

# 2024 MID-YEAR CONVOCATION

NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THURSDAY, APRIL 4 – SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024

THEME:

*"A Year of Reflecting and Re-Visioning" Isaiah 43:18-19*

## THE AGENDA AND THE WORSHIP SERVICES



HOST PASTOR AND CHURCH:

REVEREND FRED FLOWERS,

PARKS CHAPEL

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HOST PRESIDING ELDERS:

REVEREND DR. FREDERICK D. SHERROD III,

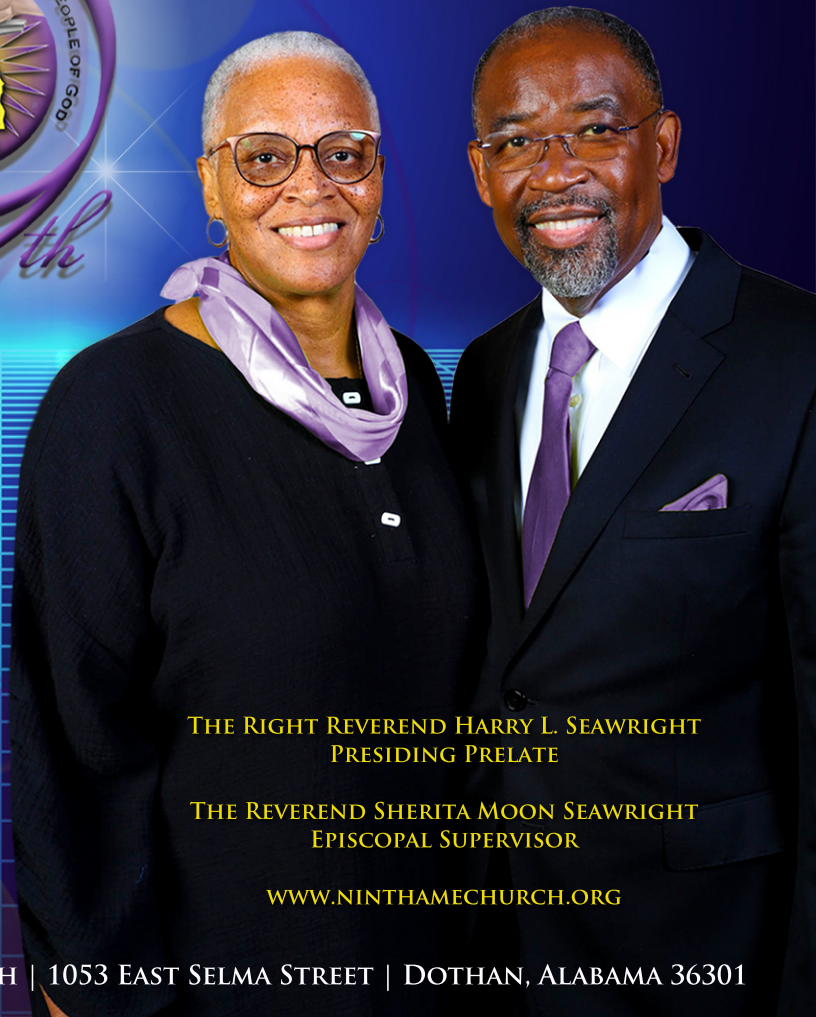
HOST PRESIDING ELDER,

DOTHAN-EUFAULA DISTRICT

REVEREND DR. WILLIE EUGENE MARSHALL,

ASSOCIATE HOST PRESIDING ELDER,

OZARK-TROY DISTRICT



THE RIGHT REVEREND HARRY L. SEAWRIGHT  
PRESIDING PRELATE

THE REVEREND SHERITA MOON SEAWRIGHT  
EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR

[WWW.NINTHAMECHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.NINTHAMECHURCH.ORG)

**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
2024**

**MID-YEAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday, April 4, 2024**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.      **Bishop meets with Presiding Elders  
at Parks Chapel AME Church**

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p. m.      **Bishop meets with Finance Team  
at Parks Chapel AME Church**

