

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**

## **WEST COAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**76 Years**

**Annual Conference Theme:**

**Prayer, Praise, Proclamation and Prophetic Engagement**

***“Intentional About Ministry – Generation to Generation”***

### **The Opening Service**

**Tuesday, October 11, 2016**

**Six fifty-five in the Evening**

**Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.  
Presiding Prelate**

**Mrs. Connie Speights Richardson  
Episcopal Supervisor**

**Convening with  
New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Lakeland, Florida**

**The Rev. Eddie Lake  
Host Pastor**

**The Rev. Jimmy J. Thompson  
Host Presiding Elder**

**The Rev. James O. Williams, Sr.  
Associate Presiding Elder**

**The Rev. Joyce J. Moore  
Associate Presiding Elder**

## The Opening Service

Presiding Elder Joyce J. Moore, Worship Leader

### The Prelude to Worship (#108 Total Praise Hymnal)

I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

In my mouth. In my mouth, His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

*(Text Psalm 34:1; Tune by Shirley M. K. Berkeley; Arr. by Valeria A. Foster)*

### The Great Processional (#113 Total Praise Hymnal)

Every praise is to our God, every word of worship with one accord

Every praise, every praise is to our God.

Sing hallelujah to our God, glory hallelujah is due our God,

Every praise, every praise is to our God.

God my Savior, God my Healer, God my Deliverer. Yes, He is; Yes, He is.

Every praise is to our God, every word of worship with one accord

Every praise, every praise is to our God.

*(Hezekiah Walker)*

### 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.

### The Call to Worship

The Rev. Eddie Lake

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within your gates, O Jerusalem. (Psalm 122:1)

**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.*** (Psalm 84:10)

Minister: Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good. (Psalm. 122:9)

**People: *Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.*** Psalm 92:13)

Minister: Blessed are they that dwell in Your house. Lord, I have loved Your habitation, the place where Your honor dwells. (Psalm 26:8)

**People: *For the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.*** (Hab 2: 20)

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. (Psalm 19:14)

**People: *O sing unto the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.*** (Psalm 98:1, 4)

### The Hymn of Praise

(#304 AMEC, St. Thomas)

The Rev. Dr. David W. Green, Sr.

And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?

Glory and praise to Jesus give for His redeeming grace!

Preserved by power Divine to full salvation here,

Again in Jesus' praise we join and in His sight appear.

What troubles have we seen, what conflicts have we passed,

Fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last.

But out of all the Lord Hath brought us by His love;  
And still He doth His help afford, and hides our life above.

Then let us make our boast of His redeeming power,  
Which saves us to the uttermost, till we can sin no more.

Let us take up the cross, till we the crown obtain;  
And gladly reckon all things loss, so we may Jesus gain.  
*(Words by Charles Wesley; Tune by Aaron Williams)*

**The Preface to Prayer**

(#134, African American Heritage Hymnal)  
God is the joy and the strength of my life,  
He moves all pain, misery and strife.  
He promised to keep me, never to leave me,  
He's never, ever come short of His word.  
I've got to fast and pray, stay in the narrow way.  
I'll keep my life clean every day.  
I want to go with Him when He comes back.  
I've come too far and I'll never turn back.  
God is, God is, God is, God is, God is my all and all.  
*(Text and Tune by Dr. Robert J. Fryson)*

**The Prayer of Invocation**

The Rev. Odell Gordon

**The Choral Response**

(#356, Total Praise Hymnal)  
He's so real, real in my soul today. He has washed all of my sins away.  
Jesus' love just bubbles over in my soul.  
*(Text and Tune by Charles H. Nicks, Jr.)*

**The Worship through Music**

The West Coast Conference Choir

**The Scripture Readings**

From the Hebrew Scriptures	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7	The Rev. Ella Edwards
The Epistle	2 Timothy 2:8-15	The Rev. Clarence Williams
The Gospel (All Standing)	Luke 17:11-19	The Rev. Bryant Fayson

**The Introit to the Decalogue** (#69, AMECH)

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.  
Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord, Eternal truth attends Thy word;  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.  
*(Isaac Watts)*

**The Decalogue** (Abridged)

The Rev. Ronnie Clark

Leader: GOD spoke all these words: I am GOD, your GOD, who brought you out of a life of slavery. No other gods, only ME. No carved gods of any size, shape, or form of anything whatever, whether of things that fly or walk or swim. Don't bow down to them and don't serve them because I am GOD, your God, and I'm a most jealous GOD, punishing the children for any sins their parents pass on to them to the third, and yes, even to the fourth generation of those who hate me. But I'm unswervingly loyal to the thousands who love me and keep my commandments. No using the name of GOD in curses or silly banter; GOD won't put

up with the irreverent use of GOD's name. Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Honor your father and mother so that you'll live a long time in the land that GOD is giving you. No murder. No adultery. No stealing. No lies about your neighbor. Don't set your heart on anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**People: LORD, have mercy upon us, and write these laws upon our hearts.  
Nearer, my God to Thee, nearer to Thee!  
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me;  
Still all my song shall be, nearer my God to Thee;  
Nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee.**

**Leader:** Hear what Christ, our Savior, says: Love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these." (*Message Bible, Mark 12:30-31*)

**The Gloria Patri** (#626 AMECH)  
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.  
(*Henry W. Greatorex*)

**The Offering for Nehemiah Ministry** The Rev. Karen Jackson Sims

**The Litany** "An Affirmation to Stand" The Rev. Keturah Pittman

**Leader:**

Before we grow numb to violence in our nation and in our neighborhoods, before we succumb to our tendency to forget, before we are numbered among the irrelevant; let us raise our voices to affirm that we stand!

**People:**

**We stand in the tradition of a prophetic calling, rooted in sacred scriptures; affirmed in our faith tradition; sustained by grace in our personal walk with God.**

**We stand with families still reeling from the savagery of gun violence, in their bereavement, in their pain, grieving for their children. Mothers' Days and Birthdays, and Special Days and anticipated Graduation Days are now bathed in Sorrow.**

**We stand to declare: ENOUGH! Too many of our youths have fallen victim to gun violence; too many guns, too many wounded, too many funerals, too much Hope lost, too much Promise buried.**

**We stand against the interpretation of laws that would justify a shooting, a killing -- shielding assailants with a cloak of immunity -- as unconscionable and indefensible.**

**We stand for justice, peace, right and righteousness at a time when apathy endangers our existence, injustice could potentially rule the day, peace is in jeopardy, right is gray, and righteousness is relative.**

**We stand to say we Care -- about the safety of our communities, about violence as the bane of our humanity, about the crippling menace of poverty; about advocating for the voiceless, about ministering to the hurting, about working to make a positive difference.**

**We stand in the power of our great Faith -- in humility, civility and grace -- to Pray, to Act, to Affirm -- that we stand in the tradition of the prophets to make our voices heard.**

*(A Litany by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, 2013)*

**The Worship through Music**

The Conference Choir

**The Presentation of the Bishop**

Presiding Elder Jimmy J. Thompson

**The Presentation of the Preacher**

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

**The Sermonic Hymn**

(#83 AMECH)

The Rev. Shirley Williams-Hayes

O Thou in whose presence my soul takes delight,  
On whom in affliction I call,  
My comfort by day, and my song in the night,  
My hope, my salvation, my all.

Where dost Thou at noontide resort with Thy sheep,  
To feed on the pastures of love?  
Say, why in the valley of death should I weep,  
Or alone in the wilderness rove?

O, why should I wander an alien from Thee,  
Or cry in the desert for bread?  
Thy foes will rejoice when my sorrows they see,  
And smile at the tears I have shed.

He looks, and ten thousands of angels rejoice,  
And myriads wait for His word;  
He speaks, and eternity, filled with His voice,  
Re-echoes the praise of her Lord.

Dear Shepherd, I hear and will follow Thy call;  
I know the sweet sound of Thy voice.  
Restore and defend me, for Thou art my All,  
And in Thee I will ever rejoice.

