

171st Session
**NEW ENGLAND
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

First Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Rethinking Church in a Changing World
“I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.”

~ I Corinthians 9:22b

March 29-April 2, 2022

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
1154 Blue Hills Avenue
Bloomfield, Connecticut

The Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr., *Presiding Prelate*
Mother Joan Marla McAllister, *Episcopal Supervisor*

Springfield and Hartford Ministerial Alliance, *Hosts*

**BOSTON-HARTFORD
DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT**

Reverend Jocelyn Kahn Hart Lovelace, Presiding Elder
Mr. Eddie J. Lovelace, Consultant





BOSTON-HARTFORD DISTRICT
NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
First Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church
www.bhdamec.org

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr., Presiding Prelate
Reverend Jocelyn Kahn Hart Lovelace, Presiding Elder

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Charles Street

Reverend Dr. Ellis I. Washington
St. Paul, Cambridge

Reverend Daylan K. Greer, Sr.
Bethel, Bloomfield

Reverend Dr. Robert A. Jackson, Jr.
Bethel, Stamford

Reverend Steven A. Cousin, Jr.
Bethel, New Haven

Reverend Pedro A. Castro, Jr.
Grant

Reverend Dr. Richard W. Clarke
Bethel, Norwalk

Reverend Ray A. Hammond, M.D.
Reverend Gloria E. White-Hammond, M.D.
Bethel, Boston

Reverend Marcus T. McCullough
Bethel, Springfield

Reverend A. Iona Smith Nze
Bethel, Bridgeport

Reverend Viola P. Morris-Buchanan
Allen, Providence

Reverend Bernadette Hickman-Maynard
Bethel, Lynn

Reverend Howard M. Jenkins, Jr.
Bethel, Providence

Reverend Dr. Sandra G. Whitley
Bethel, New Bedford

Reverend Orsella R. Hughes
Allen Chapel, Hartford

Reverend Dr. Barbara J. Simmons
Bethel, Plymouth

Reverend Felix-Gerard Delatour
Bethel, Greenwich

Reverend Charles Cloy
St. James, Danbury

Reverend Alvin T. Riley, Jr.
Mt. Zion, Newport

Reverend Darryl D. Malden, Esq.
Bethel, Fall River

Reverend Janine A. Dailey
Bethel, Lowell

Reverend Dr. George Walters-Sleyon
People's, Chelsea

Reverend Dr. Gwendolyn Wrighten-Montgomery
Bethel Community

Reverend Gloria Harris Cater, Ph.D.
Malden Mission

Reverend Mariama White-Hammond
New Roots

Reverend Martha Florestal
New Life

March 31, 2022

Rt. Rev. Julius H. McAllister, Sr.
Presiding Prelate, First Episcopal District
3801 Market St., Suite #300
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3153

Dear Bishop McAllister:

Greetings in the love and joy of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

The Boston-Hartford District is honored to welcome you and Mother Joan M. McAllister as you preside over the 171st Session of the New England Annual Conference. As we assemble for this historic event, we remain in prayerful anticipation of the blessings that await us as we gather in-person for the first time in two years.

Thank you for the leadership, time, and attention that you consistently extend to all of us as the Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District. Your knowledgeable and compassionate guidance kindles in us a desire to be the very best we can in service to God and God's people.

I extend my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Presiding Elder of the Boston-Hartford District where we enjoy a rich history coupled with the contemporary vision of the pastors and congregants of the New England Annual Conference.

The Annual Conference Report of the Boston-Hartford District is attached. Since we last gathered for Annual Conference, men and women have answered God's call to the preach the Gospel; souls have been saved, lives transformed; and communities restored. We are grateful to the pastors and members of the Boston-Hartford District for their labors, undying support, dedication, and faithful stewardship of the churches, people and ministries placed in their charge.

Brother Lovelace and I thank God for His graciousness in caring for you, Bishop and Mother McAllister, as you go about the business of leading the First Episcopal District, and we are ever prayerful that God will continue to bless you both.

Yours in Christian Service,

Reverend Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace
Presiding Elder

**Delegates to the 171st Session of the New England Annual Conference
March 29-April 2, 2022**

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>DELEGATE</u>
Charles Street—Boston	Sis. Lynette Holmes
St. Paul—Cambridge	Sis. Barbara Redden
Bethel—Bloomfield	Sis. Gwendolyn Paige
Bethel—Stamford	Sis. Jackie Buckle
Bethel—New Haven	Bro. Robert Ford
Grant—Boston	Sis. Jewel Norville
Bethel—Norwalk	Sis. Kaitlin Oliver
Bethel—Boston	Sis. Greta Douglas
Bethel—Springfield	Sis. Nealon Jaynes-Lewis
Bethel—Bridgeport	Sis. Janet Short
Allen—Providence	Sis. Misty Harris
Bethel—Lynn	Sis. Cathy Darby
Bethel—Providence	Sis. Brittany Wilson
Bethel—New Bedford	Sis. Yvonne Drayton
Allen Chapel—Hartford	Sis. Linda C. Gant
Bethel—Plymouth	Bro. Gregory White
Bethel—Greenwich	Bro. Winston Robinson
St. James—Danbury	Bro. T.R. Jones
Mt. Zion—Newport	Sis. Liesha Ivy
Bethel—Fall River	Sis. Jacquelyn Anfield
Bethel—Lowell	Sis. Evelyn Cooper
People's—Chelsea	Sis. Deborah Washington
Bethel Community—Norwich	Bro. William Vance
Malden Mission—Malden	Bro. Dwayne Junior
New Roots—Dorchester	Bro. Turahn Dorsey



Reimagining Church School: To Serve This Present Age



“Rethinking Church in a Changing World”

**“I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some”
- 1 Corinthians 9:22b**

The Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District; Mother Joan Marla McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor; Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace, Presiding Elder; Supervisor Eddie Lovelace, Pastors, Clergy, Delegates and all God’s People assembled.

THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE CHURCH SCHOOL REPORT 2021-22

“Sunday School is perhaps the best structure in the local church for effectively carrying out the teaching ministry of Christ.” Church School is a vital arm of the church with four parts: reaching, teaching, winning, and caring.

“Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who *is* within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the LORD your God and carefully observe all the words of this law.” Deuteronomy 31:12-13B (NKJV) These verses expresses the fourfold Nature of the Church School.

There are twenty-five (25) Churches and one mission in the Boston-Hartford District of the New England Conference. Our prayers and goals are to visit every Church and assist in establishing an active Church School where none exists.

There are many challenges and opportunities in reaching these goals and we thank God for the opportunity. This is a time to be creative, engaging and getting out of the boat. In the past, four walls were the traditional ways we offered church school.

A Zoom account was set up to communicate with Superintendents. A brief survey was sent out to all the Superintendents and Pastors asking if they had an active Church School since COVID-19 and in what ways can we be of assistance to them. Many churches do not have the capacity to organize a church school department at this time; however, they all offer weekly Bible studies.

From the assessments received, we formed a Boston-Hartford District Church School Design Team to pray, encourage one another– sharing our blessings and challenges in the Church School Ministry—learning from each other.

SOME CREATIVE WAYS OUR SUPERINTENDENTS AND TEACHERS ARE CONNECTING WITH YOUTH AND ADULTS

- Send lessons and activities to students
- Send cards and crafts enabling many to find ways to re-imagine their Church School. For example, Breakfast and a Movie.
- Games and Contests with prizes
- Specific topics and Current events.
- Reviewing the Lord’s Prayer and Ten Commandments

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

- Workshops on how to use Zoom

- Annual First District Seminar
- Tips on how to reach out to others
- The Superintendents are working together to create and offer creative, interactive programs for their students.
- Church School Convention – Hosted by Rev. Pedro Castro and the Grant–Boston Church Family. It was Virtual and we were blessed with great preaching and engaging teaching by some of the best teachers in the world. We were also blessed to have Sister Angelina Spears, our First District Assistant Superintendent, teach the younger students.

MOVING FORWARD, ONWARD, AND UPWARD...with God's help :
WE NEED THE FULL, ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM OUR PASTORS IN ORDER TO HELP
STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SCHOOL MINISTRY
AND TO MEET THE MANDATE – “GO YE THEREFORE AND TEACH”...

- Create clusters for the different areas, meeting quarterly to get to know each other better.
- Form a working relationship with Christian Education and YPD
- Create a Church School page on the New England Conference website, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts.
- Collecting Zoom links from all churches to visit and support one another.
- Share all correspondences, workshop information, trends and news from the First District as well as AMEC Publishing House
- Church school Neighborhood Lessons from Sis. Angelena Spears, First District, Assistant Church School Superintendent

MINISTRY AND WORK OF THE
NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT
ATTENDED:

- 2021 Church School Seminar,
- Monthly New England Conference Superintendent's Meetings
- Monthly First District Superintendent's meetings
- Philadelphia South District Superintendents Annual Training
- Virtual visits to all the Church Schools who provided access
- Attended Founder's Day Celebration
- Monthly Meetings with Superintendents to plan, pray, encourage, share, offering training for teacher/helpers
- Participated in Charles Street AME--Back to School Event and Vacation Bible school (Topic: Prayer) What a blessing!
- Virtual Attendance - Bethel-Boston Bible Studies
- Virtual Attendance - Bethel Providence Church School on regular bases, facilitated by Lic. Teresa Jenkins
- Reached out to all Pastors and Superintendents
- Attended all First District's meetings, workshops, and seminars.
- Worked with First District Church School Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendents from the other six conferences to plan the Annual Church School Seminar in October.
- Attended District Conference meetings as well as local Church meetings.
- In good and Regular Standing with my Local Church.

I thank God for the opportunity to serve as NEAC Church School Superintendent. I want to take this time to thank Presiding Elder Lovelace; my pastor, the Rev. Dr. Richard Wesley Clarke; pastors; Mrs. Renee Goldsmith, Boston-Hartford District Church School Superintendent; all local superintendents, teachers and workers for their prayers and support. I also thank the Rev. Camille Smith, First District Superintendent, and Sis. Angelina Spears, First District Assistant Superintendent, along with the other superintendents of the other six Annual Conferences for their continued support.

THE CHURCH SCHOOL CREED

I BELIEVE MY AME CHURCH SCHOOL MUST GROW AND GLOW AND THAT WE MUST HELP MAKE IT A TOP PRORITY TO MAKE IT SO. EVERY MEMBER A CHRISTIAN, EVERY CHRISTIAN A WORKER, EVERY WORKER TRAINED SO THAT A WORKER NEED NOT BE ASHAMED. THIS WE ASK IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN.

Respectfully and Prayerfully Submitted,

Evangelist Josephine Fulcher Anderson
New England Conference Church School Superintendent



**171ST SESSION OF THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
RT. REV. JULIUS HARRISON McALLISTER, Sr., PRESIDING PRELATE
MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
MARCH 31 TO APRIL 2, 2022**



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

Theme: Re-Imagining Relationships: Remaining Connected

Scripture:

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” Proverbs 17:17

Our Episcopal District theme is “Rethinking Church in a Changing World” and the New England Ministry of Christian Education continues to focus on the impact of change on relationship both for adults and youth. We continue to be impacted by the global pandemic, a war in Europe, and issues of equity, equality and social justice at home.

The ministry has been able to accomplish the following:

- **First District Founder’s Day.** Participation in all categories of the competition, Essay, Poster and Multi-media Contest. ,
- **First District Youth of the Year.** The New England Christian Educator Director has provided leadership in developing the guidelines and coordinating the activities of the Youth of the Year (YOY) Contest in collaboration with First District leadership.
- **New England Youth of the Year.** At the conference level, through the work of the YOY Coordinator, Bro. T. R. Jones, we have established a partnership with judges who can provide guidance to those completing their high school education and entering college, post-secondary education and work.
 - Dr. Arlene Clinkscale of Nyack, NY. The first African American selected as superintendent of a public school district in N.Y. State.
 - Dr. Girard Melancon of Baton Rouge, LA. Serves as Baton Rouge Community College Executive Director for the Office of Workforce Education.
 - Ms. Tamara E. Brown MBA, M.Eng., of Danbury, CT. A graduate of Vanderbilt University with a double major in Biomedical Engineering and Chemical Engineering. Serves as Director of Sustainable Development and Community Engagement.
- **Meetings:** All meetings with local directors have been conducted virtually providing opportunity for sharing ideas and strategies. We wish to acknowledge the attendance of Pastors Pedro Castro, Howard Jenkins and Viola Morris Buchanan.