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.      **Lunch**

3:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m.      **Component Meetings**

Session I   3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- Women’s Missionary Society /  
Young People’s and Children’s Division
- Sons of Allen
- Christian Education
- Women in Ministry
- Richard Allen Young Adult Council
- Christian Debutante-Masters Commission
- Social Action
- Prayer Ministry

Session II   4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- Lay Organization
- Evangelism
- M-SWAWO + PKs
- Public Relations
- Board of Examiners
- Nichols-Thomas-Grady Clergy Institute
- Economic Development Ministry

*Components will be asked to provide a live report and a typed copy of the report on  
Saturday, April 6, 2024.*

*If a meeting space at Parks Chapel AME Church is required, please contact the  
9<sup>th</sup> District Office to request it by Tuesday, April 2, 2024.*

**Components may meet prior to the Mid-Year Convocation as well.**

# MID-YEAR MEETING AGENDA

## Thursday, April 4, 2024 – Continued

- 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.      **Bishop meets with Board of Examiners  
at Parks Chapel AME Church**  
*(This meeting does not include BOE Candidates.)*
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.      **Dinner / Break** *(On your own.)*
- 6:30 p.m.                      **Opening Worship Service**  
**Guest Preacher: Reverend Dr. Mark E. Whitlock, Jr.**  
**Pastor, Reid Temple AME Church**  
**Glenn Dale, Maryland**

## Friday, April 5, 2024

- 9:00 a.m.                      **Devotion** (Board of Examiners)
- 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.      **Workshop #1 – Health Matters**
- Break**
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.      **Workshop #2 – “Living Longer Living Stronger”**  
**Marie Smith, BA, MA, AHIP Certified**  
**Owner, Golden Years Healthcare Advisors**  
**Outreach Executive, Oak Street Health**
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.      **Hour of Power Worship Service**  
**Guest Preacher: Reverend Dr. Julius H. McAllister, Jr.**  
**Senior Pastor, Bethel AME Church, Tallahassee, Florida**
- 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.      **Lunch** *(On your own.)*
- 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.      **Meeting with Ninth Episcopal District Delegation  
to the 2024 General Conference**
- 5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.      **Dinner / Break** *(On your own.)*
- 6:30 p.m.                      **Worship Service**  
**Guest Preacher: Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford, Sr.**  
**Presiding Prelate of the 19<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District  
of the African Methodist Episcopal Church**

# MID-YEAR MEETING AGENDA

## Saturday, April 6, 2024

8:30 a.m.                    **Devotion** (Board of Examiners)

9:00 a.m.                    **Business Session**

Component Reports

- Women’s Missionary Society /  
Young People’s and Children’s Division
- Sons of Allen
- Christian Education
- Women in Ministry –
- Richard Allen Young Adult Council
- Christian Debutante-Masters Commission
- Social Action
- Prayer Ministry
- Lay Organization
- Evangelism
- M-SWAWO + PKs
- Public Relations
- Board of Examiners
- Nichols-Thomas-Grady Clergy Institute
- Health Ministry

Economic Development Ministry Report  
Daniel Payne Community Plaza Capital Campaign Update  
Highlighting the Candidates

1:00 p.m.                    **Closing Worship Service**  
**Guest Preacher: Reverend Dr. John F. Green**  
**Executive Director, Department of Global Witness and Ministry**  
**of the African Methodist Episcopal Church**

**Reading of Appointments**

**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
2024 Mid-Year Convocation

*The Opening Worship Service*

Thursday, April 4, 2024  
6:30 p.m.

*Reverend Fred Flowers, Worship Leader*  
*Pastor, Parks Chapel AME Church – Dothan*

**THE DOXOLOGY**

**Hymn #647 [Tune: Old 100]**

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

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Reverend Mattie Edwards**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THE OPENING PRAISE**

**Reverend Antonio James**

**Hymn #1**  
**“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.

Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,  
'Tis music in the sinners' ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood availed for me.

He speaks and listening to His voice, new life the dead receive;  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor, believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold your Savior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy. Amen.

