



# ANNUAL CONFERENCE S E R I E S

## THE MINUTES *of* DAY 2

145<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
COLUMBIA SOUTH CAROLINA  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE  
*Best* INVENTION *Come*

**Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.**, Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District; **Mrs. Phyllis N. Green**, Episcopal Supervisor; **Presiding Elder Rosalyn Coleman** of the Columbia District; **Presiding Elder Samuel McPherson** of the Lancaster District; and **Presiding Elder M. Charmaine Ragin-Merrick** of the Newberry District; Conference, Area and Local Leadership on all levels; Pastors, Clergy and Lay people of the 145<sup>th</sup> Session of the Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference.

## **MINUTES OF THE 145<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COLUMBIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 MORNING GLORY AND BUSINESS SESSION NO. 3**

Members of the Board of Examiners began praise and worship at 8:52 a.m.

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., greeted the conference promptly at 9:00 a.m. and praised God that last night wasn't his last night.

He acknowledged the presence of Chaplain Addison Burgess. Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., stated that yesterday was a good day with three wonderful sermons. He especially liked the analogies.

Reverend Dr. George Hicks led the conference in singing "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me."

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., then called for the Board of Examiners to share the supplemental report.

Reverend Dr. George Hicks, Dean of the Board of Examiners, read the name of the candidate.

1. Rev. Dr. Hakim J. Lucas be elected and ordained an itinerant elder and released from the Board of Examiners.

The motion to elect and ordain Rev. Dr. Hakim J. Lucas an itinerant elder and be released from the Board of Examiners was made by **Reverend Dr. George Hicks** and seconded by **Reverend James Wesley Dennis, III**. The motion carried.

The motion to receive the Board of Examiners report be received as a whole was made by **Reverend Dr. Maxine Sumpter** and seconded by **Reverend Dr. George Hicks**. Motion carried.

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., then called for the Trustees report.

**Presiding Elder Rosalyn Coleman** offered the **Conference Trustee Report**.

There was a motion that S. Yvette Vant be elected to the Conference Trustees for the 2022-2023 Conference year.

The **motion** to elect S. Yvette Vant to the Conference Trustees for the 2022-2023 Conference year was made by **Reverend Dr. Caesar Richburg** and seconded by **Presiding Elder Rosalyn Coleman**.

The Conference Trustees made a request that the decision to proceed with the purchase of White Oak Conference Center be ratified.

The motion to ratify the purchase of the White Oak Conference Center was made by **Reverend Dr. Caesar Richburg** and seconded by **Presiding Elder Rosalyn Coleman**.

On Sept 22, 2022, Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., referred to the Conference Trustee Board to make sure that abandoned properties are safe and secured.

The Conference Trustees requested the permission of the Conference to review the list of abandoned properties to determine the status.

The motion to review the list of abandoned properties to determine the status was made by **Reverend Eric Dent** and seconded by **Reverend Dr. Dante' Kenly**.

The motion to elect Reverend Dr. Dante' Kenly to the Conference Trustees for the 2022-2023 Conference year was made by **Reverend Dr. Caesar Richburg** and seconded by **Reverend Eric Dent**.

The President of the Conference shared a rendering of what the exterior of White Oak Conference Center will look like as you enter the renovated space. All of the property costs \$870,000. Because of pledges and contributions, it was paid for in cash. The conference stood and applauded this accomplishment.

We will have to renovate it to make it what we want it our center. Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., stated that we already have funds coming in and has asked the Trustee Board to reallocate those funds.

He called on Rev. Dr. Caesar Richburg to share more information. Rev. Richburg said there was a corporate meeting of episcopal districts and all the conferences. Our conference, agreed to borrow money up to 20 million for renovation and restoration of the building. It was approved unanimously. Money will come from funds received at Founders Day, and Leadership Congress.

Bishop Green called on Brother Larry Thompson to address the conference. He shared that we purchased 218 acres with several buildings for \$870,000. It is prime property in a growing area towards Charlotte, NC. Considering the cost of construction today, we could not build anything at that cost. The proposal from the contractor broke down the renovations in phases. The lowest was about \$1.3 million. Six to eight cars can fit under the awning. The cafeteria/kitchen area can seat over 400 people.

Bishop Green stated, "this is not a church enterprise". It is a mammoth opportunity and a business planned as needed. We are trying to bring in a food services company and they will have the responsibility of hiring the staff and purchasing the supplies. They will pay us a fee for using the facility.