Below are highlights of the work at the local level.

- **Allen Chapel, Hartford, CT. Local Director-Sis. Linda C. Gant**
Black History Month: Youth shared our heritage with the congregation through depiction of the lives and contributions of Bishop Richard Allen, Jarena Lee, Jackie Robinson and Ruby Bridges.

- **Allen AMEC Providence, RI. Local Director-Sis. Zella Snead**
Virtual Christian Education and Church School Sunday celebration. Church School Superintendent presented a message on the importance of Church School for spiritual growth. Youth were honored for faithful participation in Church School. Engaged in ‘Covering Prayers’ for secondary school and college students.
- **Bethel AMEC, Bloomfield, CT. Local Director-Sis. Valerie Gittens**
Conducted a workshop on “The Good Samaritan” to discuss ‘God’s Helping Hands’. Created crafts/collage to demonstrate how God uses us to help others. COCE and YPD collaborated to distribute Back to School Supplies to 75 youth in the community.
- **Bethel AMEC, Providence, RI. Local Director-Sis. Danielle Wilson**
“Conversations on Race and Relationships”. A year-long project in collaboration with First Unitarian Church of Providence. To increase the literacy rate within the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) population, sponsored a ‘Shoe and Food Drive’ and distributed 500 books to the delight of parents and youth.
- **Bethel AMEC, Norwalk, CT. Local Director-Sis. Sonia Downer Pirro**
Each 5th Sunday the youth play leadership roles in the worship service. Youth wrote handwritten letters to the Sick and Shut-in members of the congregation.
- **Charles Street AMEC, Boston, MA. Local Director-Rev. Dr. Marjorie Jones.**
Black History Month. Celebrated during the worship service under the theme “Modern Movement Makers” to present contributions made in the last two decades. Each week the contribution of a person/organization was presented. Gregory Groover Jr.: original compositions fusing gospel and jazz. Brandi Dorch: Creative’ through visual arts. The work of Amanda Gorman who received national attention when she presented the spoken-word at the inauguration of President Joseph Biden. A selection read by seven-year-old Laela Jones. The community outreach work of the Sarah Gorham Women’s Missionary Society sponsored under the leadership of presidents Beverly Munn, Sandra Jackson Jenkins and Kenya McLauren.
- **Grant AMEC, Boston, MA. Local Director-Sis. Naomi Dunson**
Black History Month: Made banners to acknowledge and celebrate local Black owned businesses. Students made their posters for Founder’s Day Contest at home but there was great excitement when the youth were able to share and explain their posters with each other at church.

We ask God’s guidance and direction on our Episcopal leadership – Bishop Julius McAllister and Mother McAllister- First District leadership, Conference leadership, Presiding Elder Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace and Presiding Elder District leadership and the Pastors and Local CE Directors in each of our local churches as together we continue the work of Christian Education.

Respectfully submitted,
Your committee:

Reverends Marcus McCullough, Dr. Marjorie Jones, Pedro Castro, Viola Morris Buchanan. Sisters Josephine Anderson, Yvonne Drayton and Bro. T.R. Jones



New England Conference Women in Ministry Report. 171st New England Annual Conference. Bethel AME Church, Bloomfield CT. March 30-April 2, 2022

The mission of the AME/WIM is to define, enhance, support, and expand the presence of women in ministry in leadership in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church

NEC WIM has continued to move forward in this season of Covid19 to strengthen membership, provide workshops and education aligned with our goals. All programs, meetings and events continued to be virtual. Our virtual programming increased our capacity to reach more women and men, have more cross district events, and increased our ability to offer more programming.

NEC WIM offered three workshops:

1. Renewing the Fire with our very own Rev. Dr. Marjorie Jones, NECWIM Worship Leader as the facilitator. The theme of the workshop "Renewing the Fire" came from Revelation 2:4 "Yet I hold this against you. You have forsaken your first love". Attendance was good with both WIM members and non-WIM members.
2. "Victory in the Storm," *Trusting God's Plan for Your Life*, presented by Evangelist Marcia Braithwaite, NECWIM Secretary. Attendance was district wide.
3. "Victory in the Storm II". presented by our former First Episcopal District WIM President, Rev. Dr. Emilygail Dill. Attendance was district wide

Ongoing E-Board and Conference Activities

The New England Coordinator remained active in District wide events. She was a member of the nominating Committee for the First Episcopal District WIM Elections and moderated the virtual panel as the voting body had the opportunity to ask the candidates questions.

She also served on the program committee for the installation service of our newly elected WIM Officers.

Additionally, the coordinator is a member on the E-Board of the First Episcopal District WIM and attends monthly meetings.

NECWIM E-Board members meet bi-monthly.

Rev. Viola Morris Buchanan, NEAC-WIM Advisor, was honored for her 9 years of service as the Herstorlographer for the First Episcopal District as she ended her tenure. She was also recognized for her contribution to WIM, paving the way for many WIM. We thank God for her service and for the difference she has made.

Presiding Elder Jocelyn Hart Lovelace, Rev. Dr. Barbara J. Simmons and Evangelist Marcia Brathwaite wrote meditations in the 2022 First Episcopal District WIM Lenten Journal.

NECWIM were involved and supported the Pastoral appointment of Rev. Ratona Stokes-Robinson.

- Several NEAC WIM were present on the zoom WIM call on October 18, 2021, with Bishop McAllister.
- NECWIM member Rev. Orsella Hughes was present on Sunday, October 31, 2022, the day Bishop McAllister accompanied her and made official the pastoral appointment of Rev. Ratona Stokes-Robinson.
- NECWIM were present and participated in all prayer calls to support her during this difficult transition.

NECWIM Making Herstory!

New England continues to be at the forefront in women who are breaking barriers. Our own Presiding Elder Jocelyn Hart Lovelace serves as the first woman President of the Presiding Elders Cabinet in the First Episcopal District.

Rev. Dr. Barbara Simmons was the first woman Dean of our Ministerial Institute. We honor and recognize her as she begins her new journey, to be superannuated at 171st NEAC. She has certainly been an inspiration, a mentor, a difference-maker, and friend to many WIM members. We thank God for her service.

Rev. Mariama Hammond, Pastor of New Roots AMEC, received an award and was recognized as an Emerging Leader from First District WIM, on the work she is doing with this recent church plant brought into the Annual Conference April 2021.

Elections

It has been our practice to hold our election of officers at the seat of our Annual Conference. However, the realities of the 2021-2022 COVID/Pandemic have deeply impacted the election process. Additionally, our Connectional by-laws requirement is that "the nominating committee shall be appointed no later than three months prior to the election of the Executive Board as well as recommendations and nominations for the office to the Executive Board must be submitted no later than 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting,"(annual elections meeting). That being the case, we will move forward with due diligence and adhere to our Connectional by-laws regarding our elections for our new slate of officers for 2022-2024. Elections will be held electronically Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

Dues

Over the past 2 years our WIM members have continued to pay their WIM Dues through the Pandemic. We understand the challenges, yet we remain optimistic with committed members who in some cases, gifted a membership by paying DUES for a WIM who expressed challenges

with paying their dues. We thank God for all our WIM members and their steadfast commitment to WIM.

Critical issues

There are still several challenges that WIM face within the church. Low representation of WIM in leadership at the district level, i.e., conference committees, ministerial institute, and challenges with pastoral appointments. We will continue to advocate, educate, and support WIM to help create opportunities for leadership and advancement in the AMEC.

We must expand our reach and we will continue to use virtual platforms to help us increase our capacity to reach more WIM.

Recommendations

- Continue to work in alignment with our Connectional President and our District President to bring programing and workshops to *EMPOWER, ENGAGE AND EDIFY*, which is our district theme.
- To ensure all elected WIM Officers are committed to the work of advocacy, are willing to take risks and willing to put in the time and resources to ensure consistent programming to meet the needs of WIM.
- Continue to work with District and Conference leadership to advocate for and ensure representation of WIM on all leadership levels.

**Submitted by the New England Conference Executive Board
And Conference Committee:**

Conference Committee: Reverends Janine Dailey, Viola Morris Buchanan, Marjorie Jones, Orsella Hughes, Sharel Roberson, Sandra Whitley

New England Conference WIM Executive Board

Rev. Viola Morris Buchanan, Advisor	Evangelist Marcia Braithwaite, Secretary	Rev. Janine Dailey, Coordinator	Rev. Sabrina Johnson, Financial Secretary	Rev. Dr. Marjorie Jones, Worship Leader
Rev. Dorothy Ola, Herstoriographer	Rev. Sharel Roberson, Treasurer			

The 171st Session of the New England Annual Conference
First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
Held at Bethel A.M.E. Church, Bloomfield, CT, March 31 to April 2, 2022
Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr.; Supervisor Mother Joan M. McAllister;
Presiding Elder Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace; Consultant Eddie Lovelace,
Host Pastors, and Spouses; Pastors, Ministers, Delegates and Officers, One and All.

The Committee on the State of the Church begs to submit her report:

The church is the body of Christ, and the state of the church is always in God's hand. Jesus declares in Matthew 16:18-- "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The church of today finds herself in a season of pandemic, the necessity of vaccine and booster shots, yet the church is still the center of the community promoting health and spiritual growth. We have experienced the surge of the delta variant and recently the surge of the omicron variant. We have witnessed continued political upheaval, division and even an attempt to nullify the General and Presidential elections on January 6, 2021. We continue to see racially based violence by police, anti-Semitic, anti-Asian violence, and terror. Climate change has brought more tornadoes, fires, floods, hurricanes, ice, snow, rain, and earthquakes. In addition, the "Great Resignation" is also impacting the church, as unprecedented numbers of Americans quit their jobs, opting for more fulfilling careers.

The pandemic-inspired changes in the world of work have now impacted the world of worship for our congregations. As people have not only reassessed their work commitments, but they have also re-evaluated their church commitments. Church attendance, which had already been in decline before the pandemic, has plummeted in many areas. Some people are choosing to worship from home, while others have resigned from church altogether. The church must find a way to be as responsive to these pandemic-era changes as companies have done. Just as the workplace must provide the kind of positive work environment, compensation, and benefits that entice people to give their all to work, so the experiences of worship, fellowship, and Bible study must be worth it for people to invest their time, talents, and treasure. That is the world of today's church.

In view of these prevailing conditions, we have moved as a church from totally virtual worship to going back to in-person worship, coming back to virtual and trying to figure out the new way forward. Now, we are creating some form of hybrid worship. With these adjustments and re-imagination of church, we find ourselves busier than ever before. We are dealing with the decline in membership and finances. However, amid all that, we have still seen new ideas, new ministries, new congregations, new programs, people re-directing resources in important ways, and creating new kinds of energy throughout the church.

Also, during all this we understand that we simply must continue to remind ourselves that we must re-imagine a new church for a new world. Philippians 1:6 says, "I am confident in this that the one who began the work will be faithful to complete it." We have what we need in God to complete the work He has set before us. Howbeit, we admit that clergy fatigue is real as well as mental health. We are seeing people leave the ministry. That has been going on for a while, but it has been amplified during the pandemic.

Therefore, the Committee recommends that first, we must look at the church and re-imagine the church. Are the things we are doing bringing about the kingdom of God? Jesus talked about loving God and our neighbor as ourselves where the poor are lifted in spirit. Jesus says in Luke 4:18 that He has been called to set at liberty those who are captive and break apart systems of oppression.

We must ask ourselves:

- What must we stop doing, and does our current structures and processes still work to be that church that we say we are?

We must answer the following questions.

- Are there redundancies or overlap in ministry and programs that could be realigned?
- What ministry priorities are under resourced?

Second, we must embrace the courage to let go of some things and do things differently.

Third, we must pray that as we move forward together as a church, we will continue to feed ourselves spiritually, communing with God who loved us all so much that He sent Jesus to be the revelation of that limitless love. With God all things are possible.

Faithfully Submitted,

Bro. William Vance

Sis. Yvonne Drayton

Rev. Marcus T. McCullough

Rev. Mariama White Hammond

Rev. Steven A. Cousin, Jr.