**THE INVOCATION**

**Reverend Loretta Fuller**

**THE CHORAL RESPONSE**

**“He is Lord”**  
He is Lord, He is Lord!  
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC**

**THE SCRIPTURE READING**

**Reverend Joe Benton**

**THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE**

**Hymn #69**  
**“From All That Dwell”**

From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise;  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung, Through every land by every tongue.

**THE DECALOGUE (SUMMARY)**

**Reverend Annie Mays**

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

**THE GLORIA PATRI**

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

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC**

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP**

**Reverend Fred Flowers**

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER**

**Bishop Harry L. Seawright**  
Presiding Prelate of the  
9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District  
of the AME Church

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC**

**THE SERMON**

**Reverend Dr. Mark E. Whitlock, Jr.**  
Pastor, Reid Temple  
African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Glenn Dale, Maryland

**THE INVITATION TO  
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

**Reverend Cynthia Johnson**

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING**

**THE BENEDICTION**

**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**2024 Mid-Year Convocation**

*The Mid-Day Worship Service*

Friday, April 5, 2024

12:00 p.m.

*Reverend James Redding, Worship Leader*

*Pastor, St. Luke AME Church – Eufaula*

**The Doxology**

**Hymn #647 [Tune: Old 100]**

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

**The Call to Worship**

**Reverend Monica Montgomery**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**The Hymn of Praise**

**Reverend Warren Anderson**

**Hymn #21  
"To God Be the Glory"**

To God be the glory, great things He hath done;  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Refrain*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Refrain*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

*Refrain*

**The Invocation**

**Reverend Lasagne Smith**

**The Choral Response**

**Hymn #272  
"Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior"**

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry;  
While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by.  
Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry,  
While on others Thou art calling do not pass me by.

**The Scripture Reading**

**Reverend Dr. Isaac N. Hudson, Jr.**

**The Preface to the Decalogue**

**Hymn #69 || "From All That Dwell"**

From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise;  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung, Through every land by every tongue.

**The Decalogue (Summary)**

**Reverend Yvonne Howze**

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

**The Gloria Patri**

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

**The Introduction of the Bishop**

**Reverend James Redding**

**The Presentation of the Preacher**

**Bishop Harry L. Seawright**  
Presiding Prelate  
of the 9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District

**The Worship Through Music**

**The Sermon**

**Reverend Dr. Julius H. McAllister, Jr.**  
Senior Pastor,  
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Tallahassee, Florida

**The Invitation to  
Christian Discipleship**

**Reverend Samuel Smith**

**The Worship Through Giving**

**The Benediction**

**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
2024 Mid-Year Convocation

*The Evening Worship Service*

Friday, April 5, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.

*Reverend Dr. Frederick D. Sherrod, III, Worship Leader  
Presiding Elder of the Dothan – Eufaula District*

**THE DOXOLOGY**

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

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**REVEREND GLORIA HALL**

*Presiding Elder, West Birmingham-Ensley-  
Greensboro District  
President, Council of Presiding Elders*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THE HYMN OF PRAISE**

**REVEREND DWIGHT E. DILLARD, SR.**  
*Presiding Elder,  
Birmingham-Florence-Tuscaloosa District*

**Hymn #91  
How Great the Wisdom**

How great the wisdom, power, and grace,  
Which in redemption shine!  
The heavenly host with joy confess  
The work is all divine.  
The work is all divine.  
The work is all divine.

Before His feet they cast their crowns,  
Those crowns which Jesus gave,  
And, with ten thousand tongues,  
Proclaim His power to save.  
Proclaim His power to save.  
Proclaim His power to save.

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

O let them still their voices raise,  
And still their song renew;  
Salvation well deserves the praise  
Of men, and angels, too.  
Of men, and angels, too.  
Of men, and angels, too.  
Amen.

**THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**REVEREND CHARLES LEWIS**  
*Presiding Elder, Mobile District*

**THE CHORAL RESPONSE**

**“Let the Church Say, Amen”**  
Let the church say, Amen. Let the church say, Amen.  
God has spoken, so let the church say, Amen.