The plan is to clear up the area so that it is a safe environment. Wild hogs were recently removed because they were removing the groundwork. There will be a solar panel funnel on a portion of the property.

The facility has water and sewer, and it has a water processing plant. We have received approval from DHEC to operate it.

There are plans to have charging stations for hybrid and electric cars.

Bishop wants us to be able to move forward with this project after he is assigned to go to another district.

Bishop called on Rev. James Wesley Dennis, III to sing a song. He asked Presiding Elder Juenarrl Keith to preach a sermon. Reverend Dennis sang "Down Through the Years". Presiding Elder Keith's sermon topic was

## "Where is Your Church?" Matthew 16:17

<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.<sup>18</sup> 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.

Presiding Elder Keith said if anyone asked us where our church is, we would be able to tell them the city, the location – wherever we can find the church. The church has been changing, yet God remained the same. In January, he had three strokes in four weeks. The church address changed. He was a preacher but couldn't get to the church. With the need for sunglasses and a cane, he realized that the season had changed. He had the audacity to believe that he had a church and that he was in charge. He has learned that the church is still going to roll on.

So, he asked again, where is your church? Sometimes, we take it lightly or even for granted. Jesus addressed Peter concerning the directions of where he is and where he could be found. Jesus answered him directly where the church really is. Elder Keith asked, when was the last time you heard from the Lord? Jesus has the answer to all of our questions. Can you imagine how fast life goes by and you miss the whole point of knowing who Jesus really is? He is the Father of our world, and the head of our Church. The power of the Holy Spirit is wherever your church is located.

Wherever you're trying to go, whatever you're trying to do, recognize the power of the Holy Spirit.

Elder Keith called on us to never forget where the church is and to know that it is the Church of the living God, and not ours.

It was evident that the Holy Spirit was present during and after the powerful preaching as the conference praised the Lord.  
He thanked Dr. Keith.

Bishop Green called for the approval of the minutes from September 22, 2022. Annual Conference Secretary Reverend Steven Evans reported that minutes were sent out last night at 10:10.

The **motion** was made by **Reverend Steven Evans** that the Minutes be adopted as information with any necessary updates or corrections. The motion was seconded by **Reverend Eric Dent**. The motion carried.

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., then asked the Annual Conference Secretary, Reverend Steven Evans, to call the names of the persons who did not answer the roll electronically. He reminded the conference they were to check in next door.

After the completion of the roll call, Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., then allowed the Director of One Columbia, Margie Reese; Derrek Pough, District Two County Council (Columbia and Blythewood area), and Dr. Aaron Bishop, Richland School District One Commissioner to address the conference.

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., acknowledged the presence of Hamilton Grant and welcomed him home.

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., announced that Allen University will be at the Conference at 11:30 a.m. He encouraged the Conference to visit Allen University and gave an update on an upcoming project for the University where the Emanuel Nine Memorial will be featured. He also talked about the strength of the Emanuel Nine survivors who did not allow what happened to cause them to respond in anger. Their response of "love" set the tone for healing. He prays that every A.M.E. member will always remember June 17, 2015.

He acknowledged the presence of Dr. Ernest McNealy and dismissed us at 11:24 a.m.

**Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.**, Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District; **Mrs. Phyllis N. Green**, Episcopal Supervisor; **Presiding Elder Rosalyn Coleman** of the Columbia District; **Presiding Elder Samuel McPherson** of the Lancaster District; and **Presiding Elder M. Charmaine Ragin-Merrick** of the Newberry District; Conference, Area and Local Leadership on all levels; Pastors, Clergy and Lay people of the 145<sup>th</sup> Session of the Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference.

## **MINUTES OF THE 145<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COLUMBIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 ALLEN UNIVERSITY RALLY**

At 11:38 a.m., the Allen University Rally began with a brief worship service. Presiding Elder Samuel McPherson served as worship leader. The President of Allen University, Dr. Ernest McNeely, greeted the conference and shared the state of the University, in a message titled "Giving Up the But".

Allen University completed the renovation of Higgins and Reed Hall and students are living in both facilities. The \$6.5 million project did not require Allen to assume any obligations.

Dr. McNeely said, in his first year as president, that Allen University would be an Apple campus. Today, he reported that all faculty and staff have iMacs and all students have MacBooks.

The University will show a growth in assets and end the year with a positive balance sheet.

Fundraising efforts continued last year with multiple corporate gifts approaching \$1 million, an effort driven by the Waverly Project.