Rev. Dr. Sandra G. Whitley

Rev. Alvin T. Riley, Jr.

Rev. Dr. Richard W. Clarke, Chairperson

171st Session of the
New England Annual Conference
of the
African Methodist Episcopal Church
MARCH 29 – APRIL 2, 2022

The Committee on the State of the Country Reverends: Pedro A. Castro, Jr., Bernadette Hickman Maynard, Howard M. Jenkins, Jr., Daylan K. Greer, Sr., Darryl Malden, Esq., Dr. Gloria Cater, Charles Cloy; Delegates: Winston Robinson and Janet Short

All glory is to our God for His love and protection during this unprecedented and historic year of Christian ministry in the New England Annual Conference (NEAC). Greetings to Bishop Julius H. McAllister, our Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District and Mother Joan M. McAllister, our Episcopal Supervisor. We salute every pastor and spouse, ordained clergy, delegates, conference component heads, and members of every local church that make up the NEAC, observers, and visitors. It is with all humility that the committee on the State of the Country prayerfully and respectfully beg leave to present this report and recommendations.

Upon learning my assignment to chair this historic literary committee the honor was both troublesome and hopeful. Dr. Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., distinguished University Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University said it well in his text “Begin Again – James Baldwin’s America and its Urgent Lessons for our Own.” In James Baldwin’s 1964 essay entitled “The white Lie” ‘published in Robert A. Goodwin’s edited volume *100 years of Emancipation*, Baldwin placed the lie at the heart of the country’s founding.

“The people who settled the country had a fatal flaw. They could recognize a man when they saw one. They knew he wasn’t... anything *else* but a man; but since they were Christian, and since they had already decided that they came here to establish a free country, the only way to justify the role this chattel was playing in one’s life was to say that *he* was not a man. For if he wasn’t, then no crime had been committed. That lie is the basis of our present trouble.”

The evil atrocities levied against the civilians of Ukraine and her infrastructure by Vladimir Putin, President of Russia is no doubt a crime against humanity on every level and a violation of the European Union (EU). This provoked torment from Russia has forced more than 3 million Ukrainian citizens to flee their home country for asylum abroad. The world is witnessing in real time another unforgettable human experience. Despite the immediate need to evacuate Ukrainian citizens, Africans, Indian and Middle Eastern students again face racist discriminatory acts while attempting to seek safety. Democracy is being challenged and President Puttin has demonstrated to the world that he is committed to living the white lie.

This State of the Country report cannot possibly cover every challenge facing our country but let the record reflect that we must support Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for Supreme Court Justice. We must protect *Roe v. Wade*. The AMEC must open the door for intelligent dialogue concerning our LGBTQ+ Americans. President Biden is pushing for a bipartisan Equality Act, so let’s be prepared to address this very real dilemma. We must defeat the opioid epidemic in America. Recovery can and does work with the right support. Twenty-three million Americans addicted to opioids is unacceptable. Let’s put a stop to domestic violence and inadequate mental

health services. Every church ought to increase her reach to assist our children who desperately need lost learning support because of COVID-19. Many of our children were struggling in the classroom, on the playground, and in the library before COVID-19 and it will worsen with another summer just months away unless we take progressive action now. Social media platforms and their customers must be held accountable for harming others especially minors.

The fate of American life weighs in the balance, and we are beholding which way we shall pivot. This brief State of the Country report shall address: the health of the country, bipartisan infrastructure law, funding and training police officers, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act, and Critical Race Theory.

Health of the Country

As we know, over these past two years. the COVID 19 pandemic changed the fabric of the world, this country, and our lives. Our families and friends have suffered. Our churches had to find new ways to worship. Our children had to find new ways to learn and our governments, local and federal, had to find new ways to govern. Our health regulatory agencies such as the CDC and the FDA tried to offer guidance to navigate the pandemic but sometimes were not successful. Our health care facilities our physicians, our nurses, nurse's aides, and staff like dietary aides, housekeepers, unit clerks and other supportive personnel struggled under the heavy burden of providing health care to their patients, many of whom did not understand or refused to face the gravity of the situation. They worked double shifts and lost sleep to make sure that their patients were taken care of, even as some of their colleagues could not report for work because they had been infected with COVID-19 or left the profession because the risk of contracting COVID was too great.

On December 31, 2019, health officials in Wuhan China reported to the World Health Organization that there was an outbreak of pneumonia like illnesses in a province of China. By January 4, 2020, 44 were sick and they traced the illness to the place of employment for some of these patients-a market in Huanan. On January 21, 2020, the CDC confirmed the first case in the United States of a 35-year-old man who tested positive after returning from Wuhan China. On January 22, the CDC confirmed that human to human transmission was possible, and on February 20, 2020, the United States reported the first COVID-19 death. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported the COVID-19 toll at 118,000 cases and 4,291 deaths in 114 countries. They reported that the number of cases of COVID-19 outside China has increased 13-fold, and the number of affected countries has tripled. As a result of this increase in the number and spread of the infection, the COVID-19 outbreak was designated as a pandemic. (Sullivan, 2021)

Health care providers continue to confront a landscape deeply altered by the COVID-19 pandemic's effects. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been nearly [80 million COVID-19 cases](#) and nearly [950,000 deaths](#), with approximately 30 million cases and over 120,000 deaths in just the last two months. To date, there have been approximately [4.5 million total reported COVID-19 hospital admissions](#), with 49% of those admissions occurring since July 1, 2021 during the Delta and Omicron surges. .

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted all acute and long term (nursing home) care delivery in a manner that may permanently change hospital discharge patterns and provider roles moving forward. Healthcare providers have had to communicate more quickly and more widely, adjust staffing structures and sometimes their physical plants, ensure sufficient

personal protective equipment (PPE), and develop separated care to minimize transmission of COVID-19 – all while delivering uninterrupted care for COVID-19 and non-COVID patients. Many nursing homes were not prepared for this change and the number of COVID-19 deaths in these facilities has been reflective of this. Nursing homes were particularly challenged when expected to accept approximately 50% of the discharges from acute care settings. (ATI Advisory, 2021)

Health care facilities are still facing a critical shortage of workers. With [23% of hospitals](#) reporting a critical staffing shortage, they have seen a [decrease of nearly 105,000](#) employees since February 2020. This has resulted in an increased reliance on contract labor.

Almost every hospital in the country has been forced to hire temporary contract staff to maintain operations at some point during the pandemic. According to a survey by AMN Healthcare, 95% of health care facilities reported hiring staff from contract labor firms, with respiratory therapists being the primary need for many hospitals and a critical team member necessary for COVID-19 patient care. (Hughes, 2019)

The nation's entire health care workforce is strained from the ongoing pandemic, and health care workers often suffer emotional and physical stress from treating COVID-19 patients. A recent study on the experiences of health care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic found that 93% reported experiencing stress, 86% reported experiencing anxiety, 77% reported frustration, 76% reported exhaustion and burnout, and 75% said they were overwhelmed. Worry and stress have led to sleep disturbances, headaches or stomachaches, and increased alcohol or drug use, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation Survey.

We know that not only did the mental health of our health care providers suffer, but also our own mental health as we experienced an interruption and a disruption in our lives. Our jobs were transformed or disappeared, our income streams were impacted, our social gatherings were restricted. Self-care became the by-word--wash your hands, wear a mask, practice social distancing, pay attention to your mental status, get your vaccine, and test yourself with an at home COVID-19 test.

Self-care is frequently referred to in the theory and practice of nursing. Nursing theorist, Dorothea Orem first described the concept in the 1950's and theorized that all individuals have a need to care for themselves. When this need is met, it can give persons a sense of control over a situation in which they feel helpless--the theory is that when individuals are instructed and guided in self-care activities, the healing can begin. (Easton, 1993)

It is our prayer that these self-care activities will be transferable to all the conditions both chronic and acute that disparately affect our community.

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Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Building Back America Better

On February 24, 2022, Ukraine fell under a full scale unprompted Russian invasion and 3.2 million refugees and counting are pouring into neighboring countries seeking temporary asylum. On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, President Joe Biden delivered a timely State of the Union Address. President Biden wisely pivoted away from his original strategy to lead with his **“Build Back Better Plan for America”** instead he threaded the needle by emotionally and politically connecting with the crises unfolding in Ukraine promising billions of US dollars, humanitarian aid, and arms support. For nearly two weeks every cable news outlet was covering the crises in Ukraine and Russia. But make no mistake about it we are still a global COVID-19 Pandemic, right wing conservative politicians continue to wield unimaginable tactics in an attempt to deny that January 6, 2021 was a failed insurrection, partisan deadlock in the Senate is real, mounting opposition of the first African American Female Supreme Court Justice nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson, an unbridled former president Donald Trump continues to mount a political come-back by fueling white supremacy, and a long list of other relevant domestic issues adversely impacting millions of American lives. However, President Biden also a former chairman or ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for twelve years, is poised to do what he does best – strengthen America’s European alliance by providing real leadership. Executing a victory in Europe will help generate the fuel to win control of the Senate at the midterm election cycle and pass the Build Back Better Plan for America.

President Bidens leaned into the nation and reminded us of just how far we have come amidst the deadliest airborne disease in a century. **“Few pieces of legislation have done more at a critical moment in our history to lift us out of a crisis. It fueled our efforts to vaccinate the nation and combat COVID-19. It delivered immediate economic relief to tens of millions of Americans. It helped put food on the table. Remember those long lines of cars waiting for hours just to get a box of food put in their trunk? It cut the cost of healthcare insurance. And as my dad used to say, it gave the people “just a little bit of breathing room.”**

President Biden is a master statesman, and he wastes no time getting down to business to build strong bipartisan support for his infrastructure plan. He is confident that his plan will **“transform America and put us on a path to win the economic competition of the 21st century, particularly China.”**

President Biden promises that his vision for America will **“create good jobs for millions of Americans — modernizing roads, airports, ports, waterways — all across America. And we’ll do it to withstand the devastating effects of climate crisis and promote environmental justice.”** Our elected officials, businesses, the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC), and our community must be ready to benefit from the Build Back Better Plan for America in every way. The opportunity before us will impact the quality of life for millions of Americans. President Biden is proposing that we buy and build American. Many of these new job opportunities and careers will reset the standard of American life for the next fifty years and the Black church must be in front of this growth opportunity.

Police Brutality Fund and Retrain Officers

President Biden proposed to fund not defund police departments across America. The AMEC must be ready at every level of government. Every American must have access to justice regardless of race, title, or social status. President Biden addressed crime prevention in his speech and asked America **“not to abandon our streets or choose between safety and equal justice. Instead, “lets come together and protect our communities, restore trust, and hold**

law enforcement accountable.” President Biden’s rescue plan calls for an additional \$350 billion dollars to support **“cities, states, and counties to hire more police, invest in more proven strategies like community violence interruption, trusted messengers breaking the cycle of violence and trauma and giving young people some hope.”** The AMEC must organize and mobilize our local Social Action Commission groups to support local police departments. Many of our communities are burdened with gang and gun violence and we must urge Congress to **“pass universal background checks, band weapons and high-capacity magazine, repeal the liability shield that makes gun manufacturers the only industry that can’t be sued.”**

John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021

President Biden **“called for the Senate to pass the Freedom to Vote Act. Pass the John R. Lewis Act – Voting Rights Act. And while you’re at it, pass the DISCLOSE Act so Americans know who is funding our elections.”**

Critical Race Theory

Critical Race Theory (CRT) is an academic and legal framework created by law experts and scholars in the 1970s and 80s that has blown up into a controversial hot topic around the country. CRT is now tied to educational efforts as either an ideological concept or a threat to the "freedom" of our nation. Despite the naysayers, CRT has never been used as the educational foundation for public school systems around the United States, nor has it been the principal framework used by diversity experts in the country.

The NAACP Legal Defense Funds articulates it this way:

Critical Race Theory recognizes that racism is more than the result of individual bias and prejudice. It is embedded in laws, policies, and institutions that uphold and reproduce racial inequalities. According to CRT, societal issues like Black Americans' higher mortality rate, outsized exposure to police violence, the school-to-prison pipeline, denial of affordable housing, and the rates of the death of Black women in childbirth are not unrelated anomalies.