*(Text by Joseph Swain, Tune Freeman Lewis)*

**The Annual Sermon**

**The Rev. James Vincent Williams**

**The Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

The Rev. Gregory V. Gay, Sr.

(Words #185, Tune #141, AMECH)

There is a name I love to hear; I love to sing its worth;  
It sounds like music in mine ear, the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain:

O how I love Jesus! O how I love Jesus!  
O how I love Jesus! Because He first loved me.

It tells me of a Saviors love, who died to set me free;  
It tells me of His precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea.

It tells of One whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe,  
Who in mu sorrows bears apart that none can bear below.

Jesus! the name I love so well, the name I love to hear;  
No saints on earth its worth can tell, no heart conceive how dear.  
*(Text and Tune by Frederick Whitfield)*

**The Stewardship Responsive Reading**

The Rev. Kenneth Irby

Leader: The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof and those who dwell therein. (Ps. 24:1)  
People: **Give and it shall be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.** (Luke 6:38)

Leader: Each of us should give what we have decided to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

People: **Therefore we affirm: Let the Lord's People, bring the Lord's money, to the Lord's house, on the Lord's Day and receive the Lord's blessing.**

**The Worship in Giving**

The Conference Stewardship Committee

**The Offertory**

(#644 AMECH)

All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

*(Ludwig van Beethoven)*

**The Introduction of Visitors**

The Rev. Bryant Fayson

**Announcements**

The Rev. Eddie Lake

**The Affirmation of Faith**

The Rev. Raymond Stallworth

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day He arose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty: from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

**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.

**The Benediction**

The Rev. James V. Williams

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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**76 Years**

**Annual Conference Theme:**

Prayer, Praise, Proclamation and Prophetic Engagement

*“Intentional About Ministry – Generation to Generation”*

### The Ecumenical Service

**Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

**Eleven O'clock in the Morning**

**Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.  
Presiding Prelate**

**Mrs. Connie Speights Richardson  
Episcopal Supervisor**

**Convening with  
New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Lakeland, Florida**

**The Rev. Eddie Lake  
Host Pastor**

**The Rev. Jimmy J. Thompson  
Host Presiding Elder**

**The Rev. James O. Williams, Sr.  
Associate Presiding Elder**

**The Rev. Joyce J. Moore  
Associate Presiding Elder**

## The Ecumenical Service

Presiding Elder James O. Williams, Sr., Worship Leader

### 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.

### The Call to Worship

The Rev. Denzil Broomfield

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

People: **I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Leader: O magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt God's name together.

People: **Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!**

### The Opening Hymn

(#200, AMECH)

The Rev. James Sykes

Joys are flowing like a river, Since the Comforter has come;  
He abides with us forever, Makes the trusting heart His home.

Refrain

Blessed quietness, holy quietness, What assurance in my soul!  
On the stormy sea, He speaks to me, how the billows cease to roll.

Bringing life and health and gladness, All around this heavenly Guest,  
Banished unbelief and sadness, Changed our weariness to rest.

Like the rain that falls from heaven, Like the sunlight from the sky,  
So the Holy Ghost is given, Coming on us from on high.

See, a fruitful field is growing, Blessed fruit of righteousness;  
And the streams of life are flowing in the lonely wilderness.

What a wonderful salvation, where we always see His face!  
What a perfect habitation! What a quiet resting-place!

*(Text by Manie P. Ferguson, Tune by W. S. Marshall)*

### The Prayer of Invocation

The Rev. Ricky A. Polk

### The Choral Response

Jesus, I'll never forget what You've done for me!  
Jesus, I'll never forget how You set me free!  
Jesus, I'll never forget how You brought me out!  
Jesus, I'll never forget; no never!

How can I forget what You've done for me?  
How can I forget how You set me free?  
How can I forget how You brought me out?  
Jesus, I'll never forget; no never!

### The Worship through Music

The Choir

### The Reading of Scripture

The Hebrew Scriptures  
The New Testament

The Rev. Shanetta Ligon  
The Casabell Taylor



**The Presentation of the Bishop**

Presiding Elder Jimmy J. Thompson

**The Presentation of the Preacher**

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

**The Sermonic Hymn**

(#272, AMECH)

The Rev. James Crews

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

Refrain

Savior, Savior,

Hear my humble cry; While on others Thou art calling,  
Do not pass me by.

Let me at Thy throne of mercy Find a sweet relief,  
Kneeling there in deep contrition; Help my unbelief.

Trusting only in Thy merit, Would I seek Thy face;  
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, Save me by Thy grace.

Thou the Spring of all my comfort, More than life to me,  
Whom have I on earth beside Thee? Whom in Heav'n but Thee?

*(Text by Fanny J. Crosby; Tune by William H. Diane)*

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Kendrix J. Gardner**

Pastor, New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Lakeland, Florida

**The Invitation to Discipleship**

(#403, AMEC)

The Rev. Titus Gainous

What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought  
since Jesus came into my heart!

I have light in my soul for which long I had sought,  
since Jesus came into my heart!

Refrain

Since Jesus came into my heart, since Jesus came into my heart,  
floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll, since Jesus came into my heart.

I'm possessed of a hope that is steadfast and sure, since Jesus came into my heart!  
And no dark clouds of doubt now my pathway obscure, since Jesus came into my heart!

There's a light in the valley of death now for me, since Jesus came into my heart!  
And the gates of the city beyond I can see, since Jesus came into my heart!

I shall go there to dwell in that city, I know since Jesus came into my heart!  
And I'm happy, so happy, as onward I go, since Jesus came into my heart!

*(Text by Rufus H. McDaniel, Tune by Charles H. Gabriel)*

**The Announcements**

The Rev. Eddie Lake

**The Doxology**

**The Benediction**

The Rev. Kendrix J. Gardner

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**

## **WEST COAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**76 Years**

**Annual Conference Theme:**

Prayer, Praise, Proclamation and Prophetic Engagement

*“Intentional About Ministry – Generation to Generation”*

The Sons of Allen  
“Brave, Bold, Believable”  
Men’s Night Celebration

**Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

**Seven O’clock in the Evening**

**Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.  
Presiding Prelate**

**Mrs. Connie Speights Richardson  
Episcopal Supervisor**

**Convening with  
New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
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Associate Presiding Elder**

## **The Sons of Allen** **“Bold, Brave, Believable”**

The Rev. Odell Gordon, Worship Leader

### **The Processional**

(#489, African American Hymnal)

Victory is mine. Victory is mine. Victory today is mine.  
I told Satan get thee behind. Victory today is mine.  
*(Text and Tune by Dorothy Norwood and Alvin Darling)*

### **The Doxology**

#### **The Call to Worship**

Master Christopher Brown, III

**Leader:** Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;

**People:** **Serve the Lord with gladness and come before God’s presence with a song.**

**Leader:** Know this: The Lord Himself is God;

**People:** **God has made us, and we are His; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.**

**Leader:** Enter His gates with thanksgiving; go into His courts with praise;

**People:** **Give thanks to God and call upon God’s Name.**

**Leader:** For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting;

**People:** **And His faithfulness endures from everlasting to everlasting.**

#### **The Hymn of Praise**

(#559, AMECH)

Brother Anthony Frazier

Rise up, O men of God! Have done with lesser things.  
Give heart and mind and soul and strength to serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O men of God! The kingdom tarries long.  
Bring in the day of brotherhood and end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O men of God! The church for you doth wait,  
Her strength unequal to her task; rise up and make her great!

Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where His feet have trod.  
As brothers of the Son of Man, rise up, O men of God!  
*(Words by William P. Merrill, Tune by William H. Walter)*

#### **The Prayer of Invocation**

The Rev. Kirk A. Bogen

#### **The Worship Through Music**

The West Coast Conference SOA Choir

#### **The Reading of the Holy Scripture**

Hebrew Scriptures  
New Testament

Deuteronomy 31:1-6  
Acts 4:1-13

Master DeShawn Jones  
Brother Nehemiah Small

#### **The Summary of the Decalogue**

Master Brandon Pressley

And he said to Him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like unto it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

The Men's Night Litany

**"Not your Average Joe"**

The Rev. Byron Pressley, Sr.