Allen University had to provide a letter of creditor to the Department of Education to fully participate in financial aid. The University has a perfect rating of 3 on the financial scale that goes from -1 to 3. Dr. McNeely considers this one of the most pleasing accomplishments.

The University has been building relationships with school districts. A lab-based STEM camp for students was held in three school districts this past summer.

The board authorized and the University concluded one of most convoluted transactions. New market tax credits combined with federal historic tax credits, state tax credits and abandoned building tax credits was a \$13.4 million transaction that "concluded without broken bones or broken bodies".



A student was named an All American in wrestling.

Presently the employee to student ration is 1:5, roughly the same as it was last year. About 74% of full-time faculty hold terminal degrees in their discipline, a three percent increase from last year. There are 656 students enrolled in Allen University, four less than the previous year.

This year's budget will be roughly \$28 million, compared to \$25 million the previous year. He noted that \$6.5 million of the budget are external grant monies.

Dr. McNealy said he shared all this information because you don't have to say something good about Allen and then say "but".

The University has had a significant impact on the local economy and the world at large. In addition, to the 130 Allen University employees, an estimated 350 other people work at Allen. The school's economic impact on the local economy is an estimated \$35 million.

Allen is in the process of getting all classrooms equipped with Eco360 by the middle of the semester. Eco360 is a classroom device that allows for recording and for students to participate remotely in real time.

There is difficulty finding a place for the athletes to practice. There are plans to put down an artificial turf field on campus so students can practice without having to travel to other fields. That project will cost a half million dollars.

Dr. McNealy said they seem to be getting closer and closer to having their own athletic complex. They have been trying to buy property and seem to be getting closer so that next fall the soccer, football and women's softball teams can play on their own homefields.

They've been busy working and reworking the Doctor of Ministry program. It will be a two-year program.

The University is going to begin work on Carver Theater, which is on the Register of Historic Places. The cost could range from \$1.2 million to \$3.5 million.

Dr. McNealy informed the Conference that the choir did not join him today because students are traveling to Montgomery to play Tuskegee. He said the band needed to be there to play the fight song and the alma mater when Allen wins the game.

He concluded with saying, if you want to talk about Allen based on the facts; then, you'll have to give up the "but".

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., called for the Presiding Elders of this conference to convene their districts to support the Rally. The donations received are as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Columbia District	\$28,500.00	\$27,845.00
Newberry District	\$22,856.00	\$22,857.00
Lancaster District	\$35,255.00	\$35,030.00
Bishop Green	\$1,650.00	\$2,100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$88,261.00</b>	<b>\$87,832.00</b>

Reverend Cary Grady offered a prayer. Presiding Elder Samuel McPherson gave the benediction and Bishop Green asked the conference to reconvene at 3:00 p.m.

## MINUTES OF THE 145<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COLUMBIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 BUSINESS SESSION NO. 4

Members of the Board of Examiners began devotion at 2:57 p.m.

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., called for the Literary Reports

**Reverend Lester Drayton** offered the **Prison Ministry Report**.

The **motion** to approve the report was moved by **Reverend Timothy McKinzie** and seconded by **Reverend Cassius Barclay**. The motion carried.

Bishop Green said he is going to appoint Reverend Lester Drayton, Jr. to the Connectional Prison Ministry. Retired Bishop John Bryant is the Chair on behalf of the Bishop's Council.

**Reverend Marion Reeves** Offered the **Temperance Report**.

The **motion** to approve the report was moved by **Reverend Dr. Dante' Kenly** and seconded by **Reverend Lawrence Pralour**. The motion carried.

**Reverend James Dennis, III** offered the **Social Action Report**.

The **motion** to approve the report was moved by **Reverend Caesar Richburg** and seconded by **Reverend Dante Kenly**. The motion carried.

**Reverend Dr. Stanley Flowers** offered the State of the Church Report



The **motion** to approve the report was moved by **Reverend Timothy McKinzie** and seconded by **Reverend Dr. Mary Glisson**. The motion carried.

**Reverend Chaunte Rogers** offered the **Church Growth and Development Report**.

The **motion** to approve the report was moved by **Reverend Dr. Dante' Kenley** and seconded by **Reverend James Dennis, III**. The motion carried.

**Reverend Dr. Maxine Sumpter** offered the **Christian Education Report**.

The **motion** to approve the report was moved by **Reverend Timothy McKinzie** and seconded by **Reverend Wanda Y. Rapley**. The motion carried.

**Reverend Dante' Kenly** offered the **Young Adult Ministry Report**.

The **motion** to approve the report was moved by **Reverend Lawrence Pralour** and seconded by **Reverend Cary Grady**. The motion carried.

