

381 Hamilton St.  
Albany, NY 12210-1709

(518) 463-8779  
www.israelame.com



Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.  
*Presiding Prelate*

Rev. Dr. Faye Banks-Taylor  
*Presiding Elder*

Rev. Kevin T. Taylor, Pastor

February 4, 2026

Dear Attendees and Guests of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Western New York Annual Conference,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

On behalf of the members of Israel African Methodist Episcopal Church, we welcome you with deep gratitude and holy expectation. As the oldest Black church in Upstate New York, Israel is humbled by the honor of hosting the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Western New York Annual Conference, Tuesday, April 28, through Saturday, May 2, 2026, here in New York's Capital Region.

Israel is a historic station on the Underground Railroad. We are a people formed by faith under pressure, sustained by prayer in the struggle, and called to keep making room for the liberating work of God. In that spirit, we rejoice in receiving you in the sanctuary that once hosted Harriet Tubman and welcomed Frederick Douglass to its pulpit. Now, by God's grace, we welcome you.

Traditionally, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary is known as the "pearl" anniversary. Pearls are formed over time, under pressure, and through patient endurance. That feels fitting for this moment and for this Conference. We therefore offer the following "pearls of wisdom" to help prepare for your arrival, your worship, your work, and your fellowship.

**PEARL #1: WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE\***

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Tuesday, April 28	Conference Welcome Reception	Israel A.M.E. Church
	Ministry of Evangelism Service	
Wednesday, April 29	WMS Annual Day & Worship Service	Metropolitan NTMB Church
	Presiding Elder & Board of Examiners' Meetings with Bishop	
	Business Session/Conference Organization	
	Opening Worship/Communion Service	
Thursday, April 30	Business Session(s)	Metropolitan NTMB Church
	WIM Worship Service	
	Sons of Allen Worship Service	
	Lay Witness Night	
Friday, May 1	Business Session(s)	Metropolitan NTMB Church
	Memorial & Retirement Service	
	Ordination Service	
	Closing & Commissioning Service	
Saturday, May 2	Conference Church School	Metropolitan NTMB Church
	Conference YPD Annual Day	
	Clergy Family Luncheon	TBD

*\*Please refer to official schedule from the First Episcopal District for start times and additional details*

Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30 a.m. | Wednesday Bible Study – 6 p.m.  
Join us in-person or virtually via Facebook Live or Zoom (ID: 812 8622 8670 | PW: 381379)

## **PEARL #2: VENUES AND PARKING**

Tuesday, April 28, activities will be held at Israel A.M.E. Church, 381 Hamilton St., Albany, NY 12210-1709. Street parking is available. The parking lot will be reserved for Episcopal leaders, pastors, and Ministry of Evangelism leadership.

Wednesday, April 29, through Saturday, May 2, activities will be held at our sister church, Metropolitan New Testament Mission Baptist Church, 105 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Albany, NY 12210-2516. Rev. Dr. Damone P. Johnson, pastor, and the members of Metropolitan are looking forward to treating their worship center as an extension of Israel. Parking spaces will be reserved for Episcopal Leaders and WNY pastors. Additional parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## **PEARL #3: HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS**

The Capital Region offers a wide range of hotels. The partner hotels for the WNY Annual Conference are:

### **Conference Delegates & Attendees**

TownePlace Suites by Marriott  
Albany Downtown/Medical Center  
22 Holland Ave.  
Albany, NY 12209  
(518) 860-1500

<https://tinyurl.com/ybu2w4s2>

Distance to Israel: 0.8 miles

Distance to Metropolitan: 1.6 miles

### **Conference Pastors**

Hilton Garden Inn  
Albany Medical Center  
62 New Scotland Ave.  
Albany, NY 12208  
(518) 396-3500

<https://tinyurl.com/bdhxrw35>

Distance to Israel: 0.8 miles

Distance to Metropolitan: 1.6 miles

### **Evangelism & WMS Guests**

Hampton Inn & Suites  
Albany-Downtown  
25 Chapel St.  
Albany, NY 12210  
(518) 432-7000

<https://tinyurl.com/2eamsne5>

Distance to Israel: 1.1 miles

Distance to Metropolitan: 0.9 miles

## **PEARL #4: SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Please refer to the accompanying letter detailing room sponsorship opportunities, requirements and deadlines, and information regarding rooms and spaces, as well as advertisements in the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir Journal.

## **PEARL #5: PREREGISTER BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1**

Help us prepare well by preregistering using this [electronic form](#). All WNYAC pastors, clergy, delegates, conference and component leaders, lay leaders, young adult members, and congregants are asked to register by March 7. All other attendees, guests, college students, community members/partners, visitors, and friends are asked to register no later than April 1.

## **PEARL #6: UNABLE TO ATTEND IN-PERSON? JOIN WORSHIP SERVICES VIRTUALLY**

Worship services will stream on Israel's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@IsraelAMEChurch-kg7ly>) and will also be available via Zoom (Meeting ID: 812 8622 8670; PW: 381379). Business sessions and other non-worship gatherings will not be available virtually.

## **PEARL #7: WNY 30-for-30 STARTS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 29**

Beginning Sunday, March 29, visit [israelame.com](http://israelame.com) for Western New York's 30-for-30, a daily countdown of fun facts and trivia about the newest Conference in the First Episcopal District. After each fun fact, we invite you to join us for 30 minutes a day for 30 days of prayer for: our Episcopal leaders, Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., presiding prelate, and Dr. Phyllis N. Green, episcopal supervisor; presiding elders Rev. Dr. Faye Banks Taylor and Rev. Paul J. Thomas; district consultants Sis. Marion D. Smart and Lady Genelle Thomas; host pastor and first lady Rev. Kevin T. and Mrs. Emily A. Taylor; the Israel A.M.E. and Metropolitan NTMB Church families; and the entire Western New York Annual Conference.

We are believing God for a fresh outpouring that will mark this gathering with clarity, consecration, deliverance, and healing. May the work of the Conference be more than orderly; may it be an offering. May our worship be more than memorable; may it be transformative. And may our fellowship be a witness that the Church of Jesus Christ is still called, still courageous, and still committed to the work of liberation in our time.

Yours in Christ,

*Israel's WNY Annual Conference Coordinating Committee*

Rev. Kevin T. Taylor, Host Pastor

Sis. Donna Mackey-Walker, Esq. | Sis. Denia Van Houter, Vice-Chair | Sis. Carolyn L. Williams