*(Litany Adapted from a Father's Day Litany by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, 2015)*

Leader: Tonight is Men's Night, a time to celebrate the role of men *beyond* the biological contribution to the family-line and the continuation of the human species, sometimes seen as miraculous. This is also a celebration of a virtue in men; manly qualities like love, integrity, honesty, responsibility, and devotion.

It is a lesson drawn from the story of Jesus and his earthly father. It begins in a place that makes the Bible as relevant today as it was the day Jesus was conceived. It is a story revealing that Joseph was no "average Joe."

**People: We are men of the Scriptures; inspired by men like Joseph, who believed and heeded the Messenger of God for his family, his faith, his future.**

Leader: "Not your average Joe," was the husband and protector of Mary, the beloved Mother of Jesus, who became an extraordinary woman, a leader of the Church, considered in Christendom to be "Blessed among women, for the fruit of her womb, Jesus." At some point the Mother of Jesus became a single mom, but not because Joseph was a dishonorable man. No dead beat dad; "no average Joe."

**People: Men, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.** (Colossians 3:21)

Leader: "Not your ordinary Joe," was the family man in the life of Jesus, knowing that a DNA test would only prove one thing, something the whole community knew. Even so, he provided a home for an extraordinary child, who became an extraordinary man, who preached extraordinary sermons on hillsides and sterns of fishing boats, and walking paths between communities, who did an extraordinary thing at Calvary and became the extraordinary Savior we have come to love, honor and follow as our Lord.

**People: But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.** (Mark 3:27)

Leader: Not your "ordinary" Joe was the provider for his family. He was a skilled artisan, who taught his son a trade, to work with his hands, to create for him long-term economic opportunity, to stave off destitution and potential criminality.

**People: And whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.** (1 Timothy 5:8)

Leader: Not your "ordinary" Joe was the priest of his household. His quiet strength, his sense of religious duty, his family's observance of Holy Days and the traditions of the faith became added value to the Discipline of his home.

**People: Train up a child in the way the child should go, and when it is older the child will not depart from it.** (Proverbs 22:6)

Leader: Not your "ordinary" Joe was the protector of his son; and to the extent possible, shielded him from danger, to give that son a chance to be somebody, to help him live to fulfill His own destiny. Shielding him from government policies and uniformed agents, that insisted on a policy of "Kill them before they grow."

**People:** Men, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

**The Presentation of the Preacher**

Presiding Elder James O. Williams, Sr.

**The Sermonic Hymn**

(#215, AMECH)

Brother Eddie Wilcher

I've a message from the Lord, Hallelujah! The message unto you I'll give;  
'Tis recorded in His Word, Hallelujah! It is only that you "look and live."

The Refrain

Look and live, my brother, live, Look to Jesus now and live;  
'Tis recorded in His Word, Hallelujah! It is only that you look and live.

I've a message full of love, Hallelujah! A message, O my friend for you;  
'Tis a message from above, Hallelujah! Jesus said it and I know 'tis true.

Life is offered unto you, Hallelujah! Eternal life your soul shall have,  
If you only look to Him, Hallelujah! Look to Jesus Who alone can save.

I will tell you how I came, Hallelujah! To Jesus, when He made me whole;  
'Twas believing on His Name, Hallelujah! I trusted and He saved my soul.

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Michael B. Price, Sr.**

**The Invitation to Christian Discipleship.** (#282, AMECH)

The Rev. Kelvin Price

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.

Refrain

In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving....

Lord, I want to be holy....

Lord, I want to be like Jesus....

*(Text: African American Spiritual)*

**The Worship of Giving**

The Stewardship Committee

**The Presentation of the 11<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District Sons of Allen Coordinator**

Brother Stephen Miller, III

**The Presentation of the West Coast Conference Scholarship**

**The Presentation of the Bishop**

The Rev. Kenneth Irby

**The Presentation of Awards**

Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.  
Presiding Prelate of the 11<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District

**The Bishop's Award For**

Extraordinary Community Service  
Business and Professional Service

**The Announcements**

**The Benediction**

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**

## **WEST COAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**76 Years**

**Annual Conference Theme:**

Prayer, Praise, Proclamation and Prophetic Engagement

*“Intentional About Ministry – Generation to Generation”*

The Service of Ordination  
Superannuation of Preachers and  
Holy Communion

**Thursday, October 13, 2016**

**Eleven O'clock in the Morning**

**Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.  
Presiding Prelate**

**Mrs. Connie Speights Richardson  
Episcopal Supervisor**

**Convening with  
New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
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## The Order of Service

The Rev. Ella Edwards, Worship Leader

### The Processional

The greatness of the Lord is inconceivable  
The love that He shows is unconditional  
The power of the Lord is unbeatable  
Great is the God we serve

God is Great, And Greatly to be praised  
God is Great, And Greatly to be praised  
*(Text and Tune by Ricky Dillard)*

### 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.

### The Call to Worship

The Rev. Kelvin Price

Leader: Awesome God, Holy and Reverend is Your name! We praise You for Your glorious and mighty acts in Creation, Salvation, and Liberation.

People: **In Creation, You made us; in Salvation, You saved us; in Liberation You delivered us.**

Leader: Awesome God, we worship and adore You for Your gracious call upon our lives through Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ: in Your Church, in the world; in the ministry of proclamation, pastoral care, and the myriad means of outreach – that the world may know Jesus and be reconciled to You.

People: **To ministry You have called us, and into the world You have sent us – to be Your ambassadors of love, liberation, reconciliation and empowerment for Your people. Our soul shouts, Thank You! Holy and Reverend is Your name!**

*(A Call to Worship by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.)*

### The Opening Hymn

(#555 AAHH)

The Rev. Shirley Williams-Hayes

It may be in the valley, where countless dangers hide;  
It may be in the sunshine, that I in peace abide;  
But this one thing I know – If it be dark or fair,  
If Jesus is with me, I'll go anywhere!

Refrain

If Jesus goes with me, I'll go. Anywhere!  
'Tis Heaven to me, Where-e'er I may be, if He is there!  
I count it a privilege here. His cross to bear;  
If Jesus goes with me, I'll go – Anywhere!

It may be I must carry the blessed word of life  
Across the burning deserts to those in sinful strife;  
And though it be my lot to bear my colors there,  
If Jesus goes with me, I'll go anywhere!

But if it be my portion to bear my cross at home;  
While others bear their burdens beyond the billow's foam,  
I'll prove my faith in Him – Confess His judgments fair,  
If Jesus goes with me, I'll go anywhere!

It is not mine to question, the judgments of my Lord,  
It is but mine to follow the leadings of His word;  
But if I go or stay, or whether here or there,  
I'll be, with my Savior, Content anywhere!  
*(Text and Tune by C. Austin Miles)*

**The Preface to Prayer** (#580 AAHH)

I love You. I love You. I love You Lord, today Because You care for me in such a special way.  
And yes I praise You. I lift You up. I magnify Your name.  
That's why my heart is filled with praise.

My heart, my mind, my soul belong to You. You paid the price for me way back on Calvary.  
And yes I praise You. I lift You up. I magnify Your name.  
That's why my heart is filled with praise.  
*(William F. Hubbard)*

**The Prayer of Invocation**

The Rev. James V. Williams

Almighty God, favor us with Your holy presence in this historic and sacred moment. Your word declares that through Your divine providence You have appointed diverse orders of ministers in Your Church. For such an occasion we have assembled. Behold these Your servants, now called to this most sacred and Holy Office. Replenish them so with the truth of Your doctrine and adorn them with the innocence of life, that they may faithfully serve You, and through Your Holy Spirit, edify Your Church, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

**The Choral Response** (#299, AMECH)

O Master, let me walk with Thee, In lowly paths of service free;  
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee In closer, dearer company,  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, In trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray Far down the future's broadening way;  
In peace that only Thou canst give, With Thee, O Master, let me live.