Because most people do not understand its theoretical origins, CRT has been politicized and demonized by conservative organizations across the United States as anti-American and a form of race-baiting. Increased awareness of CRT was generated with the September 2020 Executive Order signed by then-President Donald Trump banning diversity training programs by Federal agencies and Federal contractors. Although the Trump ban was eliminated when President Joe Biden came into office, the anti-CRT conservative base continued to propagate its destructiveness around the country.

To date, more than **34 states** created anti-CRT legislation impacting public school systems and job sites in New Hampshire, Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida, and several others. **Florida's ruling** has been called the "Don't Say Gay" law, impacting grades Kindergarten through Third Grade, and bans any specific discussion about gender identity or sexual orientation in the classrooms. It has passed the state Senate and is expected to be signed by the Governor.

In **New Hampshire**, a pending law prohibits specific discussions about race or sex as mandatory student or employee training. Teachers can lose their license if caught teaching about race, gender identity, or sexual orientation. The bill was slipped in under the state budget without the benefit of the full range of discussion or hearings.

The jury is out on the long-term effect of these anti-CRT laws. Public outcries of dissension are needed to reverse this high level of censorship that will remove more than 50 years of diversity and civil rights progress in America. It is a form of legislative hysteria and censorship this country simply does not need.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Bring back the First District Newspaper only this time make it digital. Our aim must be to inform our communities in a timely manner when combating COVID-19 and other variants and promote healthy relations.
2. Urge every local church, presiding elder's district, annual conferences, and episcopal district to launch a voter registration drive beyond the walls of the local church, and post our progress in the First District Digital Newspaper.
3. Tap the talent in our Episcopal District and seek their assistance to help lead the way that connects us to our country, our churches, and the communities we love.
4. Address the Critical Race Theory.
5. Disable your mute button and let us go to work church!

**First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
New England Annual Conference
Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr. Presiding Prelate
Boston-Hartford District
Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace, Presiding Elder
Stewardship and Tithing Report**

“A tithe is the full measure and size of your relationship with God.” Malachi 3:10

As of March 15, 2022, Coronavirus, 2019, claimed the lives of more than six million people worldwide. Untimely death, the hysteria it caused and the new certainty that tomorrow is not promised placed an unprecedented, electronic demand for God’s virtual presence. Churches across America logged in for worship and for business meetings via Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube channels, creating opportunities for all denominations to rethink, revision, reimagine and revive our faith in God. Churches in this season are using remote, touchless forms of ministry to reach the isolated and quarantined households of believers. A new population of churchgoers also emerged; they are called “viewers”. They are not by definition members of the church, but they are looking to belong to a household of faith by any electronic means necessary. And every church is presented with a new opportunity to teach, to preach, to evangelize and fundraise in a new, virtual context.

The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church denomination assimilated to this new form of worship and to our parlance, jargon and routines, we added new phrases such as “Online Giving”, “Zoom Worship”, “The Tech-Team”, and “Registration-Required”. The church learned to use the Apps called PowerPoint, Canva, and Jotform; Paypal, Tithely, Venmo and CashApp. During the past year, the New England Annual Conference of Churches have responded, reshaped and rethought how we “do” church in a changing world.

The Stewardship and Tithing report is intended to encourage the work of the New England Annual Conference Churches; to encourage regular cultivation and harvest of tithers, to germinate and plant seeds in the turf of our God who is the Victor over every weapon formed against us and to offer resources that may help ease the burden of financial overload. You may ask why and our answer is: because every tither receives direct communication from God as to the nature and quality of their relationship with God. Your tithe is the full measure and size of your relationship with God.

If someone told you that for 10 cents of every dollar you give God, you could get the whole dollar back, would you believe it?

An AME church in the NEAC made an inspired decision with their pastor last year, to give to a charity of its choice, as a goal for their annual day. The church became so excited by this opportunity that the members raised equal amounts of money for the church and the charity at \$5,000. Here is what happened. All of the funds raised for the charity were given to the charity as directed by the Holy Spirit. Over the past year, that church was gifted twice in amounts that exceeded the initial \$5,000 charitable contribution. The church received both a grant valued at \$6000, in gift cards and raised over \$6,000 more in donations for a new parking lot and even in the midst of COVID-19, the charity offered the church free advertisement space during their annual fundraiser. *Your tithe is the full measure and size*

of your relationship with God. The way we give indicates a great deal about our faith. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

Love your neighbor as yourself

Your tithe is the full measure of your faith in God. How much more trust will you place in God during this pandemic? A Quarterly Conference disciplinary question asks if the pastor is a tither. We believe pastors do tithe because of their faith, yet many pastors are underpaid without inquiry or remedy. But our prayers are being answered. On July 1, 2021, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program was expanded to include clergy under the Biden administration. The PSLF Program helps ease the burden of paying for seminary education while clergy salaries stagnate and often fail to keep up with inflation and cost of living. AME Pastors are now eligible for the forgiveness of student loans if at least 120 consecutive monthly payments have been made. That represents a 10-year commitment to pay off your student loans.

The model of ministry for AME pastors has long been about the teamwork of marriage. The husband pastors full-time, the wife provides insurance and other benefits through employment, often in an educational setting. Today, the model of ministry includes many single pastors, male and female who are bi-vocational to fill the gaps in income and benefits that would typically be provided by a working spouse. According to www.studentloanplanner.com, the average debt for a graduating MDiv from a Methodist seminary is \$49,300. If 120 consecutive monthly payments of \$100 have been made, \$37,303 is eligible for forgiveness. This Committee recommends that 21st century churches make an effort to revisit pastor salary pay scales and benefits every year, as we do for our Presiding Elder. A pastor who is cared for in every way by the Steward Board and congregation will ultimately give more time, talent and treasure because those burdens are being lifted as the whole church climbs. This Commission will also continue to pray for remedy and release of the annuities for pastors, presiding elders and bishops.

Get back with God. For your 10%, God gives 100.

Virtual fundraising is a game changer. Electronic appeals are not made of the same fiber an in-person appeal has. Some pastors lament that they lost some "good tithers" during the pandemic, uncertain how to replace *that kind* of giving. Other pastors, led by the doctrine of the Discipline of the AME Church, 2016, continue to preach and teach every month on the topic of tithing. But, God-chasing churches -- souled-out, thirsty and parched for God -- kind of churches (Psalm 63:1), were cultivating new tithers before the Covid pandemic and continue to cultivate new tithers presently, in every week's worship service and through every opportunity the Lord provides. We do not grieve as a people without hope, (1 Thessalonians 4:13) but we will be held accountable.

Stewardship with a capital "S" requires rethinking stewardship as accountability over all of our choices, decisions and resources. This type of stewardship is all inclusive, touching every area of life, including our time and talent as well as our treasure. "Stewardship is faithfully using whatever God gives us: opportunities, interests, skills, employment, family, talents, spiritual gifts, land, money, etc., for God's

glory, to serve the common good and to further God's kingdom in this present age." Hugh Whelchel, Executive Director of the Institute for Faith, Work & Economics

The Stewardship and Tithing Committee therefore makes the following recommendations to every church:

- 1. Trust God for the increase in every area of church need.**
- 2. Pray for the change you want to see.**
- 3. Trust those who are given authority to lead the church to wholeness.**
- 4. Remember we will be held accountable.**

When asked if tithing is for today, Dr. J.B. Gambrell made this observation: "It is unthinkable from the standpoint of the cross that anyone would give less under grace than the Jewish people gave under law." God makes an incredible promise to those who give to God's work. God will open for you the windows of Heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be enough room to receive it. Malachi 3:10 A tithe is the full measure and size of your relationship with God.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverends A. Iona Smith Nze, Dr. Ellis I. Washington, Orsella R. Hughes, Felix-Gerard Delatour, Ray A. Hammond, M.D. and Janine A. Dailey. Delegates: Sisters Evelyn Cooper and Greta Douglas.

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AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
171st SESSION OF THE
New England Annual Conference
Church Growth and Evangelism
March 29 – April 2, 2022

To the Rt. Rev. Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District; Mother Joan Marla McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor; Presiding Elder Reverend Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace; the Boston-Hartford District Consultant, Brother Eddie Lovelace; Host Pastors, The Harmonious Six; Host Church, Bethel A.M.E. Bloomfield Church; Delegates and Members of the 171th Session of the New England Annual Conference; we the Church Growth and Evangelism Committee submit the following report.

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (*Romans 10:14-15*)

The Rev. Dr. D. Albert Turk Ministry of Evangelism submits the following report: This conference year has been filled with spiritual engagement, enlightenment, and enthusiasm. Though the pandemic has been a hindrance, it has not stopped the Word of God from going forth and lives being changed. We focused this year on the book "How to Revive Evangelism" by Craig Springer, which was presented by President of NEAC Ministry of Evangelism Rev. Dr. Ellis Washington at the 170th NEAC. The positive response to the book overview compelled the ministry of evangelism to quarterly schedule discussion on the chapters. Each area within the Boston-Hartford District was responsible for summarizing a chapter and presenting it to the NEAC evangelist. The feedback was encouraging and challenging. As a result of these discussions, the focus was internal and organizationally that the NEAC Ministry of Evangelism would change our mental model and approach evangelism focus on empathy, community, and relationship.

In addition, we had a retreat this conference year that ignited excitement by two wonderful presenters, Rev. Ray A. Hammond, M.D., and the Rev. Dr. Richard W. Clarke. We end our retreat with an Hour of Power service with a powerful-spirit-filled Word by the Rev. A. Iona Smith Nze. We closed out the year with a conference-wide revival, and the preacher was the Rev. Howard M. Jenkins, Jr.. We thank God for the blessing of God's encouraging spirit that thrives within the hearts of the Ministry of Evangelism. This conference year's growth has infused a burning desire not to be complacent. 2022 has been an exciting year, and we are ready to be unleashed from the constraints of the pandemic and spread the Word that Jesus Saves.

In closing, we wish to pause in remembrance of Evangelist Marguerite Perryman, who had a smile That would light up the room. We know that she is in the arms of the Lord. Amen

Respectfully Submitted Church Growth and Evangelism Committee:

Reverends: Dr. Ellis I Washington, Howard M. Jenkins, Jr., Darryl Malden, Esq., Mariama White Hammond, A. Iona Smith Nze, Marcus T. McCullough and Alvin T. Riley, Jr.; **Delegates:** Sisters Deborah Washington and Linda C. Gant

TO: Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr., Presiding Prelate, First Episcopal District, A.M.E.C.
 Mother Joan Marla McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor, Women’s Missionary Society (WMS)
 Reverend Jocelyn Kahn Hart Lovelace, Presiding Elder, Boston Hartford District
 Brother Eddie Lovelace, Consultant, Boston Hartford District
 Pastors, Ministers, Officers, Delegates and Friends

MISSION STATEMENT: (1) To strengthen our current existing churches to grow and thrive in the New England Annual Conference and (2) to plant healthy churches in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont.

We, the Committee on Missions, Circuits, and Stations submit the following report. *Go make disciples ... As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers... Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in that my house may be filled (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 16:4,5; Luke 14:23.* Like the Indians¹ (in the book “Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Unchartered Territory”), the committee seeks (1) via surveys to give proper guidance and (2) to provide trained scouting abilities through the unknown and reach the goal of planting churches and supporting existing churches, which is our Pacific Ocean.

First, to achieve the Committee’s mission of supporting churches and new plants to have well-planned comeback after COVID-19 pandemic, we reviewed the 2019 NEAC Pastor Summation reports and found the following existing twelve churches had less than 100 members and we also added the two new church plants.