**Reverend Debra Bradley** offered the **Family Report**.

The **motion** to approve the report was moved by **Reverend Terry Gillyard** and seconded by **Reverend Timothy McKinzie**. The motion carried.

**Reverend Schrendria Robinson** offered the **Incorporation of Churches Report**.

The **motion** to approve the report was moved by **Reverend Dr. Caesar Richburg** and seconded by **Reverend Timothy McKinzie**. The motion carried.

**Patrice Bryant China** offered the **Christian Debutante and Masters Commission Report**.

Patrice Bryant China shared her final report as the DMC Commissioner for the Columbia Conference.

The **motion** to approve the report was moved by **Reverend Timothy McKinzie** and seconded by **Reverend Dr. Maxine Sumpter**. The motion carried.

Bishop Green announced that the DMC Program will be held on Founder's Day at Allen University. Bishop asked that we support this event. The date will be shared at the Planning Meeting.

**Sis. Gloria W. Preston** offered the **MSWAO+PK Report**.

The **motion** to approve the report was moved by **Sis. Andrea Hill** and seconded by **Sis. Joslyn Dennis**. The motion carried.

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr. called for the media team to play the first round of pastors' reports. Reports from the Columbia District (Moore and Cedar Creek) and Lancaster District (Rock Hill and Bethlehem) and Newberry District (White Rock Community Church) were shared.

Reverend Wanda Y. Rapley led the Memorial Service. Columbia Annual Conference memorialized the following:

The Secretary of the Conference called the roll for the last time. The names of our deceased members are as follows: Bishop William P. DeVeaux, Supervisor Lucinda Crawford Belin (Retired), Supervisor Barbara J. Chapelle (Retired), Dr. Jayme Coleman Williams (Retired General Officer), Judge Patricia Mayberry (AME Church Judicial Council), Dr. Chiquita Fye (former Medical Director, AMEC Health Commission), Rev. Marcia Bethel, Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Hurston, Rev. William Brunson, Rev. Jesse Anderson, Rev. Bernice P. Crumlin.

Reverend Dr. George Hicks sang "Oh I Want to See Him".

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr. thanked the Memorial Committee for a beautiful memorial service.

He then asked the Conference to wish Reverend Eddie Mayes a happy 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Bishop allowed Bruce Reeves, a candidate for South Carolina mayor, to address the conference.

The conference was dismissed at 4:51 p.m.

## **MINUTES OF THE 145<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COLUMBIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 ORDINATION SERVICE**

The Ordination Service began at 7:00 p.m. with the processional of the chair of the Board of Examiners, Reverend Dr. Maxine Sumpter, the Dean of the Board of Examiners, Reverend Dr. George Hicks, the candidates for ordination, the Board of Examiners, and the Presiding Elders, Rosalyn Coleman, Samuel McPherson, and Charmain Ragin

Merrick. The choir sang "I Pray We'll All Be Ready" and set the atmosphere for Reverend John Green to preach a sermon titled

## **"Things That Really Matter"** Philippians 4:9-13

<sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.<sup>10</sup> I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Rev. Green challenged the ordinands to focus on the things that really matter. From the apostle Paul, we learn that it doesn't matter how many failures we have in life or how many difficulties or conflicts or struggle that we go through in life. What really matters is what have you learn. After all you've been through, have you learned to trust in God? Did you learn how to call on God, who will never forsake or leave you alone?

Rev. Green also encouraged ordinands to be faithful regardless of what they have. Learn how to count their blessings rather complaining and to count on God instead of themselves.

He further inspired them to do not place their hopes and dreams in things that will fail them but know that time is filled with swift transitions and they better learn to build their hope on things eternal.

On their journey, they ought to have confidence in the God they serve and to always be positive.

During the ordination service, the following were ordained Local Deacons:

1. Marilyn Eichelberger Dorley
2. Elton Otton Spain
3. Sarah Roberson

During the ordinations service, the following were ordained Itinerant Deacons:

1. Jonique Smalls-Comrie
2. Gary Julius Alphonso Dent
3. Vonda Donyale Gallman

4. Benjamin Pratt

During the ordinations service, the following was ordained a Local Elder:

1. Joyce Brown

During the ordinations service, the following were ordained Itinerant Elders:

2. Teresa Galloway Clark
3. Cassandra Sligh Conway
4. Hakim J. Lucas
5. Stepheny Pratt
6. Timothy Taylor