*(Text by Washington Gladden; Tune by H. Percy Smith)*

**The Worship through Music**

The Conference Choir

**The Scripture Reading**

The Rev. Kirk Bogen

*1 Timothy 3:8-13; 1 Timothy 5:17; Ephesians 5:15-17, 20-21; Ephesians 6:11-13*

Likewise must the Deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a Deacon, being found blameless. Let the Deacons be the mate of one spouse, ruling their children and their own homes well. For they that have used the office of a Deacon well – will purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. Even so must their spouses be grave, not slanderers, but sober, faithful in all things.

Let the elders that rule be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.



See then that you walk circumspectly not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God.

Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

**The Preface to the Decalogue**

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 Summary of the Decalogue**

The Rev. Patricia A. Mosley

And he said to Him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like unto it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend 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.

**The Worship through Giving**

Conference Stewardship Committee

**The Presentation of the Bishop**

Presiding Elder Jimmy J. Thompson

**The Presentation of the Preacher**

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

**The Sermonic Hymn**

(#566 AMECH)

The Rev. Michael B. Price

O Zion haste, thy mission high fulfilling, To tell to all the world that God is Light,  
That He who made all nations is not willing One soul should perish, lost in shades of night.

*Refrain*

Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace;  
Tidings of Jesus, Redemption and release.

Behold how many thousands still are lying, bound in the darksome prison-house of sin,  
With none to tell them of the Savior's dying, Or of the life He died for them to win.

Proclaim to every people, tongue, and nation That God, in whom they live and move, is Love;  
Tell how He stooped to save His lost creation, and died on earth that we might live above.

Give of thy children, to bear the message glorious; Give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;  
Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious; and all your spending Jesus will repay.

*(Text by Mary A. Thompson; Tune by James Walch)*

**The Ordination Sermon**

**Bishop Robert Vaughn Webster**  
110th Bishop, AME Church, Retired

**The Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

The Rev. Cynthia Langston

"Lord, I'm Available to You"

You gave me my hands to reach out to man  
To show him Your love and Your perfect plan  
You gave me my ears, I can hear Your voice so clear,  
I can hear the cries of sinners  
But can I wipe away their tears?

*Chorus*

Lord, I'm available to You  
My will I give to You  
I'll do what You say do,  
Use me Lord to show someone the way  
And enable me to say,  
My storage is empty and I am available to You

You gave me my voice to speak Your word,  
To sing all Your praises to those who never heard;  
But with my eyes I see a need  
for more availability  
I've seen hearts that have been broken,  
So many people to be free.

Now I'm giving back to You  
All the tools You gave to me  
My hands, my ears, my voice, my eyes,  
So You can use them as You please  
I have emptied out my cup  
So that you can fill it up  
Now I'm free, I just want to be more available to You  
*(Text and Tune by the Rev. Milton Brunson)*

***The Liturgy for the Installation of a Member of the Judicial Council***

THE CALL TO CELEBRATION

**Bishop:** The Church gathers in the name of Jesus Christ.

**People:** **We come because we have been called to follow Him.**

**Bishop:** Christ did not come into the world to be served, but to serve.

**People:** **We celebrate our Servant Lord by worshipping God.**

**Bishop:** Let us sing and pray until we, too, have become servants!

**People:** **Let us sing and praise and be joyful together!**

**Bishop:** Members of the Conference, I bring before you Brother Warren Hope Dawson, Esq. who was elected to serve as a Member of the Judicial Council at the 50th Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

## THE CHARGE

**Bishop:** You have been granted the high privilege to serve as a Member of the Judicial Council in our Church, and it lays upon you a solemn responsibility. What you have done alone with God in consecrating your life in this service, you must now make answer to the following questions which the Lord Jesus Christ and the Doctrine and Discipline of our Church requires of you.

Are you now willing to take charge of this office and accept the responsibility thereof?

**Judicial Council Member: I am now willing.**

**Bishop:** Do you conscientiously believe and declare, as far as you know your own heart, that in taking upon you this position in the Church that your soul's desire is to the glory of God, and edifying of the Church?

**Judicial Council Member: I so believe and declare.**

**Bishop:** Do you solemnly agree that, by the assistance of God's grace, you will endeavor faithfully to uphold the trust and confidence the members of our church has placed in you?

**Judicial Council Member: I do.**

**Bishop:** Do you believe in your heart that you have been led by the Spirit of God to engage in this work and to assume its responsibilities?

**Judicial Council Member: I do believe**

**Bishop:** Will you endeavor, as much as lies in you, to perform faithfully the duties of your office in the Connectional Church?

**Judicial Council Member: I will endeavor so to do.**

**Bishop:** Will you be diligent in prayer, in the reading of the Holy Scripture, and so to live that the power of God may be manifested in your life?

**Judicial Council Member: I will, by God's grace**

**Bishop:** Will you be governed by the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church as it pertains to the fulfillment of the duties of your office? Will you be loyal to the church, and accept the authority of those to whom the church has committed the direction of your work?

**Judicial Council Member: I will, the Lord being my helper.**

## THE CEREMONY OF INSTALLATION

**Bishop:** I call upon you to take charge of the work you have been elected to serve in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Now the God of peace make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Bishop:** Members of the Conference, I commend to you this member of the Judicial Council whom we this day have installed. In this Holy moment we too are called to a renewed consecration of our lives to

Christ and God's Kingdom. As he goes forth upon his mission and ministry, let us assure him that we are with him in spirit and support him with our prayers.

**People:**

**We rejoice to recognize you as a Member of the Judicial Council of our Church. We thank God that you have dedicated your life to His service and we shall follow you with our prayers.**

**O, God, We, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members of one another. United we pray; Your Kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And to this end, we dedicate ourselves in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

#### THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we beseech You to graciously behold this Your servant now poised to be installed as a Member of the Judicial Council in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Endow him with Your spirit; enrich him with Your heavenly grace; and strengthen him for the task which lies ahead. May he always remain humble and cognizant of the high privilege you have afforded him to serve in a position of leadership that he will always give an account of his stewardship and of the confidence placed in him by Your people. Amen.

#### *The Liturgy for the Ordination of Deacons*

**The Rev. Eddie Lake**

Bishop Richardson, we present these persons to be admitted Itinerant Deacons.

**Bishop Richardson:**

Take heed that the persons whom you present to us be apt and meet, by their godly conversation, to exercise their ministry duly to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church.

**The Rev. Eddie Lake**

We have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and think them so to be.

**The Elected Itinerant Deacons:**

**Jacquelyn Bogen, Renandoes Girard Dixon, Kennetra Keyana Louise Irby Brackett,  
Etta Denise Owens, Kimberly Smith Flemming**

**For Admission and Re-Obligation:**

**Derrien Bonney**

**Bishop Richardson:**

Members of the Conference, if there be any of you who know any impediment or crime in any of these persons presented to be ordained Itinerant Deacons for which they ought not to be admitted to this office, do come forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to take upon you the Office of the Ministry in the Church of Christ, to serve God for the promotion of His glory, and the edifying of God's people?

**The Ordinands:**            *I trust so.*

**Bishop Richardson:**

Do you unfeignedly believe all the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

**The Ordinands:**            *I do believe them.*

**Bishop Richardson:**

Will you diligently read and expound the same to the people whom you may be appointed to serve?

**The Ordinands:**            *I will.*

**Bishop Richardson:**

It appertains to the office of a Deacon to assist the Elder in Divine Service. And especially when the Elder administers the Holy Communion, to help in the distribution thereof and to read and expound the Holy Scriptures; to instruct the youths, and in the absence of the Elder, to baptize. And furthermore, it is the office of the Deacon to search for the sick, poor, and impotent, that they may be visited and relieved. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

**The Ordinands:**            *I will do so, the Lord being my helper.*

**Bishop Richardson:**

Will you frame and fashion your own life and the lives of your families according to the doctrine of Christ and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples of the flock of Christ?