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC**

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS**

THE OLD TESTAMENT

**REVEREND DR. JACQUELYN L. DENSON**

*Presiding Elder, Montgomery-Selma District*

THE EPISTLE

**REVEREND ANTONIO THOMAS**

*Presiding Elder, Camden District*

THE GOSPEL

**REVEREND BRUCE HUNTER**

*Presiding Elder, South Birmingham-  
Huntsville-Bessemer District*

**THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE**

**Hymn #69 | |“From All That Dwell”**

From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator’s praise arise;  
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung, Through every land by every tongue.

**THE DECALOGUE (SUMMARY)**

**REVEREND JOHNNY RUTLEDGE**

*Presiding Elder,  
Phenix City District*

Hear what Christ our savior says, you shall love the Lord Your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the great and first commandment.

The second is like unto it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**THE GLORIA PATRI**

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

Amen, Amen.

**THE MISSION OFFERING**

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC**

**THE PRESENTATION OF**

**BISHOP HARRY L. SEAWRIGHT**

**REVEREND DR. WILLIE EUGENE MARSHALL**

*Presiding Elder,  
Ozark-Troy District*

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER**

**BISHOP HARRY L. SEAWRIGHT**

*Presiding Prelate of the  
Ninth Episcopal District*

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC**

**THE SERMON**

**BISHOP RONNIE E. BRAILSFORD, SR.**

*Presiding Prelate of the  
Nineteenth Episcopal District of the  
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

**THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

**REVEREND DR. LETITIA WATFORD**

*Presiding Elder,  
Tuskegee District*

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING**

**THE BENEDICTION**

**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
2024 Mid-Year Convocation

*The Closing Worship Service*

*Saturday, April 6, 2024*

*1:00 p.m.*

**Reverend Joshua Mann, Worship Leader**

*Pastor, St. Peter AME Church – Headland*

**The Doxology**

**The Call to Worship**

**Reverend Brian K. Blackwell**

**Leader:** I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the Lord!”  
Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

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

**Leader:** For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

**People:** They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our  
God.

**Leader:** O Lord, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory  
dwells.

**People:** But the Lord is in His Holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.

**Leader:** Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable  
in your sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer.

**All:** O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.  
I will sing of loyalty and justice to you, Oh Lord, I will sing.

**The Opening Praise**

**Reverend Dr. Clementine Warren**

**Hymn #92**

**“Praise Him! Praise Him!”**

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
Sing, O Earth, His wonderful love proclaim!  
Hail Him! Hail Him! Highest archangels in glory;  
Strength and honor give to His holy name!  
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children.  
In His arms He carries them all day long:

*Refrain*

Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of his excellent greatness;  
Praise Him! Praise him! Ever in joyful song!

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
For our sins, He suffered, and bled, and died.  
He our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,  
Hail Him! Hail Him! Jesus, the crucified.  
Sound His praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows;  
Love unbounded, wonderful, deep, and strong:

*Refrain*

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
Heavenly portals loud with hosannas ring!  
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever;  
Crown Him! Crown Him! Prophet, and Priest, and King!  
Christ is coming! Over the world victorious,  
Power and glory unto the Lord belong.

*Refrain*

**The Invocation**

**Reverend Lisa Cade**

**The Choral Response**

**Hymn # 307**

**“Sweet Hour of Prayer”**

*1<sup>st</sup> Stanza*

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!  
That calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Father’s throne  
Make all my wants and wishes known; in seasons of distress and grief,  
My soul has often found relief, and oft escaped the tempter’s snare  
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!



**The Scripture Reading**

**Reverend John Dees**

**The Preface to the Decalogue**

**Hymn #69  
"From All That Dwell"**

From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise;  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung, Through every land by every tongue.