The twelve Existing Churches

Year Founded	Name of Church	Location	Zip	Membership - 50 or less
1968	Bethel Community A.M.E.	New London, CT	06320	12
1883	Bethel A.M.E.	Greenwich, CT	06830	15
1917	Bethel A.M.E.	Lowell, MA	01851	5
1998	Malden Mission A.M.E.	Malden, MA	02455	10
1845	Mt. Zion A.M.E.	Middleton, RI	02842	47
1877	People’s A.M.E.	Chelsea, MA	02150	40
1953	St. James A.M.E.	Danbury, CT	06811	26

Year Founded	Name of Church	Location	Zip	Membership - 100 or less
1866	Bethel A.M.E.	Plymouth, MA	02360	78
1822	Bethel A.M.E.	New Bedford, MA	02740	83
1936	Allen Chapel A.M.E.	Hartford, CT	06130	85
1857	Bethel A.M.E.	Lynn, MA	01901	81
1881	Bethel A.M.E.	Fall River, MA	02720	65

The two New Church Plants are

Year Founded	Name of Church	Location	Zip	Membership
2018	*New Roots A.M.E.	Dorchester, MA	02124	26
2019	*New Life A.M.E.	Randolph, MA	02368	Not Reported

¹ In the book “Canoeing the Mountains,” Lewis and Clarke spent time with Indians who knew the lay of the land and were given proper guidance to reach the Pacific Ocean. Missions, Circuits, & Stations is like the Indians to the Boston-Hartford District Missions and New Works churches.

Second, after modifying a survey conducted over 8 years ago, an online survey entitled *Local Pastors* comprised of 11 questions was conducted and completed by 10 of the 14 pastors with 100 members or less for pastors to identify needed resources for renewal and growth of healthy congregations post COVID-19.

Third, after analyzing the data:

- (1) The respondents resource list of ***pastor and congregation needs*** are ministerial teams, grant writers, community organizers, specialized Church Leader Trainers (i.e. class leaders, community-based evangelism, etc), musicians, bookkeeper and CPA & accounting software, missionaries, evangelists, laity, children's ministry (someone to run it not just consult), active neighborhood ministry, digital strategist support, technology experts, YPD Director, Youth & Families Pastor etc.
- (2) The respondents identified the ***needs of the local community***, such as affordable housing, homelessness, hunger, substance abuse & drug treatment, handling domestic violence, diversity in political leadership, help the community to deal with racial issues, especially since turnout at Town Hall meetings for George Floyd protests, consistent and caring attention to the needs of youth, young adults (boys and girls), undocumented young people, single parents and families, bilingual speakers (Spanish, others), livable wage jobs, self-identity awareness, new technology systems.
- (3) The ***additional comments and suggestions*** are more outreach in immediate church area ministry investments of teams from established churches (i.e. time, talent, and resources or possibly ministry pods, include praise teams and laity, digital strategists etc.), willingness to volunteer at local nearby hospital, without being perceived as one “drumming up” business for their local church which would be a conflict of interest having completed one unit of chaplaincy/ internship.

Fourth, we welcome into the Boston-Hartford District our **Newest Church Plant**

Year	Name of Church	Location	Zip	Pastor
2021	Sovereign Souls A.M.E. Church	Exeter, New Hampshire	03833	Rev. Robert Thompson

RECOMMENDATION: For all 26+ pastors participate in the collaboration of creating, consenting to, and conducting an online (hard copy) *Congregations Skills Set* survey. The survey will accomplish two goals in the renewal and growth of healthy congregations based on the aforementioned needs:

- Tap into the Pareto Principle, known as the 80/20 Rule, in laymen’s terms – 20% of our actions/activities will account for 80% of your results/outcomes.² Leadership guru, John Maxwell³ applies this principle to the church meaning that 20% of our members do most of the work which effects the greatest change and greatest financial impact. Therefore, how do we tap into the 80% of our congregations for an even greater impact and use of available resources?
- Identify members of established churches maybe asked to support mission churches (congregations of 100 or less members) with skills and members of mission churches maybe asked to support established churches during specific activities/events such as annual conferences, district conference, etc. The ultimate goal will be for each congregation to be supported with the resources at the appropriate and applicable time.

² The Law of the Vital Few and The Principle of Factor Sparsity, illustrates that 80% of effects arise from 20% of the causes. <https://www.juran.com/blog/a-guide-to-the-pareto-principle-80-20-rule-pareto-analysis/> Accessed March 4, 2022

³ <https://sacredstructures.org/measurement/the-8020-rule-and-how-it-can-transform-your-church/>

Advancing His Kingdom with Love, Joy, & Thanksgiving,

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Sandra G. Whitley, Chairperson; Rev. Charles Cloy; Rev. Janine A. Dailey; Rev. Dr. Gloria Harris Cater; Rev. Gwendolyn Wrighten-Montgomery; Rev. Dr. George Walters-Sleyon; Rev. Dr. Ellis Washington; Sister Jennifer Delatour, Young Adult Specialty; and delegates Bro. Dwayne Junior and Sister Misty Harris. Specialty Consultants: Rev. Sabrina Johnson, Rev. Leslie Greene.

New England Annual Conference
Committee on Presiding Elder's Salary and Upkeep
March 29-April 2, 2022

To Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr.; Mother Joan M. McAllister Episcopal Supervisor; the Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace, Presiding Elder; Bro. Eddie Lovelace, District Consultant; and the members of the 171st Session of the New England Annual Conference.

We the committee on Presiding Elder's Salary and Upkeep beg leave to make the following report.

The committee recommends zero (0) increase this year due to the Global Pandemic. However, we strongly suggest that the churches in the Boston-Hartford District show our love and support to our caring Presiding Elder and District Consultant in a tangible way during this conference year.

Attached is the breakdown of the support and the payment schedule to begin May 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Daylan K. Greer, Sr.
Rev. Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.
Rev. Dr. Ellis I. Washington
Rev. A. Iona Smith Nze
Rev. Viola P. Morris Buchanan
Rev, Dr. Robert A. Jackson, Jr.
Rev. Steven A. Cousin, Jr.

Delegates

Sis. Jewell Norville
Bro. Robert Ford

The 171st Session of the New England Annual Conference
First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
Held at Bethel AME Church, Bloomfield, CT, March 31 to April 2, 2022
Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr.; Supervisor, Mother Joan M. McAllister;
Presiding Elder Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace; Consultant Eddie Lovelace;
Host Pastors, and Spouses; Pastors, Ministers, Delegates and Officers, One and All.

The Committee on Annuity and Investment Insurance begs to submit their report.

At the 2021 General Conference, Dr. James Miller was elected as Executive Director for the Department following the retirement of the previous Executive Director. During the transition to the new Department leadership, Dr. Miller and financial experts who were hired to assist with the transition uncovered possible financial irregularities in certain retirement fund investments.

On September 14, 2021, participants in the Annuities and Investment Insurance were informed by the Department of Retirement Services of a forensic audit and assets being frozen until a proper evaluation can be determined. On November 29, 2021, participants in the Annuities and Investment Insurance were informed the audit was still being conducted. Participants were asked to be patient and wait for a full report at the upcoming General Board Meeting.

At the General Board meeting of December 7-8, 2021, it was reported that the Department of Retirement Services of the African Methodist Episcopal Church may have been the victim of financial misappropriations or irregularities. This matter does not impact the life insurance program managed by the Department nor the day-to-day operations of the Connectional Church, or other holdings. The Department, with the full support of the church and the Council of Bishops, engaged outside legal counsel and financial forensics experts to conduct an independent and comprehensive investigation into the financial holdings. This investigation is ongoing. Additionally, a concurrent investigation has been launched by federal enforcement and it is ongoing as well.

A special Task Force Committee representing the Department, the General Board, the Council of Bishops, and AME Church members at-large are developing a plan of reorganization, recovery, and restoration for fund participants. In the meantime, current annuity funds are placed in an escrow account.

On January 31, 2022, the General Board met, and it was reported that the Department of Retirement Services has approximately \$37 million for the annuity program. The General Board agreed that the African Methodist Episcopal Church will assume the responsibility for restoration up to the amount of \$45 million to the Legacy Plan which includes the interest on the unpaid balance to accrue to the Legacy Plan at 1.5% per annum. Also, it was decided that the Department of Retirement Services and its commission will identify, engage, and establish a new annuity program with one of the ten top 403(B) Provider companies. The selected provider will assume overall fund management, receipts, disbursements, and reporting by June 8, 2022. Churches would make direct payments to the 403(B) Provider company.

On March 4, 2022, the General Board convened, and the Department of Retirement services and its commission reported that a Request for Proposal (RFP) has been sent out for the 403(B) Provider. The General Board approved the recommendation of Option D: Hybrid (partial Liquidation of Assets Plus 25% of the General Budget toward the Legacy program). Transfer at least \$1 million from AMEC's other investments to the Annuity Fund.

The transfer of at least \$1 million represents the need for a cash infusion to the Annuity Fund while balancing the need for the General Church to remain solvent in its day-to-day operations and to fund unforeseen future expenses. Transfer 25% of the current General Budget to the Annuity Fund as soon as possible. Transfer 25% of future appropriations of the General Budget annually until the Annuity Fund has been restored.

- The number of New England Conference Pastors enrolled in the retirement plan: **Refer to pastoral summations**
- The number of pastors who paid in this period: **Refer to pastoral summations**
- The Total amount received for annuities in this period: **Refer to pastoral summations**

Pastors are disappointed, hurting, and feeling betrayed over the financial misappropriations and irregularities of the annuity funds. It is our prayer to overcome this dilemma.

Recommendation:

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District, has asked each pastor to pay at least the minimal of \$312 for the annuity, the \$150 for the Life Insurance, if married, and \$115, if single.

The Committee on Annuities and Investment Insurance therefore recommends that we follow this godly judgment and leadership of our Bishop in terms of paying our Annuities and Life Insurance.

Faithfully Submitted:

Sis. Lynette Holmes
 Sis. Linda C. Gant
 Sis. Barbara Redden
 Rev. Ray A. Hammond, M.D.
 Rev. Dr. Ellis I. Washington
 Rev. Dr. Sandra G. Whitley
 Rev. Steven A. Cousin, Jr.
 Rev. Viola P. Morris-Buchanan
 Rev. Dr. Richard W. Clarke, Chairperson

**Report of Disaster Relief
171st New England Annual Conference
March 29, 2022**

To the Rt. Rev. Julius Harrison McAllister, Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District, Mother Joan Marla McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor, Presiding Elder Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace of the Boston/Hartford District, Pastors Delegates and Members of the New England Annual Conference. We the members of the Disaster Relief Committee offer this report of your stewardship to those facing disasters this Conference Year.

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.” Ps 46:1-2

In the morning hours of August 14, 2021, a magnitude 7.2 (M 7.2) earthquake struck the nation of Haiti causing catastrophic damage of collapsed buildings exacerbated by almost 1,600 landslides in the country. While the earthquake hit the southern peninsula of the nation and was felt in the nation’s capital of Port-au-Prince and the city of Saint-Louis-du-Sud 80 miles away, its detriment was felt nationwide, including the adjacent country of the Dominican Republic. The depth and breadth of pain was seen in the loss of over 2000 lives and injury to 5 to 6 times as many persons. This earthquake disaster was followed 2 days later by Tropical Storm Grace bringing heavy rains upon families without shelter. The faith and determination of the men and women of Haiti is formidable as they continue to work to rebuild following multiple crises that have rocked their nation.

The resolve of the Haitian people was met by the compassion of the First Episcopal District under the leadership of our Presiding Prelate, Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister. In his appeal letter of August 19, 2021, Bishop McAllister stated: **“Our help is needed to assist the people of Haiti affected by the earthquake, and so I am asking that each church receive a special offering for disaster relief this Sunday, August 22nd.** New England responded to Bishop McAllister’s call for funds to accompany our prayers in response to this earthquake. The September 30, 2021, report from the Bishop’s Office reflected \$101,000 raised for Haiti Relief, with New England contributing \$11,594.

Bishop McAllister in an unprecedented move, held a virtual meeting with the entire Episcopal District concerning the Haiti outreach and received the District’s request that the entire funds raised for Haiti be given to the 16th

Episcopal District for Haiti. A commitment was then made by the New England Annual Conference and the other six Conferences to respond likewise for future disasters.

A week after the earthquake in Haiti, Hurricane Ida stormed across Louisiana and Mississippi as a category 4 storm bringing catastrophic wind and storm surge damage. The storm continued north damaging homes, churches and businesses in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. Our Bishop's written appeal of September 21, 2021, for Disaster Relief was again met by churches and members of the New England Annual Conference adding their funds to the other 6 Annual Conference of the 1st Episcopal District for Disaster Relief.

As of January 13, 2022, Bishop McAllister reported a total of \$57,061.82 raised by the 1st Episcopal District for Disaster Relief to support the areas affected by this storm and for future disasters, with New England raising \$7,165.