**The Ordinands:**            *I will do so, the Lord being my helper.*

**Bishop Richardson:**

Will you reverently obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonition?

**The Ordinands:**            *I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper.*

### **The Act of Diaconate Ordination**

**Bishop Richardson:**

Take thou authority to execute the office of an Itinerant Deacon in the Church of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

**The Congregation: Amen.**

**Bishop Richardson:**

Take thou authority to read the Scriptures, and to preach the same in the Church of God.

**The Congregation: Amen.**

**The Rev. Eddie Lake**

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning, and you yourselves like unto those who wait for their Lord, when He will return from the wedding; that when He comes and knocks, they may open unto Him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when He comes shall find watching.

Verily I say unto you that He shall gird Himself, and make them sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if He shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

## ***The Liturgy for the Ordination of Elders***

### **The Rev. Ella Edwards**

Bishop Richardson, we present unto you these persons to be admitted Itinerant Elders.

### **The Elected Itinerant Elders:**

**Reverends: Sidney Alfred Bain, Sandra Maria Bell, Cheryl Lynn Ferrell, Althea Valerie Winston**

### **Bishop Richardson:**

Take heed that the persons whom you present to us be apt and meet, by their godly conversation, to exercise their ministry duly to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church.

### **The Rev. Ella Edwards**

We have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and think them so to be.

### **Bishop Richardson:**

Members of the Conference, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, this day to ordain Elders, for after due examination we find not the contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same. But if there be any of you who know any impediment or crime in any of them, for which they ought not be received into this holy ministry, do come forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

You have heard, as well in your private examinations as in the exhortation which was just made to you, and in the writings of the Apostles, of what dignity and of what great importance this office is, whereunto you are now called. And now again we exhort you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you remember how high a dignity and to how weighty an office you are called; that is to say to be messengers, watchers, and stewards of the Lord, to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family, to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and of His children who are in the midst of this evil world, that they may be saved through Christ forever.

### **The Rev. Ella Edwards**

Have always, therefore, printed in your remembrance what great treasure is committed to your charge. For, they are the sheep of Christ which He bought with His death, and for whom He shed His blood. The church and congregation, whom you must serve, are His Spouse, and His Body.

### **The Rev. Ella Edwards**

And if it should happen the same church or any member thereof, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence, you know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will ensue. Wherefore consider within yourselves the end of the ministry towards the children of God, towards the Spouse and Body of Christ, and see that you never cease your labor, your care, and diligence until you have done all that lies in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to your charge unto that agreement in the faith, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there may be no place left among you, either for error in religion or for viciousness in life.

### **The Rev. Ella Edwards**

Forasmuch then as your office is both of so great excellence, and of so great difficulty, you surely see how great care and study you ought to apply yourselves, as neither you yourselves offend, nor be occasion

that others offend. Howbeit, you cannot have a mind and will thereunto of yourselves; for that will and ability are given of God alone.

**The Rev. Ella Edwards**

Therefore you ought, and have need, to pray earnestly for His Holy Spirit. And seeing that you cannot by any other means compass the doing of so weighty a work pertaining to the salvation of humankind, but with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same, consider how studious you ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures and in framing the manners both of yourselves and of them that pertain unto you, according to the rules of the same Scriptures, and for this selfsame cause how you ought to forsake and set aside as much as you may all worldly care and studies.

**Bishop Richardson:**

We have good hope that you have all weighed and pondered these things long before now; and that you have clearly determined by God's grace to give yourselves to this office whereby it has pleased God to call you, so that as much as lies in you, you will apply yourselves wholly to this one thing and draw all your cares and studies this way, and that you will continually pray to God the Father by the mediation of our Savior Jesus Christ, for the Heavenly assistance of the Holy Spirit, that by daily reading and weighing of the Scriptures you may wax riper and stronger in your ministry, and that you may so endeavor yourselves, from time to time, to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to fashion them after the rule and doctrine of Christ that you may be wholesome and goodly examples and patterns for the people to follow.

And now that this present congregation of Christ here assembled may also understand your minds and wills in these things, and that this your promise may the more move you to do your duties, you shall answer plainly to these things which we, in the name of God and His Church, shall demand of you touching the same.

**Bishop Richardson:**

Do you think in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the order of Elder?

**The Ordinands:**            *I do so believe.*

**Bishop Richardson:**

Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrines required of necessity for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? Are you determined out of the said Scriptures, to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing, as required of necessity to salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded may be conducted and proved by Scripture?

**The Ordinands:**            *I am so persuaded and have determined by God's grace.*

**Bishop Richardson:**

Will you then give faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrine and sacraments and discipline of Christ as the Lord has commanded?

**The Ordinands:**            *I will do so, by the help of the Lord.*

**Bishop Richardson:**

Will you be ready with faithful diligence always to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrine contrary to God's word, and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations, as well to the sick as to the whole within your charge as need shall require and occasion shall be given?

**The Ordinands:**            *I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.*

**Bishop Richardson:**

Will you be diligent in prayer and in reading the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?

**The Ordinands:**            *I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper.*

**Bishop Richardson:**

Will you be diligent to frame yourselves and your families according to the doctrine of Christ and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

**The Ordinands:**            *I shall apply myself thereto, the Lord being my helper.*

**Bishop Richardson:**

Will you maintain and set forth, as much as lies in you, sweetness, peace, and love among all Christian people, and especially among them that are or shall be committed to your charge?

**The Ordinands:**            *I will do so, the Lord being my helper.*

**Bishop Richardson:**

Will you reverently obey your chief ministers unto whom is committed the charge and government over you, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions, submitting yourselves to their godly judgments?

**The Ordinands:**            *I will do so, the Lord being my helper.*

**Bishop Richardson:**

Almighty God, who has given you this will to do all these things, grant also unto you strength and power to perform the same that He may accomplish His work which He has begun, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS**

Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire  
**And lighten with celestial fire;**  
Thou the anointing Spirit art  
**Who doth thy sevenfold gifts impart**  
Thy blessed unction from above  
**Is comfort, light, and fire of love.**  
Enable with perpetual light  
**The dullness of our blinded sight;**  
Anoint and cheer our soiled face  
**With the abundance of Thy grace.**  
Keep far our foes; give peace at home;



**Where Thou art guide, no ill can come.**

Teach us to know the Father, Son,

**And Thee of both to be but one!**

That through the ages all along

**This may be our endless song;**

Praise to Thy eternal merit,

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

*(Text by Rhabanus Maurus, 9<sup>th</sup> Century, Translated by John Cosin)*

**Bishop Richardson:**

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, who of Your infinite love and goodness towards us have given us Your only and most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redemption by His death and was ascended into heaven, sent abroad into the world His Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Teachers and Pastors by whose labor and ministry He gathered together a great flock in all parts of the world, to set forth the eternal praise of Your holy name; for these so great benefits of Your eternal goodness, and for that You have vouchsafed to call these Your servants here present to the same office and ministry appointed for the salvation of humankind, we render You most hearty thanks.