**The Decalogue (Summary)**

**Reverend Christine Thomas**

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

**The Gloria Patri**

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

**The Worship Through Music**

**The Presentation of  
Bishop Harry L. Seawright**

**Reverend Joshua Mann**

**The Introduction of the Preacher**

**Bishop Harry L. Seawright**  
Presiding Prelate of the  
9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District

**The Worship Through Music**

**The Closing Sermon**

**Reverend Dr. John F. Green**  
Executive Director, Department of  
Global Witness and Ministry of the  
African Methodist Episcopal Church

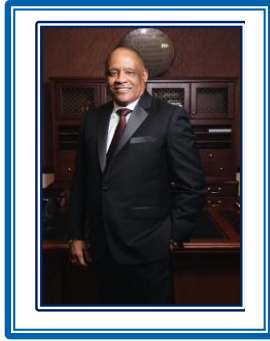
**The Invitation to  
Christian Discipleship**

**Reverend Dr. Wendell Jones**

**The Worship Through Giving**

**The Reading of Appointments**

**The Closing Prayer and Benediction**



*Reverend Dr. Mark E. Whitlock, Jr.  
Pastor,  
Reid Temple African Methodist  
Episcopal Church  
Glen Dale, Maryland*

Reverend Mark E. Whitlock, Jr., D.Min., Pastor of Reid Temple African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, Glenn Dale, MD, serves the Reid Temple faith family as well as the greater Washington, DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia community. Prior to this current assignment, Dr. Whitlock served Christ Our Redeemer AME Church, Irvine, CA, as Pastor for 21 years.

In addition to his firm belief in the AME Church mission – ministry to the social, spiritual, and physical development of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed, Rev. Whitlock has 3 passions: pastoral care, community development and social justice. Consequently, over the course of his ministerial and nonprofit career, Pastor Whitlock has raised more than \$1.2 billion for the kingdom of God through individual donors, corporate sponsorships, as well as federal and institutional grants.

To summarize, Dr. Whitlock has developed national pastoral care models, developed church and community frameworks for religion and civic engagement through the University of Southern California (USC); organized law clinics and voting programs; eradicated crack houses; attacked food and housing insecurity; opened affordable housing projects; led myriad youth and college after school, reading and leadership programs; fostered community and interfaith partnerships; led coalitions for economic freedom, healthcare, communications and media, K-12 schools and universities; and advised local, state, and federal policy makers and law enforcement officials.

Pastor Whitlock also serves as Director of Corporate Partnership for the connectional AME Church, Chair of the Board of Directors for Reid Community Development Corporation and Reid Temple Christian Academy; President of Reid Temple Bible College, and on the Board of Directors for the National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America and Luminis Health Doctor's Community Medical Center.

Dr. Whitlock earned his Bachelor's degree in Religion from the University of La Verne, La Verne CA; Master of Business from USC, Los Angeles, CA; and Doctor of Ministry from Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, OH. Pastor Whitlock is married to the Reverend Hermia Shegog Whitlock, and has 3 sons, Ariel, Mark, III, and Devin. He enjoys listening to Gospel, Classical, Jazz and R&B music in his down time.



*Reverend Dr. Julius H. McAllister, Jr.  
Senior Pastor,  
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Tallahassee, Florida*

The Reverend Dr. Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., affectionately known as Reverend Julius, is the 35<sup>th</sup> anointed Senior Minister of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Tallahassee, Florida. A fourth-generation minister, Dr. McAllister is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation minister in the life of our church.

Dr. McAllister answered the call to the ministry in 1992. He was licensed to preach and admitted to the Northeast Annual Conference of the Seventh Episcopal District (South Carolina) of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1993. In 1995 and 1997, Reverend Julius was ordained an Itinerant Deacon and

Elder in the Northeast Annual Conference. He began his pastoral ministry as a member of the ministerial staff at Mount Zion AME Church in Florence, South Carolina and Big Bethel AME Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to his appointment to the Bethel AME Church in 2008, Dr. McAllister distinguished himself as an outstanding pastor in the Detroit and Chicago areas. He was a youth minister at Oak Grove AME Church in Detroit Michigan. Subsequently, he served as pastor of Payne Chapel AME Church in Chicago, Heights, Illinois and the Greater Institutional AME Church in Chicago, Illinois.