The two reports from Bishop McAllister included a detailed list of the Presiding Elders and Consultants, congregations and pastors, components and individual members who made contributions. Members of the New England Annual Conference listed in the 1st District Reports are attached.

It is from Jesus's words recorded in Luke 12:48b that we get the often-quoted statement: ***"To whom much is given, much is required."*** God has sustained and blessed the New England Annual Conference. It is our joy to give to those who need it most.

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you." 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

Humbly Submitted:

DISASTER RELIEF: Reverends: Viola P. Morris Buchanan, Richard W. Clarke, Gloria Harris Cater, Howard M. Jenkins, Jr., Charles Cloy, and Sisters Linda Gant and Shirley Rhodes Robinson.

First Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr., Presiding Prelate

HAITI DISASTER RELIEF

Report of Contributions

Received as of September 30, 2021

Presiding Elder Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace	Boston-Hartford District	\$250.00
Consultant Eddie J. Lovelace	Boston-Hartford District	\$250.00
Donna George	(Via CashApp)	\$25.00
Bethel-Boston, Jamaica Plain, MA	Rev. Ray A. Hammond, M.D.	\$2,500.00
St. Paul, Cambridge, MA	Rev. Dr. Ellis I. Washington	\$2,355.00
Charles Street, Roxbury, MA	Rev. Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.	\$2,000.00
Bethel, Bloomfield, CT	Rev. Daylan K. Greer, Sr.	\$500.00
Bethel, Bridgeport, CT	Rev. A. Iona Smith-Nze	\$500.00
Bethel, Plymouth, MA	Rev. Dr. Barbara J. Simmons	\$500.00
Bethel, Providence, RI	Rev. Howard M. Jenkins, Jr	\$500.00
Allen, Providence, RI	Rev. Viola P. Morris-Buchanan	\$400.00
Bethel, Springfield, MA	Rev. Marcus T. McCullough	\$314.00
Bethel, Norwalk, CT	Rev. Dr. Richard W. Clarke	\$300.00
Bethel, Stamford, CT	Rev. Dr. Robert A. Jackson, Jr.	\$300.00
New Roots, Boston	Rev. Mariama White-Hammond	\$250.00
St. James, Danbury, CT	Rev. Charles Cloy	\$250.00
Allen Chapel, Hartford, CT	Rev. Orsella R. Hughes	\$200.00
Bethel, Greenwich, CT	Rev. Felix-Gerard Delatour	\$100.00
NEACB-WMS		\$100.00
	Subtotal:	\$11,594.00

Note: Additional funds may have been given after Sept 30, 2021

First Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr., Presiding Prelate

Disaster Relief Report of Contributions

Received as of January 31, 2022

P. E. Jocelyn Hart Lovelace		\$250.00
Eddie Lovelace		\$250.00
Edwina Mays	(Via CashApp)	\$500.00
Rev. Dr. Gloria J. Harris-Cater		\$200.00
Ethlyn A. Davis Fuller, Ph.D.	St. Paul, Cambridge	\$100.00
Rev. Viola P. Morris-Buchanan		\$100.00
Donna George	(Via CashApp)	\$100.00
Sandra Jenkins	(Via CashApp)	\$100.00
Rev. Khaden Nurse	(Via CashApp)	\$50.00
Bethel, Lynn, MA,	Pastor Bernadette Hickman-Maynard	\$885.00
Grant, Boston, MA,	Pastor Pedro A. Castro, Jr.	\$500.00
Bethel, New Bedford, MA,	Pastor Dr. Sandra G. Whitley	\$300.00
Allen Chapel, Hartford, CT	Rev. Orsella R. Hughes	\$200.00
Allen, Providence, RI,	Pastor Viola P. Morris-Buchanan	\$180.00
Bethel, Boston, MA,	Pastor Ray A. Hammond, M.D	\$2,500.00
Malden Mission, Malden, MA,	Pastor Dr. Gloria J. Harris-Cater	\$400.00
New Roots, Boston, MA,	Pastor Mariama White-Hammond	\$250.00
Grant, Boston, MA,	Pastor Pedro A. Castro, J	\$50.00
NEACB-WMS		\$ 100.00
NEC Lay Organization		\$150.00
	Subtotal:	\$7,165.00

Note: Additional funds may have been given after January 31, 2022

We serve a God who calls for justice and our Committee’s goal is to inspire the daughters and sons of Allen, to “use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, [and] rebuild the foundations from out of your past. (Isaiah 58:11, *The Message*). As we emerge from the long deadly shadow of the COVID pandemic let’s celebrate the progress made as we look forward to the challenges the coming year will offer.

Police Reform

Since last we met, Derek Chauvin, the killer of George Floyd, has been convicted on state and federal manslaughter, murder and civil rights violation charges; his fellow officers were convicted on federal civil right charges and face trial on state charges of aiding and abetting murder; the vigilantes responsible for the death of Ahmaud Arbery are convicted on state murder charges and federal hate crime charges; and one District Attorney is indicted and a second is under investigation for allegedly covering up the vigilantes’ crime. That no one has been held accountable legally for the death of Breonna Taylor and now Amir Locke heightens the importance of implementing reforms that were enacted across the country and in all 3 NEAC states, including: police certification systems; police accountability boards with independent investigative power; civil service reforms to promote equity and diversity in the police workforce; serious limits on police use of force and no-knock warrants; meaningful limits on qualified immunity; and bans on face surveillance technology. Can your church work with police reform advocacy organizations in your local community and state?

Inequities Revealed by COVID

COVID starkly revealed longstanding health inequities for those who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). What may not have been fully anticipated is the impact of COVID on other longstanding inequities,¹ such as educational equity and the disparate impact of virtual learning on BIPOC children who did not have adequate Internet access, learning pods, tutors, or parents who were able to provide supervision because those parents were essential workers. A report from McKinsey & Co. states, “The pandemic widened preexisting opportunity and achievement gaps, hitting historically disadvantaged students hardest. In math, students in majority Black schools ended the year with six months of unfinished learning, students in low-income schools with seven. High schoolers have become more likely to drop out of school, and high school seniors, especially those from low-income families, are less likely to go on to postsecondary education. And the crisis had an impact on not just academics but also the broader health and well-being of students, with more than 35 percent of parents very or extremely concerned about their children’s mental health. The fallout from the pandemic threatens to depress this generation’s prospects and constrict their opportunities far into adulthood.”²

That report goes on to ask school districts to partner with community organizations (and that includes churches) in helping students with “unfinished learning” through afterschool and summer school programs that provide “rigorous reading and math instruction with fun activities provided by community-based partners.” Can your church partner with your school district to do that?

Voter Suppression and the Supreme Court

After the 2020 election which saw the greatest turnouts in American history, the repudiation of President Trump, the expulsion of the Republican party from majority power in both chambers of Congress, the victory of President

¹ Michael Bonner. “‘Back to better’; Massachusetts Senate President Karen Spilka says COVID exposed longstanding inequities.” Mar 26, 2021. Found at <https://www.masslive.com/coronavirus/2021/03/back-to-better-massachusetts-senate-president-karen-spilka-says-covid-exposed-longstanding-inequities.html>. 29 March 2021.

² “COVID-19 and education: The lingering effects of unfinished learning. Found at <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/education/our-insights/covid-19-and-education-the-lingering-effects-of-unfinished-learning#:~:text=The%20pandemic%20widened%20preexisting%20opportunity,low%2Dincome%20schools%20with%20seven>. 12 March 2022. This is impact is not only an American story, it is a global story as a recent World Bank report details (see <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/immersive-story/2021/01/22/urgent-effective-action-required-to-quell-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-education-worldwide>).

Biden in the formerly blue state of Georgia, and the election of two Democratic Senators from that same state of Georgia, it was to be expected that voter suppression in America would go into hyperdrive, and it has. Texas rejected 23,000 mail-in ballots, i.e. 13% of mail-in ballots, in a March 1 primary. Florida has set up an elections crime office in the absence of any evidence of significant voting crimes. Thankfully, we also know some of the things that can prevent voter suppression, including: federal legislation based on Congress' power to regulate federal elections; lawsuits based on the 14th Amendment and 15th Amendments which prevent states from discriminating based on race; the replication of well-organized voter support teams, like Georgia's Fair Fight, headed by Stacey Abrams; and the mobilization of voters based on their anger over attempts to suppress voting. Can your church send funds or volunteers to support these efforts in the 17 states most affected by voter suppression efforts?

Voter suppression also heightens the stakes in the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to become the first Black woman and first public defender to serve on the US Supreme Court. Her excellent qualifications and prior confirmations will make it hard to stop her; but nothing should be taken for granted and this is a time for deep and concerted prayer. Pray for the success of her confirmation; sign a petition supporting her confirmation (<https://aflc.io/cszYd9i0>); and pray for her to be the first of a series of judges who will restore the balance in a Supreme Court that helped get the voter suppression ball rolling in 2013 with its gutting of the Voting Rights Act.

Ukraine

Russian President Vladimir Putin is not guilty of making the first land grab by military force since Adolf Hitler in 1939, but the invasion of Ukraine is the largest land grab. This has galvanized opposition around the globe (including Russia) in an unprecedented way, leading to sanctions, business closures, Russian asset seizures, and calls for war crimes prosecutions. While all of this has to be handled delicately because of Russia's nuclear weapons, there are ample opportunities for us to: implore the God of Justice to "deliver Ukraine's soul from the sword, [its] life from the power of the dog (Psalm 22:20, New Revised Standard Version)"; to support local, national, and international efforts to provide humanitarian relief for the people of Ukraine³; and to support the efforts of Richard Allen AME Church in London to help Huguette Abole and other African immigrants in Ukraine who have faced the twin challenges of war and racism as they have fled the fighting.⁴

Closing

Of course, before and after we've done the work of addressing these and other justice concerns, we have to bathe all we do in **PRAYER** so that our decisions reflect our faith, not our fears, and God's will, not our worries. More than ever, we need to "let our light shine before others, so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16, NRSV)"

Respectfully submitted by:

The Social Action Committee

Reverends: Ray A. Hammond, M.D., Steven A. Cousin, Jr., Bernadette Hickman-Maynard, Dr. Richard W. Clarke, Pedro A. Castro, Jr., Orsella R. Hughes, Janine A. Dailey and Robert A. Jackson, Jr.
Delegates: Sisters Cathy Darby and Liesha Ivy

³ <https://donate.worldvision.org/give/ukraine-crisis-fund>; <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/25/1082992947/ukraine-support-help>

⁴ As reported by Dr. Jeffrey Cooper on 2/28/22. Donations can be made via PayPal to rallenamec.london@gmail.com. Rev. Lucinda V. Burgess, Pastor, Richard Allen AMEC, London, UK, 16th District WIM President

New England Annual Conference
Committee on Deeds, Abstracts, and Abandoned Property
March 29-April 2, 2022

To Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister; Mother Joan M. McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor; the Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace, Presiding Elder; Bro. Eddie Lovelace, District Consultant; and the members of the 171st Session of the New England Annual Conference.

We the Committee on Deeds Abstracts and Abandoned property beg leave to submit the following report.

A list of all the deeds and abstracts was compiled and presented at the 165th Session of the New England Annual Conference. This compilation is updated annually and kept on file with the Conference Trustees; Secretary of the Annual Conference; and presented to Episcopal Leadership.

To date there is no known abandoned property. The compilation will continue to be updated as properties are added to the Annual Conference or sold.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Daylan K. Greer, Sr.
Rev. Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.
Rev. Dr. Ellis I. Washington
Rev. Viola P. Morris Buchanan
Rev. Steven A. Cousin, Jr.
Rev. Dr. Robert A. Jackson, Jr.
Rev. A. Iona Smith Nze
Rev. Alvin T. Riley, Jr.

Delegates

Bro. Turahn Dorsey
Bro. T.R. Jones

171st SESSION OF THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Women's Missionary Society
Annual Report

Greetings: To The Right Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr., Episcopal Supervisor, Mother Joan Marla McAllister, Presiding Elder Jocelyn K. Hart-Lovelace and Brother Eddie Lovelace, Pastors, Delegates, Components Leaders, and Members of the 171st Session of the New England Annual Conference.