**The Rev. Ella Edwards**

We praise and worship You, and we humbly beseech You by the same blessed Son to grant unto all, who either here or elsewhere call upon Your name, that we may continue to show ourselves thankful unto You for these and all Your other benefits, and that we may daily increase and go forward in the knowledge and faith of You and Your Son, by the Holy Spirit. So that as well by these Your ministers as by them over whom they shall be appointed Your ministers and Your holy name may be forever glorified and Your blessed kingdom enlarged through the same, Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

*The bishop, with seven elders, shall lay their hands severally upon the head of every one that receives*

***The Act of Elder Ordination***

*The receivers humbly kneeling and the bishop saying:*

**Bishop Richardson:**

The Lord pour upon You the Holy Spirit for the office and work of an Itinerant Elder in the Church of God, now committed unto you by the imposition of our hands. And be a faithful dispenser of the word of God and of His holy sacraments in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***The Congregation: Amen.***

*Then shall be delivered to each of them, kneeling, the Bible into their hands, saying:*

**Bishop Richardson:**

Take thou authority to preach the word of God and to administer the holy sacraments in the congregation in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***The Congregation: Amen.***

**The Rev. Ella Edwards**

Most merciful Father, we beseech You to send upon these Your servants Your heavenly blessings that they may be clothed with righteousness and that the word spoken by their mouths may never be spoken in vain. Grant, also, that they shall deliver out of Your most Holy Word, or agreeably to the same, as the means of our salvation; and that in all our words and deeds may seek Your glory and the increase of Your kingdom through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**A Hymn of Bishop Frederick H. Talbot**

Pray God through Christ for strength to do God's will  
 Pray God for grace to venture, yet be still,  
 Pray God for vision – Reaching for the new,  
 Pray God for patience, Christ has brought us through.

**The Service of Holy Communion**

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.  
 Chief Celebrant

**The Communion Hymn** (#534, Tune, #31 Manoah, AMECH)

According to Thy gracious word, In meek humility,  
 This will I do, my dying Lord, I will remember Thee.

Thy body, broken for my sake, My bread from Heaven shall be;  
 The testamental cup I take, And thus remember Thee.

Gethsemane can I forget? Or there Thy conflict see,  
 Thine agony, and bloody sweat, And not remember Thee?

When to the cross I turn mine eyes, And rest on Calvary,  
 O Lamb of God, my sacrifice, I must remember Thee;

Remember Thee, and all Thy pains And all Thy love to me;  
 Yea, while a breath, a pulse remains, Will I remember Thee.

*(Text by James Montgomery; Tune by Henry W. Greatorex)*

**The Bidding**

You that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbor, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in His holy ways; draw near with faith to receive the holy Sacrament, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, in the presence of His church.

**The General Confession**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed against Your divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father for Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Prayer of Consecration**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of Your tender mercy did give Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, who made thereby His oblation of Himself, once offered, a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute and in His holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that His precious death until His coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech You, and grant that we, receiving these Your creatures of bread and wine, according to Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion, may be partakers of His most blessed body and blood; who in the same night that He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you." Likewise after supper He took the cup and when He had given thanks He gave it to them saying, "All of you drink this, for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of Me." Amen.

**The Sharing of the Elements**

*(Bishop, Presiding Elders, Board of Examiners, the Ordinands, their families, the congregation)*

**The Lord's Prayer****The Blessing****Bishop Robert V. Webster**

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and your minds in the knowledge and love of God and of His son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**

**WEST COAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**76 Years**

**Annual Conference Theme:**

Prayer, Praise, Proclamation and Prophetic Engagement

*“Intentional About Ministry – Generation to Generation”*

*Annual Lay Witness Service*

*featuring*

A Salute to Senator Arthenia L. Joyner

**Thursday, October 13, 2016**

**Seven O'clock in the Evening**



**Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.  
Presiding Prelate**

**Mrs. Connie Speights Richardson  
Episcopal Supervisor**

**Convening with  
New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Lakeland, Florida**

**The Rev. Eddie Lake, Host Pastor  
The Rev. Jimmy J. Thompson, Host Presiding Elder  
The Rev. James O. Williams, Sr., Associate Presiding Elder  
The Rev. Joyce J. Moore, Associate Presiding Elder  
Dr. Willie C. Glover, Connectional Lay President  
Edith B. Cartledge, Connectional Director of Lay Activities  
Patricia Wright, Eleventh Episcopal District Lay President  
Teresa White, Eleventh Episcopal District Director of Lay Activities  
Hugh Yancy, Jr., West Coast Conference Lay President  
Emily Davis, West Coast Conference Director of Lay Activities**

**Annual Lay Witness**  
**Worship Leader - The Reverend Eddie Lake**  
**New Bethel AMEC, Lakeland**

**PRELUDE..... MUSICIANS**  
**THE PROCESSIONAL.....Conference Officers, Program Participants, Bishop**

**THE SALUTATION.....The Reverend Eddie Lake**

**LEADER: Give honor and praise to God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

People: And to all the children of our Father, now and forever. Amen

**LEADER: How shall we give praise?**

People: Like the angels in heaven, we shall give praise.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**THE DOXOLOGY.....Mt. Zion (St. Petersburg) Male Choir & Congregation**  
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;*  
*Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP .....The Reverend. James V. Williams**  
**Mt. Olive, Clearwater**

**LEADER: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within thy gates O Jerusalem. (Psalm 122:1-2)**

People: For a Day on our courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. **(Psalm 84:10)**

**LEADER: Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good. (Psalm 122: 9)**

People: Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God. **(Psalm 92:13)**

**LEADER: Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. Lord, I have loved thy habitation, the place where thy honor dwelleth. (Psalm 26:8)**

People: For the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.  
**(Habakkuk 2:20)**

**LEADER: Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)**

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, sing praises. **(Psalm 98:1b, 4)**

**THE HYMN OF PRAISE #582 .....Bro. Carl Berry**  
**Mt. Olive, Bealsville**

**THE LAY HYMN**

(1)

Laymen now have thus assembled in Thy Blessed name, O God,  
Guide us in Thy true endeavor, Light the pathway that we trod.  
Give us strength to ever labor for Thy cause,  
Give us strength to ever labor for Thy cause.

(2)

We are banded one in union, to fulfill Thy just command  
May we be Thy true disciples, holding to Thy mighty hand.  
Give us blessings from the fountain of Thy love,

Give us blessings from the fountain of Thy love.

(3)

As we walk this Christian journey, Let us keep our armor bright.  
Let our words be pure and holy That we stand within Thy sight.  
Laymen Soldiers, strong in unity and love,  
Laymen Soldiers, strong in unity and love.

(4)

May we stand before Thine Altar, pledging Lord to work for Thee.  
In the Vineyard, in the pastures, Let us, Lord, Thy Pilgrim be.  
Let us lift the Cross forever to the skies,  
Let us lift the Cross forever to the skies.

**THE INVOCATION..... Bro. Barry White  
Greater Mt. Zion, Sebring**

**THE CHORAL RESPONSE.....Choir & Congregation**  
**THE WORSHIP THROUGH SONG.....(2 SELECTIONS).....Mt. Zion AME Male Choir  
St. Petersburg**

**THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURES]**

OLD TESTAMENT: **Bro. McArthur Carpenter - New Bethel, Lakeland**  
EPISTLE: **The Reverend James Sykes - Moore's Chapel, St. Petersburg**  
GOSPEL: **Bro. E. Carver Lee - Allen Temple, Tampa**

**THE LITANY .....Bro. Willie Felton  
Historic Bethel, St. Petersburg**

**Lay Organization Gathering Litany**

From the Pen of P.H. Wright - written 10/9/15

Leader: The Lay Organization needs bold, and forward thinking disciples who are unafraid to grow, study, learn and stand up for what is right and just in the life of our Zion.

**People: O Lord, gather us together as the Lay Organization; intertwine our hearts, and unite us in purpose for service and action!**

Leader: The Lay Organization is dedicated to the education of the church in its entirety. It is our bounden duty to teach and to learn, to care and to share, to be accountable to authority and to take authority within the scope of the law.

**People: O Lord, help us to understand that the Lay Organization goes beyond simply being a member; it is a commitment to excellence in service.**

Leader: The Lay Organization holds as its guiding principle a love for the history and lessons of the Church founded in a blacksmith shop and grounded in the struggle for equality for all. We know and honor denominational rituals which are steeped in the rich liturgy of our Zion.

**People: O Lord, remind us that the Lay Organization goes beyond just knowing; it is a commitment to know and tell the AME Story.**

Leader: The Lay Organization is alive, aware and astute about the issues facing our church and our society at large. We rally against injustice; we stand up in times of need and we fight back with our vote and our voice to defend, support or advocate for those who are less fortunate or unable to do so.