As pastor of the Greater Institutional AME Church, 2000-2008, his devotion to community growth and development led to the creation of a Come Home For Christmas Ministry that serviced nearly 5,000 homeless, poor, and underprivileged adults and 2000 children and raised more than seven hundred thousand dollars to support needy families in Chicago during the Christmas season.

Following his ministry at Greater Institutional Church, Dr. McAllister was appointed to Bethel AME Church in Tallahassee, Florida. He believes that the Bethel AME Church ministry experiences should reflect not only the enduring love for Jesus Christ, but also for one another. He insists that “Bethel’s focus, as it turns the proverbial pages of time, should show the outside world that it is on the CARING END of ministry.” To this end, as President/CEO of the Bethel Community Development Corporation (Bethel CDC), an affiliate church ministry, Dr. McAllister has been instrumental in the construction and rehabilitation of 75 homes for low-income families in the city of Tallahassee at a cost of 14 million dollars, and has led the church in the construction of ten single-family homes for rental to low-income families. He is also Chairman of the Board of the A Life Recovery Center that provides drug and alcohol rehabilitation to residential and outpatient clients. During his tenure, nearly 2,000 individuals have been treated for addictions. Bethel’s annual Thanksgiving Basket Ministry provides hearty meals for nearly twenty-five hundred people annually and the Families Reaching Families Christmas Ministry has provided toys, bicycles, clothes, and other gifts to thousands of needy children in the community. Prior to the pandemic, Bethel partnered with the State of Florida to provide hot meals to underprivileged school age children in low-income communities during the summer months. Approximately five hundred thousand meals, at a cost of \$1.5 million dollars, have been provided. This summer food program employed 80 teenagers and young adults each year.

A few years ago, Dr. McAllister inspired the members of Bethel to renovate Bethel By The Lake, a ten-acre camp site three miles from the main worship, study, and community complex. The commercial swimming pool was renovated, six basketball courts were added, and the fellowship hall was completely restored. The church raised a quarter of a million dollars in 22 months to liquidate the mortgage. The property and facility were purchased and built during Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr. and Episcopal Supervisor Connie Speights Richardson’s tenure as the 33<sup>rd</sup> pastor and first lady of Bethel. In recognition of their vision, it was renamed Camp Richardson Recreation and Retreat Center.

During his fifteen-year tenure, the number of tithers has increased, and he has led the Bethel Church in averaging 1.8 million dollars in tithes and offerings. Since his pastoral assignment to Bethel, over 1200 souls have been added to the ministry.

Dr. McAllister received the baccalaureate degree in criminal justice from South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina in 1993, and a Master of Divinity degree from the Turner Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia in 1996. In 2007, he earned the Doctor in Ministry degree from the Chicago Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois.





*Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford, Sr.  
Presiding Prelate,  
Nineteenth Episcopal District of the  
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

Bishop Ronnie Elijah Brailsford is a proud son of Clarendon County, South Carolina. In 2016, he was elected and consecrated the 136th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church during the 50th Quadrennial General Conference held in Philadelphia, PA. With this honor, he currently serves as the Presiding Prelate of the 19th Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church in South Africa which is comprised of 246 churches and over 54,000 members. Prior to serving in the 19th, he served the 20th Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church with 223 churches and over 23,000 members in the African countries of Malawi, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda, and Mozambique.

During his five-year tenure in the 20th Episcopal District, 28 churches and over 5,000 new members were added to the Church, culminating in an overall membership growth of 28%. Additionally, 9 churches were built, 12 new churches were planted, and 16 churches joined the AMEC. Bishop Brailsford, along with his partner in love and ministry, Supervisor Carolyn Elizabeth Irvin Brailsford, visited 186 of 223 churches and 26 of 35 AMEC schools, even in rural and remote areas, where safe to travel. Funds were raised to help provide school supplies for over 20,000 students and the staff. Together they provided funds and food for disaster relief for over 2,500 families impacted by natural disasters and poverty. They have hosted medical mission trips serving over 11,000 people with medical, dental, eye and dermatology services. Their efforts to raise funds and awareness has resulted in scholarships and school fees for over 100 students as well as a partnership with the United Methodist Church and Africa University providing a total of \$700,000 in four-year full scholarships for 32 students in the 20th Episcopal District.

