	335	16	146	15	182	10	29	22	53	39	847
2	328	123	13	176	9	6	71	53	4	52	835
3	59	22	43	6	13	5	4	17	0	4	173
5	153	51	73	27	35	3	35	24	7	20	428
6	129	26	23	8	4	3	15	12	1	226	447
8	80	8	8	2	0	1	4	14	1	26	144
9	60	11	7	6	4	0	5	0	0	4	97
10	41	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	0		48
11	240	140	62	73	34	32	116	232	3	35	967
12	60	9	6	0	9	9	4	19	2	5	123
13	95	36	16	5	7	6	14	15	1	195	390
15	91	48	4	0	72	2	14	2	4	2	239
16	40	17	6	5	2	0	7	0	0	80	157
17	40	2	18	1	18	10	4	0	0	2	95
18	22	10	0	1	0	2	2	7	0	2	46
20	12	2	0	0	5	51	3	1	0	3	77
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	1785	524	426	327	395	140	327	418	76	695	5113

Total Number from 7/14/2016 – 4/18/2021											
District	Total # of WIM ordained Itinerant Elder	Total # of WIM ordained Itinerant Deacon	Total # of WIM ordained Local Elder	Total # of WIM ordained Local Deacon	Total # of WIM Licensed as Evangelists	Total # of WIM Licensed as Exhorters	Total # of WIM who died	Total # of WIM Admitted	Total # of women who superannuated	Total # of new churches started	Total # of WIM Pastors
1	48	44	30	21	108	10	21	36	9	1	124
2	34	33	0	17	0	0	17	57	21	2	133
3	5	2	1	2	13	5	5	4	17	0	55
5	11	9	6	8	5	0	3	20	8	1	51
6	250	130	26	23	8	4	7	63	5	0	115
8	20	15	20	6	0	1	8	20	10	0	44
9	52	7	2	2	2	0	3	4		0	29
10											
11	15	12	10	9	13	12	15	16	11	1	115
12	60	9	6	0	9	9	2	5	19	0	69
13	88	38	18	6	7	7	5	164	13	0	51
15	19	9	1	0	8	0	1	5	1	8	77
16	40	17	6	5	2	0	4			22	18
17	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	25
18	6	4	0	0	0	2	7	2	7		31
20	12	2	0		5	51	0	3	1	1	14
	685	331	126	99	180	101	98	399	122	39	951