**People: O Lord, the Lay Organization extends farther than lip service; it is a commitment to find our educated voice and to know when and how to use it.**

Leader: The Lay Organization stands as a sanctuary for all who will come beneath its wings to learn and be taught, to teach and be trained, to nurture and lead others, to be bound by and honor African Methodism and the laws, doctrine, history and legacy thereof. It is a haven for those who are not ashamed in this present generation and for generations to come.

**ALL:** O Lord, bless the Lay Organization and unite us together – clergy and laity—as an army mustered for reveille under a single banner. Move us from membership to discipleship in our quest for excellence in service so that we will be able to know and tell our AME story with educated voices. We remain ever Laymen Soldiers and Zion’s Warriors who are strong in unity and love.

**THE INTROIT** .....“From All That Dwell”

**THE DECALOGUE SUMMARY**..... **Bro. Herbert Williams**  
**St. Luke, Tampa**

And He said to him, 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. And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

**THE GLORIA PATRI**

**THE GIFTS FOR MISSION**.....**The Reverend Denzil Brumfield**  
**Mt. Olive, Avon Park**

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC**.....(2 Selections) **St. Luke AME Male Choir**  
**Tampa**

**THE SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Tribute/Recognition of the Honorable Arthenia Joyner ..... **Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.**

**THE OFFERING**.....Finance Committee

**THE PRESIDENT’S AWARDS** .....Brother Hugh Yancy, Jr.

**THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER**.....**The Reverend Kelvin A. Price**  
**Turner Chapel, Palmetto**

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC**.....(2 Selections).....**St. James Male Choir, Bartow**

**THE MESSAGE PROCLAIMED**.....**The Reverend Laura White**  
**Greater Mt. Zion, Sebring**

**THE INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**..... **The Reverend Clarence Honor, III**  
**Mt. Zion, Mulberry**

**THE REMARKS**.....**Conference President Hugh Yancy, Jr.**  
**Episcopal Lay President Patricia Wright**  
**Presiding Prelate - Bishop Richardson**

**THE DOXOLOGY**

**THE LAY BENEDICTION**

May God Bless Us With The True Spirit of Christianity  
That We May Live Together, Not As Man Over Man,  
But As Laypersons Working With God. Amen

**PLEASE JOIN US IN A RECEPTION HONORING SENATOR ARTHENIA JOYNER**

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**

## **WEST COAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**76 Years**

**Annual Conference Theme:**

Prayer, Praise, Proclamation and Prophetic Engagement

*“Intentional About Ministry – Generation to Generation”*

### The Memorial Service

**Friday, October 14, 2016**

**Twelve O'clock Noon**

**Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.  
Presiding Prelate**

**Mrs. Connie Speights Richardson  
Episcopal Supervisor**

**Convening with  
New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Lakeland, Florida**

**The Rev. Eddie Lake  
Host Pastor**

**The Rev. Jimmy J. Thompson  
Host Presiding Elder**

**The Rev. James O. Williams, Sr.  
Associate Presiding Elder**

**The Rev. Joyce J. Moore  
Associate Presiding Elder**



## The Memorial Service

(#470, AMECH)

Servant of God, well done!  
Rest from thy loved employ;  
The battle fought, the victory won,  
Enter thy Master's joy.

**Leader:**

The Rev. Cynthia Langston

Since our last Annual Conference, households and congregations have been visited by death. Hearts have been broken; tears have fallen; grief has consumed us. Even so, by faith, we have received from sacred scripture "to sorrow not, as those who have no hope." Today we pause to remember loved ones, friends and colleagues who have outrun us to the "Great Camp Meeting in the Promised Land," a "Land of pure delight, where saints immortal reign." We join in song, prayer and Scripture for the comfort of grieving families; reflection about our own mortality, and deep respect for our departed co-laborers.

**The Song of Praise**

(#68, AMECH)

The Rev. Casabell Taylor

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, My God, how great Thou art!

**The Prayer**

The Rev. Burney Hayes

Eternal and mighty God; we declare and affirm that You are God alone. You have no equal in heaven or on earth; You have no rival to our spiritual affection. You alone are worthy to be praised; You alone deserve our worship. We are aware that we are pilgrims in this "low land of sorrow," and aware that "death shall soon disrobe us all," but we are also thankful for the life we have and the air that we breathe.

**The Responsive Reading** (*1 Corinthians 15:50-58*)

The Rev. Belinda Alexander

**Leader:** Now this I say, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

**People:** **Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.**

**Leader:** For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

**People:** **So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written:**

Leader: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

**People: The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.**

Leader: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,

**People: knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

### **The Roll Call**

The Rev. Bryant Fayson

Leader: Brothers and Sisters, these are they who have run the race and finished their course this Conference Year. We thank our Heavenly Father for their labor and faithful witness.

(The deceased ministers and spouses)

(The deceased lay persons who were delegates at the last Annual Conference)

### **The Prayer**

The Rev. Willie Hayes

Gracious God, we thank You for the time You have allowed us to sojourn with loved ones, friends, and colleagues in ministry who have run ahead of us to the "land of perfect day." We are thankful for the Grace of Membership in the Family of Faith. We are thankful for the fellowship shared with departed loved-ones and coworkers, of the inspiration received by their company and the lessons gleaned from their wisdom. Help us to mimic what was good and right in them. Thank You, mighty God, for the blessed hope of the Resurrection and of Life Eternal with You. In the Name of Jesus, our resurrected, reigning, ruling Lord we pray. Amen.

### **The Song of Triumph and Hope** (#511, AMECH)

The Rev. Delores Washington

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus; Sing His mercy and His grace;  
In the mansions bright and blessed, He's prepared for us a place.

#### *Refrain*

When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be,  
When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory.

Let us then be true and faithful, Trusting, serving, everyday,  
Just one glimpse of Him in glory, Will the toils of life repay.

### **The Benediction**

The Rev. Delores Washington

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (Jude 24, 25)

(A Memorial Service: Written by Bishop Adam J. Richardson)

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**

## **WEST COAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**76 Years**

**Annual Conference Theme:**

Prayer, Praise, Proclamation and Prophetic Engagement

*“Intentional About Ministry – Generation to Generation”*

### The Closing Service

**Friday, October 14, 2016**

**Six-Thirty in the Evening**

**Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.  
Presiding Prelate**

**Mrs. Connie Speights Richardson  
Episcopal Supervisor**

**Convening with  
New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Lakeland, Florida**

**The Rev. Eddie Lake  
Host Pastor**

**The Rev. Jimmy J. Thompson  
Host Presiding Elder**

**The Rev. James O. Williams, Sr.  
Associate Presiding Elder**

**The Rev. Joyce J. Moore  
Associate Presiding Elder**

## The Closing Service

Presiding Elder Jimmy J. Thompson, Worship Leader

### The Prelude to Worship (#594, AMECH)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy Name.  
He has done great things; He has done great things,  
He has done great things, bless His holy Name.  
*(Text and Tune by Andre' Crouch)*

### The Great Processional

**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.

### The Call to Worship

The Rev. Rubin Ancrum

**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. (Psalm 122:1)

**People:** *For a day in Thy 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.* (Ps. 84:10)

**Minister:** Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good. (Psalm. 122:9)

**People:** *Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.* (Psalm 92:13)

**Minister:** Blessed are they that dwell in Your house. Lord, I have loved Your habitation, the place where Your honor dwells. (Psalm 26:8)

**People:** *For the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.* (Hab. 2:20)

**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. (Psalm 19:14)

**People:** *O sing unto the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.* (Psalm 98:1, 4)

### The Hymn of Praise

(#1, AMECH)

The Rev. Larry Keys, Sr.

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 sinner's 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.