A champion of education, Bishop Brailsford graduated in 1976 as Valedictorian from Scott's Branch High School of Summerton, SC, he went on to graduate from the University of South Carolina, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing. His Master of Divinity degree was earned at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, GA. where he was a Benjamin E. Mays Fellow and a John Middleton Scholar. An honorary Doctor of Divinity degree was bestowed upon him by A.M.E. University of Monrovia, Liberia. He completed further studies in the Doctor of Ministry program at I.T.C. and earned his Doctor of Ministry degree in 2007 from United Theological Seminary. His rich and varied professional background is strewn with numerous academic, professional and community awards and honors. In 1999, he was inducted with Bishop Desmond Tutu, Bishop Vashti McKenzie, Rev. Bernice King and others into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College. Ministering abroad has taken Bishop Brailsford to over 25 countries including the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, the Virgin Islands, Jamaica, Liberia, Namibia, Swaziland, and many others on the continent of Africa.

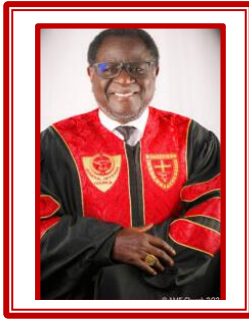
Bishop Brailsford was licensed to preach on January 20, 1980, at his home church, Historic Liberty Hill A.M.E. Church in Summerton, SC. He served at Big Bethel AME Church in Atlanta, GA. He has also pastored at Mt. Carmel AME Church, Gray Court, SC, and Amanda Flipper AME Church, Decatur, Georgia. From 1992-2016, Bishop Brailsford served as the Senior Pastor of the historic Bethel A.M.E. Church in Columbia, SC. His 24 years of ministry at Bethel were highlighted by exceptional spiritual, numerical, and financial growth. In 1995, Bethel relocated from its landlocked Sumter Street site to 819 Woodrow Street, a \$5,000,000 campus with five connected buildings, 86,000 square feet, on 5 acres of land. This 1.5 city block facility is comprised of modern accommodations, including 120 classrooms and offices, a Christian Life Center and gymnasium, and 366 parking spaces. In 1995, the church established Bethel Learning Centers, an accredited Christian learning center that has educated thousands of children

and given them a strong foundation of learning and biblical principles. In 2008, a \$3,000,000 new school building was completed to further meet the needs of the community.

A life and ministry that is defined by perpetual motion and progress, Bishop Brailsford answered the call of God on his life to preach the Gospel, love God's people, and serve all. His commitment, dedication, and determination to serve are undergirded by his faith in God and the fact that he has been called, anointed, and appointed by God to serve this present age.

Bishop Brailsford is a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. In July 2023, Bishop Brailsford celebrated 40 years of marriage to his love, Supervisor Carolyn Elizabeth Irvin Brailsford, also an Itinerant Elder in the Church. Together they have three children: one daughter, Veronica-Carol, two sons: Ronnie Jr. and David (Erica), and seven grandchildren: Harper, Kyndal, Gracen, Dawson, Roman, Brendan, and Kai.





*Reverend Dr. John F. Green  
Executive Director,  
Department of Global Witness  
and Ministry of the  
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

Prior to becoming the Executive Director of Global Witness and Ministry, Dr. Green served as the President-Dean of Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) for thirteen years, which broadened his leadership where student enrollment increased, particularly among distance learning students. Improvements in the residential hall to enhance student life were made, such as: new computers installed in the computer lab with copier and printing capabilities; a forty-two-inch television installed in the Jacob's Student Lounge and Conference room; as well as the liquidation of the mortgage on the Bishop Frederick Hilborn Talbot Administration and Residential Hall.