I would like to thank Bishop McAllister, Sr., for this opportunity to make my first report as President of the New England Conference Branch Women's Missionary Society.

Our Mission Statement: "We are called to strengthen our faith and sent to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world."

The New England Conference Women's Missionary Society theme for this conference year is , "We are Strong and Resilient," 2 Corinthians 4:17-18. Reflecting on our theme, we conducted a workshop entitled "Reflecting on our Journey through Conversation and Creativity." Our speaker was the Reverend LaWanda Riddick from Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Greenwich, Connecticut. As women, we reminded ourselves of the importance of self-care. Sister Carmen Blyde facilitated a workshop during Mass Meeting entitled Journaling: Spiritual Self Care.

The Pandemic brought many challenges that led us to think outside of the box to re-imagining our ministry and works of mission. It required us to quickly adapt to different ways of working, learning, and connecting with each other. However, we still had to do the work that God had prepared us to do. Despite not being able to gather for usual functions to worship, visit sick and shut-ins, attend our banquets and Queens Contest, we remained committed to the work of missions.

New England Conference is comprised of twenty-three (23) missionary societies doing outreach for those in need in our respective communities. We are committed to working in God's vineyard helping to transform the lives of His people during these difficult and challenging times.

We thank the Lord for the following accomplishment in the 2021-22 conference year:

- The New England Conference partnered with the Dimock Community Health Center donating \$1,350 worth of gift cards to be given to families in the Boston area.
- We partnered with our churches within the New England Conference and collected over two hundred brand new coats which were given to the Family Center located in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

The local missionary societies were involved with great initiatives:

- Partnering with Veterans Organization providing toiletries and black hair products to young girls of color.
- Providing gift cards to "Seeds of Change" through the Boston Public School System.
- Supporting the YPD Initiative with donations to a Domestic Violence Shelter
- Collecting and distributing back to school supplies
- Securing a large grant from the Yale Community Fund, which allowed us to purchased and distribute additional food, PPE supplies, and personal hygiene items for our Food Pantry recipients.
- Establishing a Sick and Relief Committee that reached out to society members providing prayers and sending get well cards to the sick and shut-ins.
- Providing Thanksgiving Baskets through our Food Pantries.
- Making of "Stitch-Less" blankets and knitting scarves as gifts to the church's sick and shut-in members.

- Providing new coats to homeless shelters.

The Connectional Women's Missionary Society challenged all missionaries to commit to a letter writing campaign to our local and state legislators and U.S. Congresspersons to inform these individuals of the Women's Missionary Society commitment to the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty in partnership with "Bread for the World."

As president of the Women's Missionary Society, along with many other missionaries, we attended the First District YPD Conference hosted by the New England Conference Branch. The conference theme was entitled, "Inside Out." We also supported the virtual Learning Experience and attended Connectional Board meetings.

Our goal is to work closely with the Third Vice-President on a membership drive to recruit the Young Adults, to support our "Mission Church," and to continue to support and participate in programs and projects on all levels; local, Area, Conference, Episcopal, and Connectional.

I would like to thank God for this journey, leading and trusting him to guide me. I also like to thank the New England Conference Branch Women's Missionary Society, our Life members, and the entire Executive Board for your prayers, your guidance, and your continued work of missions. I am thankful to each missionary for their continued support and participation and initiatives across of all levels. Your dedication to missions reflects your love for God's people.

Prayerfully Submitted,
Shirley Rhodes-Robinson, President
New England Conference

Committee Members: Jennifer Delatour, Ine D. Ogagan, Veronica Williams, Teresa L. Jenkins, Yvette Wooten, Eva Simmons, Brenda Birch, Rev. Katrina Jones, Annie Joseph, C. Mae Bunch, Kathy Williams, Roberta Green, Delores Mitchell, Mary Joyner, Sandra Jenkins and Eddie J. Lovelace.

New England Conference YPD Annual Report

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1:9 NIV



We the New England Conference Branch Young People’s Division continue to “Grow, Glow, and Go for Christ” on the Local, Area, Conference and District Level. We are thankful to God for HIS plans that have allowed both the Directors and YPD’ers to remain safe and healthy during this pandemic to date.

Since Bro. Evans Genece and I took office, we have successfully hosted our 1st District YPD Meeting in October in Stamford, CT. The weekend was spirit-filled and our new Episcopal Leaders, Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr. and Mother Joan M. McAllister, were present with our own Presiding Elder Jocelyn Hart Lovelace and Consultant Bro. Eddie Lovelace; Host Pastor the Rev. Robert A. Jackson, Jr., and First Lady Moniya Jackson of Bethel—Stamford; New England Annual Conference Pastors; YPD Connectional leaders; other District leaders; and Missionary leaders present to support us. We were blessed and grateful for your support.

Our Annual Day of Caring was held on December 4, 2021, at Bethel—New Haven. Directors and YPDers from both Stamford and Springfield areas made and distributed 100 brown bag lunches to the homeless; made cards and wreaths for 50 of our sick and shut-in members; and made “No-Sew” Blankets for the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, and area Cancer facilities in partnership with Diane’s Helping Hands. The Boston Area Directors and YPDers partnered with Mike’s Diner who made chicken soup that was distributed to homeless and sick and shut-in families in their area.

Souper Bowl of Caring initiatives at our local churches throughout our Conference saw the Springfield area YPDers, their families, and missionaries donating cans of soup and crackers to the food banks of their respective churches. These donations were distributed to families in need during the month of February. The Boston area YPDers distributed homemade soup to the homeless in their area on the Saturday before the Super Bowl.

We are looking forward to attending our Connectional Leadership Training Institute April 8-10, 2022, in Cherry Hill, NJ. Following this, our next endeavor is a Walk-Bike-Jog-a-Thon for foster care during the month of May for National Foster Care Month. Details are being finalized in the coming weeks.

As we look back on a challenging year, we give thanks to God who has been faithful and continues to lead and challenge us to do the ministry of missions in different ways for His glory!

With Christian Love and Appreciation,

Sis. Yvette Wooten, NECBYPD Director
Bro. Evans Genece, NECBYPD President

To the Rt. Rev. Julius H. McAllister, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the 1st Episcopal District; the Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace, Presiding Elder of the Boston-Hartford District; Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, 1st Episcopal District Lay President; Host Pastors; Officers, Members and Friends of the 171st Session of the New England Annual Conference:



“For in Him we live, move and have our being.” – Acts 17:28

“It’s a Learning Thing” - The Workshop entitled ***“Reimagining Ministry Serving This Present Age Workshop – Lay Organization 101,”*** created by President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell was presented by President Linda Gant was very informative and a lot of fun. To our delight, President Hopewell also attended it was a team effort explaining how we must continue to study things that we have learned in the past; like ***“Know Your Church”***, the ***“2016 Discipline”***, the Connectional Lay, the Purpose of the Lay, the structure of the different components of the organization, church and the conferences. We must be willing to share what we learn with our Lay as well as our church members. We must work closer with our clergy, commit to laity on all levels of the church. You as leaders must love what it is that you have committed to do.

“It’s the Law” – As we were on the path of reimagining ministry, it also meant revising our Constitutions and By-Laws to be inclusive of the changing times of virtual meetings. Thank you to our Committee Members (***Bro. T. R. Jones, Sis. Roshelley Woodson, Bro. Henry McMillan, Sis. Josephine Fulcher Anderson, Sis. Nicol Ayers and Sis. Cynthia King***) who worked diligently to ensure the language was accurate and consistent throughout.

“Empowering the Pew” is the governing theme for the New England Conference Lay Organization for the season. Sis. Nicol Ayers, our Director of Lay Activities has commissioned the local Presidents to be facilitators for our workshops, reminding them that they too have the gifts to be presenters. ***Bro. Henry McMillan***, Bethel Bloomfield Lay President led the charge with his workshop on ***“The Cost of Membership,”*** centering his Scripture focus on Hebrews 10:24-25. Followed by ***Sis. Crystal Daley***, Charles Street, with her workshop on ***“Finances”*** and how members should understand the true meaning of their credit scores, debt, rainy day funds, retirement, living wills, etc. and ***Bro. T. R. Jones***, St. James Danbury Lay President with his workshop on ***“Constitution and Bylaws”*** and their importance for our governance. ***Sis. Roshelley Woodson***, Bethel Bridgeport presented on ***“Lent, Season of Renewal”*** focusing on Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving; and ***Sis. Annie Matthews Haynes***, Bethel New Haven presenting on ***“Why We Wear Blue,”*** reminding us that we wear blue because we represent authority, structure, trust and loyalty. If you have the Authority “constituted authority” to do something, you have the power to do it. Structure, the Lay must have a good or a solid structure. Trust, the color blue symbolized piety, honesty and confidence. Loyalty conveys love and support. Thank you to all presenters for stepping out and allowing God’s given talents to shine forth for the excellent job on your workshops.

“Celebrating 50 Years” – To God be the Glory, great things He has done! The New England Conference Lay Organization (NECLO) celebrating 50 Years of organizing and training laity, held its first ***“Worshipping Under the Sky,”*** Parking Lot Service (***that had to be moved to the Sanctuary, LOL***), as the weather did not want to cooperate with us, but God certainly showed up to remind us that it doesn’t matter where we worship, as long as we do! We worshipped God and watched the Holy Spirit move throughout the service, from the opening Lay Hymn, prayer, through the songs sung, a Libation Ceremony performed by ***Sis. Josephine Fulcher Anderson***, to the rededication prayer by ***Retired Presiding Elder Herbert L. Eddy*** and the hearing of our Historical Framework done by none other than ***Sis. Ethel Marie Wallace-Jenkins***. And to take us even further for our mountaintop experience was when our very own ***Presiding Elder Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace*** allowed God to use her as she preached ***“From the Heart,”*** from Colossians 3:23-24.



Did not our hearts burn!!! We thank the best First Episcopal District President, **Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and Bro. Irvin Hopewell**, who thought it not robbery to change their plans to come and celebrate with us, Oh how wonderful! We are also grateful to our Director of Lay Activities, **Sis. Nicol Ayers**, our Committee Chairperson, **Sis. Josephine Fulcher Anderson** and the following Worship Participants (**Sis. Sandra Mosby, Bro. Nickolas Clark-Durham, Bro. Henry McMillan, Sis. Brenda Birch, Bethel Bloomfield Praise Team and the Rev. Daylan K. Greer, Sr.**) for making this an Anniversary Celebration to be remembered.



“Keeping in Touch” – We are grateful to **Sis. Josephine Fulcher Anderson** who serves as the Chairperson of our Concerns Committee ensuring our members know they are being lifted in prayer as cards of Encouragement, Sympathy, Get Well or just Thinking About You are mailed throughout the year. We also want to thank **Bro. Henry McMillan** who served as our Chairperson on our Outreach Ministry, gathering the various times of virtual worship and dates and times of virtual meetings to allow officers to be able to stay connected even if we are not in person.

“Celebrating with the Newly Elected Council Woman!” – We are extremely proud of our Director of Lay Activities, Sis. Nicol Ayers, who was elected and sworn in as City of Norwalk Councilwoman for District A. To be invited to witness as Sis. Nicol took her oath to uphold the office she has been elected to knowing that God has set her aside for a time such as this when the world is in need of change from the status quo. Congratulations Sis. Nicol and we got your back!



“Education It Is!” – The New England Conference Lay Organization continues to support the Frank C. Cummings Scholarship each year which affords the opportunity for college students to receive \$1,000 in scholarship awards or possibly a Book Scholarship for which the amounts vary each year. Congratulations to Sis. Tanjia Alexis DeCausey of Allen A.M.E. Church Providence, RI, who was the most recent recipient.

“It’s Time for Elections” – Congratulations to our newly elected officers (Linda C. Gant – President, Nickolas Clark Durham - 1st Vice President, Henry McMillan - 2nd Vice President, C. Mae Bunch – Recording Secretary, Nicol Ayers – Director of Lay Activities, Robert Ford – Chaplain, Sandra Mosby – Treasurer) for 2022 – 2024.

“Water, Water, Water” – We have begun our water challenge asking members to increase their daily water intake. Don’t be bashful, begin with at least an 8 oz. glass and each day add another 8 oz. and before you know it, you are drinking the daily requirement. No sweat!