*(Text by Charles Wesley, Tune by Carl Gasser, arr. by Lowell Mason)*

**The Preface to Prayer**

(#579, Total Praise Hymnal)

Zion is calling us to a higher place of praise.  
 Stand upon the mountain and to magnify His name.  
 To tell all the people in every nation that He reigns.  
 Zion is calling us to a higher place of praise.  
*(Words and Tune by Stephen Hurd)*

**The Prayer of Invocation and Intercession**

The Rev. Kelvin Simms

**The Choral Response**

(#428, AMEC Hymnal)

O, for a faith that will not shrink, Though pressed by every foe,  
 That will not tremble on the brink Of any earthly woe!

That will not murmur nor complain Beneath the chastening rod,  
 But, in the hour of grief or pain, Will lean upon its God.

A faith that shines more bright and clear When tempests rage without;  
 That when in danger knows no fear, In darkness feels no doubt.

Lord, give me such a faith as this, And then, whate'er may come,  
 I'll taste, e'en here, the hallowed bliss Of an eternal home.  
*(Words by William H. Bathurst; Tune by Henry W. Greatorex)*

**The Worship through Music**

The West Coast Conference Choir

**The Scripture Readings**

The Hebrews Scriptures	Psalm 19	The Rev. Laura White
The Epistle	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	The Rev. James T. Golden
The Gospel	Luke 18:1-8	The Rev. Walter Lassiter

**The Introit to the Decalogue**

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.  
 Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord, Eternal truth attends Thy word;  
 Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, Till suns shall rise and set no more.

**The Summary of the Decalogue**

The Rev. Willie Hayes

Hear what Christ, our Savior says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And 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.

**The Offering for Nehemiah Ministry** (#166 Total Praise Hymnal)

The Rev. Kelvin Price

I just want to praise You forever, and ever, and ever,  
 For all You've done for me.  
 Blessings and glory and honor, they all belong to You.  
 Thank You, Jesus, for blessing me.  
*(Words and Tune by Arthur Tannous)*

**The Special Litany**

**LET MY PEOPLE VOTE!**

The Rev. Belinda Alexander

(A Litany by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.)

Leader: It was dangerous duty, but a lisping, stammering prophet of God stood before the powerful head of state with four words eloquently spoken, "Let my people go!" And a new word was added to the daily vocabulary of the people: **EXODUS!** And a river that looked like blood flowed, and frogs, lice, flies, mange-infected animals, hail, boils, locusts, gnats and darkness that covered the land like a pall, became a nuisance to the people of Egypt, then the first born of the oppressors died.

**People: Freedom is not free!**

Leader: It was dangerous duty, but abolitionists, some of whom were prophets of God, stood before the powerful with four words eloquently spoken, "Let my people go!" And a new word was added to the daily vocabulary of the people: **EMANCIPATION!** Fortunes lost, war fought, and blood went cascading into ravines and rivers, down hillsides where historic battles were engaged, and soldiers and civilians died.

**People: Freedom is not free!**

Leader: It was dangerous duty, but "fighters *for* freedom," many of whom were prophets of God, stood before the powerful (stubborn legislators, "governors whose lips dripped with the words of interposition and nullification," sociopathic sheriffs, uncompromising chiefs of police, unsympathetic supervisors of elections) speaking four words with eloquence, "Let my people VOTE!" And a new word was added to the daily vocabulary of the people: **EQUALITY!** Buckets of blood would be shed in the streets. Many are the common heroes who died uncommon deaths for the shared power of voting.

**People: Freedom is not free!**

Leader: It is a dangerous matter when Apathy is introduced into the daily vocabulary of the people. It is a retreat to various forms of bondage. It is an unthankful disregard for the holy sacrifice of those who heroically gave the gift of blood for the rights of us all to make decisions about public policy, public education, potholes, police protection, and excessive use of force, and of those who will give voice and vote to the collective interests of taxpayers in the halls of government. Conscientious citizens, some of whom are prophets of God, turn to one another with these four words of eloquence, "Let my people vote!"

**People: Freedom is not free!**

Leader: Today is not an appeal to the benevolence of a despot, or a plea for mercy from those whose influence is bought with wealth; we now claim "power to the people" with blood-bought knowledge that "Freedom is not free!" "Eternal vigilance is the price we must pay for it." Add this word to our daily vocabulary: **ENGAGEMENT!** Therefore, we hold one another accountable with four words eloquently spoken:

**People: Let my people VOTE!**

**The Worship through Music**

The Conference Choir

**The Presentation of the Preacher**

Presiding Elder Joyce J. Moore

**The Sermonic Hymn**

(Tune, Metropolitan, #80)

The Rev. Gretta Walker

Before Thy mercy seat, O Lord, behold, Thy servants stand,  
To ask the knowledge of Thy Word, The guidance of Thy hand.

Let Thy eternal truths, we pray, dwell richly in each heart;  
That from the safe and narrow way We never may depart.

Lord, from Thy Word remove the seal, unfold its hidden store,  
And as we read, teach us to feel Its value more and more.

Help us to see a Savior's love shine forth from every page,  
And let the thoughts of joys above Our inmost souls engage.

Thus, while Thy Word our footsteps guides, shall we be truly blest,  
And soon arrive where love provides an everlasting rest.

*(Text by William Bathurst; Tune by John T. Layton)*

**The Sermon**

**Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.**  
Presiding Prelate, Eleventh Episcopal District

**The Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

The Rev. Bobby L. Jacobs

There's nothing better than knowing Jesus; He will pick you and turn your life around  
You ought to know Him, get to know Him, right now, today, just come.

There's nothing better than knowing Jesus, He gets sweeter as the days go by,  
You ought to know Him, get to know Him, right now, today, just come.

Come on, come on, come on, come on, come on, come on  
Right now, today, just come.

*(John W. Pace II)*

**The Stewardship Litany**

The Rev. Samuel Sullivan

Leader: Our call to Stewardship as an Act of Worship is historic; it is biblical; it is relevant – to our relationship with Christ, to our spiritual maturity, to the manifold blessings we enjoy.

People: **The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof and they that dwell therein.** Psalm 24:1

Leader: Therefore, we cheerfully give and gladly affirm:

People: **"The silver is mine and the gold is mine," declares the LORD Almighty.** Haggai 2:8

Leader: Therefore, we cheerfully give and gladly affirm:

People: **All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.** 1 Chron. 29:14

Leader: Therefore, we cheerfully give and gladly affirm:

People: **For the Kingdom is Thine; the Power is Thine; the Glory is Thine; the earth is Thine, the money is Thine, and I am Thine. Through my stewardship, I am closer drawn to Thee.**

*(A Litany by Bishop Adam J. Richardson)*

**The Worship through Giving**

Conference Stewardship Committee

**The Offertory**

(#644 AMECH)

All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

**The Introduction of Visitors**

The Rev. Bryant Fayson

**The Announcements**

The Rev. Eddie Lake

## **The Unfinished Annual Conference Business**

Report of the Statistician  
The Conference Resolution(s)

## **The Commissioning Service**

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

### **The Hymn**

(#242 AMECH, St. Thomas)

A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify,  
A never dying soul to save and fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill;  
O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will!  
*(Text by Charles Wesley, Tune by Aaron Williams)*

### **The Presentation of Certificates to Conference Officers**

### **The Prayer for Guidance**

### **The Reading of the Scripture**

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.” *(Matthew 28:19-20)*

### **The Hymn**

(#220 AMECH, Retreat)

“Go preach my gospel,” saith the Lord. “Bid the whole earth my grace receive.  
Explain to them my sacred word; Bid them believe, obey and live.

“I’ll make my great commission known, and ye shall prove my gospel true  
By all the works that I have done and all the wonders ye shall do.

“Go, heal the sick; go, raise the dead; Go cast out devils in My name;  
Nor let my prophets be afraid, Tho’ some reproach and some blaspheme.

“While thus ye follow my commands I’m with you till the world shall end;  
All power is trusted in my hands; I can destroy and can defend.”

He spake, and light shone round His head, on a bright cloud to heaven He rode.  
They to the farthest nation spread the grace of their ascended God.  
*(Words by Isaac Watts, Tune by Thomas Hastings)*

### **The Reading of Appointments**

Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.

### **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.