In addition to serving as the President-Dean, he was the senior pastor at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Tallahassee, FL for twelve years. He completed twenty-four years of experience in the parish ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, primarily in the Eleventh Episcopal District. During this tenure, he pastored Hurst Chapel AME Church, Orlando, FL; Hurst Chapel AME Church in Winter Haven, FL; and Allen Temple AME Church in Tampa, FL. His success in these charges resulted from the unabashed manner in which he demonstrates his skills as a servant leader. Since leaving the pulpit, he has served as Interim Pastor of St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Vidalia, Georgia, and St. Mark A.M.E. Church in Columbus, Georgia.

A native of Kissimmee, FL, Dr. Green comes from a family of men in the ministry. He is the son of the late Reverend Henry E. and Mrs. Irene W. Green. His love for the African Methodist Episcopal Church grew out of the legacy of his father, who served as a pastor and presiding elder in the Eleventh Episcopal District for forty years before his demise in 1991. Dr. Green has one sister who passed away in 2019, three male siblings who are distinctive spiritual warriors in the ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. His brothers are the Reverend Dr. Henry E. Green, Jr., Pastor of Mount Hermon AMEC in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in the 11th Episcopal District; the Right Reverend Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Bishop of the 7th Episcopal District, and the Reverend Dr. David W. Green, Sr. is the Pastor of Saint Stephen AMEC, Jacksonville, Florida.

The Reverend Dr. Green, an intellectual and enthusiastic conversationalist, holds a Doctor of Ministry Degree from the United Theological Seminary (Dayton, Ohio); a Master of Divinity Degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center, Turner Theological Seminary (Atlanta, Georgia); and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of South Florida (Tampa, Florida). His concerns and innate willingness to serve have earned him numerous awards. In 2008, he was featured in the Tallahassee Community College Black History Calendar, recognized by the Tallahassee Branch of the NAACP as a "Black Achiever," and honored as a "Leadership Pacesetter" by Leadership Tallahassee of the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce.

Working tirelessly to connect the church to the community, Dr. Green has staunchly promoted education and meaningful outreach programs. Under his leadership, the Bethel Community Development Corporation in Tallahassee constructed and sold fifty-two (52) homes to low-income families, at affordable prices, and made a remarkable improvement in the Bond Community residential area. The Life Recovery Center, an outreach program of Bethel AME Church, provided non-residential and residential treatment for approximately nine hundred (900) substance abuse and chemically dependent clients. The Bethel Community Youth Programs Center has provided homework assistance, tutoring, mentoring, test

preparation, educational support and exposure, as well as cultural and personal enrichment activities for students and numerous volunteer hours and practicum experiences for students at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, (FAMU), Florida State University (FSU) and Tallahassee Community College (TCC).

As a teacher, Dr. Green is energetic, dynamic, and thought provoking. He is well known as a teacher of pastors and an advocate for faith and order within the AME Church. Among these experiences he chaired the 11th Episcopal District Board of Examiners and was vice chair of the Florida Conference Board of Trustees. Dr. Green has been a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Connectional Strategic Planning Committee, the National Congress of Black Churches, the World Council of Methodist Churches, Edward Waters College Board of Trustees and National Council of Churches; and president of the Tallahassee Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

In addition to these accomplishments, Dr. Green's innovation and creativity gave birth to the Isaac R. Clark, Sr. Clergy and Lay Conference and Henry McNeal Turner Hall of Fame as part of the celebration of Turner Theological Seminary Founders' Observance. This event has sponsored outstanding preachers, lecturers, and practitioners from various church communions and academic institutions. As a result, clergy and lay have been inspired and equipped for ministry in the 21st Century.

Dr. Green has served as an Adjunct Instructor at the ITC, Ministry and Context, with an emphasis on Professional Readiness, and has served as an Adjunct Instructor, A.M.E. Polity, Candler School of Theology, and AME History and Polity, ITC. Understanding the challenge of African-American Churches residing in inner-city poor communities, Dr. Green authored the book, *The Haves and Have-Nots: Guidelines for Leading Congregational Change and Economically Empowering Poor Communities*. John Frank Green is the husband of Phyllis McClendon Green, Episcopal Supervisor of the Seventh Episcopal District and the proud father of Courtney S. Green, a communications professional in Washington, D.C.







*th*