“On the District Side” – New England Conference Lay Organization delegation attended the virtual Annual Meeting, as well as participating in the 1st Episcopal District “Know Your Church” challenges, where President Gant brought home a 3rd place win. **Road Trip!!** Off the delegation goes to Orlando, Florida for our Lay Biennial to witness the business of organization, elections and enjoy an in-person worship service (even with some technical difficulties.) What joy it was to witness the Rev. Tristan Salley (always a New Englander) while he presented his workshop **“Developing Great Leaders”** with such proficiency during our Mid-Year Meeting, acknowledging how great a supporter President Gant was to him.



“We’re In This Together” – Much gratitude to the Executive Board of the New England Conference Lay Organization as we are who we are because of the God given talents used to ensure the success of this organization. But we know that this was not just our efforts but also a great thank you to the best of the best Presiding Elder Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace; Bro. Eddie Lovelace, Consultant; and Pastors of the New England Annual Conference as their counsel, support, encouragement, and love really brings meaning to Laity and Clergy working together for I always know they are just a phone call, text or email away to assist this organization whenever needed. We are truly blessed to be working in the vineyard together.



Respectfully Submitted

Linda C. Gant

Sis. Linda C. Gant, President
Nickolas Clark-Durham, 1st Vice President
Henry McMillan, 2nd Vice President
Cynthia King, Recording Secretary
C. Mae Bunch, Corresponding Secretary
Sandra Mosby, Treasurer
Nicol Ayers, Director of Lay Activities
Sharon Mazyck, Local Lay President
Roshelley Woodson, Local Lay President
Annie Matthews Haynes, Local Lay President
Melton Hawkins, Local Lay 1st Vice President
Josephine Fulcher Anderson, Member



**171ST SESSION OF THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
RT. REV. JULIUS HARRISON McALLISTER, Sr., PRESIDING PRELATE
MARCH 31 TO APRIL 2, 2022**



NEAC SONS OF ALLEN MEN'S MINISTRY REPORT

It is with the joy and love of Jesus that we greet our Bishop the Rt. Rev. Julius H. McAllister, Sr. and our Episcopal Supervisor, Mother Joan Marla McAllister. Thank you, Bishop, for the opportunity to make this report to the New England Annual Conference. We also take the time to greet our Presiding Elder, the best Presiding Elder in all of African Methodism and President of the First Episcopal District Presiding Elders Council, the Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace and Bro. Eddie Lovelace, our consultant. Rev. Rodney E. Dailey, First Episcopal District Sons of Allen Men's Ministry Coordinator, Pastors, Delegates, Components leaders and members of this 171st session of the New England Annual Conference, to God be the glory for the great things that He is doing and for all of you.

The Sons of Allen Men's Ministry "... [is] charged to create a ministry for men who will seek to address, the needs for distinctive ministries to men, who are faced with spiritual, social, political, and psychological challenges, to equip men to follow the example of Andrew (St John 1: 41-42) who brought Peter to Jesus; to encourage men to emulate the resolute and redemptive spirit of Richard Allen, our revered, ancestral patriarch who negotiated for his freedom and for his unnamed brother as well; to encourage men to implement ministries modeled by our founder, Richard Allen, as he sought to meet needs in his community." (The Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church, 1056)

It is in fulfilling this charge that the NEAC Sons of Allen Men's Ministry gathered throughout this conference year. Prayer is the foundation of the Sons of Allen Men's Ministry. Throughout the year, the NEAC Sons of Allen Men's Ministry has led prayer walks at various churches, engaging the community and being an active and relevant presence. We have participated in prayer calls, each Monday we gather as a district to touch and agree with one another. For those men that would like to join, we gather on Monday nights at 7:00 pm. You can connect with me or any of the men in this ministry to get involved.

The Sons of Allen Choir is an active and vital part of the Sons of Allen Men's Ministry. We look forward to gathering and traveling as a group to lift up the name of Jesus. We believe that as men, it's our responsibility to be there for those that are in need. This has led us to actively work with homeless veterans, partnering with VA Hospitals. We have also given out sleeping bags to the homeless, who are often in need of a warm place to sleep.

We have organized and have been calling members of various churches that are on the sick and shut-in list. To any church without an active men's or Sons of Allen Ministry, we ask that you

share your sick and shut-in list with our corresponding secretary Brother TR Jones, so that we can be there for our brothers in their time of need and add them to the joint Sick and Shut-in list.

Finally, we hosted a Talent Show in partnership with NEAC Young Adults Ministry. This multigenerational Talent Show was a great success, and we extend our appreciation to our conference for their love, support and participation. We look forward to creating opportunities like this to fellowship as a conference in the future.

How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along! It's like costly anointing oil flowing down head and beard, Flowing down Aaron's beard, flowing down the collar of his priestly robes. It's like the dew on Mount Hermon flowing down the slopes of Zion. Yes, that's where God commands the blessing, ordains eternal life. **(Psalm 13: 1-3, MSG)**

SUBMITTED SOA MEN'S MINISTRY:

Rev. Khaden Nurse, Joe Green, Phil Harman, Walter Mills, T.R. Jones, Samuel Ramsey, Eddie J. Lovelace, Rev. Herbert L. Eddy, Rev. Ken Whitley, Rev. Rodney Dailey, Dwayne Junior, Winston Robinson and Dexter Hester.



**171ST SESSION OF THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
RT. REV. JULIUS HARRISON McALLISTER, Sr., PRESIDING PRELATE
MARCH 29 TO APRIL 2, 2022**



CHRISTIAN DEBUTANTE AND MASTER COMMISSION REPORT

We thank Bishop Mc Allister for this opportunity to make this our first report to the New England Annual Conference. Greetings to Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr.; Episcopal Supervisor Mother Joan Marla McAllister; Presiding Elder Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace; Bro. Eddie Lovelace; all Pastors, Delegates, Components, and members of this 171st session of the New England Annual Conference.

We acknowledge the turmoil that exists in the world. We acknowledge that we are bombarded with messages and images of destruction and debilitation. We acknowledge that the philosophies of the world attempt to permeate what we think and how we behave. We acknowledge that “spending more than three hours each day on social media puts adolescents at a higher risk for mental health problems.” We, therefore, see the Christian Debutante and Master Commission (CDMC) as a fitting strategy to prepare our youth for their entry into adulthood. This shows that the involvement of African American youth in church activities helps to boost their self-esteem and reinforces their sense of personal efficacy. It also helps to keep African American boys out of prison.

The Attorney General of Massachusetts is launching an investigation into the effects of TikTok on the mental health on teens. The Mental Health Department has shared the following data on overdoses among teens during the pandemic: 36.8% African American, 31.6% White and 17.3% Latinx. The physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health of our youth requires our focused attention.

The CDMC focuses on the period of transition from adolescence to adulthood that many cultures consider a “rite of passage.” The work of the CDMC is to prepare and support youth for this transition based on Christian principles. Young people participating in the CDMC have an opportunity to receive guidance through study programs and mentorship for their personal Christian development and leadership skills that will serve the A.M.E. Church and the larger community. The program will also focus on the richness of our cultural heritage. The adults providing leadership and mentorship in the program will be guided by Deuteronomy 6: 6-7a: “These commandments that I give you today...Impress them on your children.”

Mission Statement: To promote the principles and doctrines of Christian Education as set forth in the guidelines of the initiative. We will partner with other ministries to create and extend experiences and environments that support spiritual growth and development for our youth

The Christian Debutante and Master Dedication Ceremony introduces young people to Christian society and celebrates their transition to adulthood. Through its adult advisors, the CDMC reinforces the work of Christian Education by providing guidance and information for relevant study and fieldwork activities.

Theme: “Steadfast and Unmovable”

Scripture: “My soul finds rest in God alone, my salvation comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.” Psalm 62: 2-3.

CDMC Liturgical Colors: Red and White. Red symbolizes excitement, energy, and power. White symbolizes celebration, joy, and peace.

We look forward to establishing a support network across the New England Annual Conference to establish the work of the CDMC.

Committee Members:

- Rev. Dr. Marjorie Jones
- Yvette Wooten
- Josephine Anderson
- Delores Mitchell
- Rev. Khaden Nurse
- Shirley Rhodes Robinson

Delegates:

- T.R. Jones
- Brittany Wilson
- Kaitlin Oliver
- Greta Douglas

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
171st SESSION OF THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MARCH 29 – APRIL 2, 2022
COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS REPORT

To the Rt. Rev. Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District; Mother Joan Marla McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor; Presiding Elder Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace; the Boston-Hartford District Consultant Bro. Eddie Lovelace; Host Pastors, The Harmonious Six; Host Church Bethel – Bloomfield; Delegates and Members of the 171st Session of the New England Annual Conference.

We the Committee on Memorials submit the following report:

Beloved, these are they who have borne their burdens in the heat of the day and who have made their transition from labor to reward. The scriptures are true, ***“So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”*** (2 Corinthians 5:6-8 ESV)

We praise God that they are now no longer members of the Church militant, but they have been called to the Church triumphant. Since we last gathered the follow persons have gone from labor to reward:

Bishop William Phillips DeVeaux, Sr. (Retired), 113th Elected and Consecrated Bishop

Served the following Episcopal Districts of the A.M.E. Church: 18th, 16th, 6th, and 2nd
(Transitioned December 31, 2021)

Supervisor Stan McKenzie, (Retired) Episcopal Supervisor

Served the following Episcopal Districts of the A.M.E. Church: 18th and 10th
(Transitioned July 21, 2021)

Supervisor Lucinda Crawford Belin, (Retired) Episcopal Supervisor

Served the following Episcopal Districts of the A.M.E. Church: 15th, 16th, 12th, 3rd and 7th
(Transitioned September 24, 2021)

Reverend Birdilyn Virginia Watson, a Local Elder

Bethel A.M.E. Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts (transitioned April 7, 2021)

Reverend Alfred Tyson, a Local Elder

Bethel A.M.E. Church in Boston, Massachusetts (transitioned August 22, 2021)

Reverend Margaret McCready, a Local Elder

Bethel A.M.E. Church in Norwalk, Connecticut (transitioned March 16, 2022)

Respectfully Submitted the Memoir Committee:

Reverends Howard M. Jenkins, Jr., Dr. Gloria Harris Cater, Charles Cloy, Felix-Gerard Delatour, Dr. Gwendolyn Wrighten-Montgomery and Dr. George Walters-Sleyon; **Delegates:** Brothers Michael Larkin, William Vance

BOSTON-HARTFORD DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS

Reverend Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.
Charles Street, Boston

Reverend Dr. Ellis I. Washington
St. Paul, Cambridge

Reverend Daylan K. Greer, Sr.
Bethel, Bloomfield

Reverend Dr. Robert A. Jackson, Jr.
Bethel, Stamford

Reverend Steven A. Cousin, Jr.
Bethel, New Haven

Reverend Pedro A. Castro, Jr.
Grant, Boston

Reverend Dr. Richard W. Clarke
Bethel, Norwalk

Reverend Ray A. Hammond, M.D.
Bethel, Boston

Reverend Marcus T. McCullough
Bethel, Springfield

Reverend A. Iona Smith-Nze
Bethel, Bridgeport

Reverend Viola P. Morris-Buchanan
Allen, Providence

Reverend Bernadette Hickman-Maynard
Bethel, Lynn

Reverend Howard M. Jenkins, Jr.
Bethel, Providence

Reverend Dr. Sandra G. Whitley
Bethel, New Bedford

Reverend Orsella R. Hughes
Allen Chapel, Hartford

Reverend Dr. Barbara J. Simmons
Bethel, Plymouth

Reverend Felix-Gerard Delatour
Bethel, Greenwich

Reverend Charles Cloy
St. James, Danbury

Reverend Alvin T. Riley, Jr.
Mt. Zion, Newport

Reverend Darryl Malden
Bethel, Fall River

Reverend Janine A. Dailey
Bethel, Lowell

Reverend George Walters-Sleyon
People's, Chelsea

Reverend Dr. Gwendolyn Montgomery
Bethel Community, Norwich

Reverend Dr. Gloria Harris Cater
Malden Mission, Malden

Reverend Mariama White Hammond
New Roots – Boston

Reverend Martha Florestal
New Life in Christ International

