



**THE SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The 145th Session of the

**COLUMBIA
SOUTH CAROLINA**

**ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

**LITERARY
REPORTS**



2022

Pine Grove AME Church

120 Steward Road Columbia, SC 29210

The Right Reverend Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, Episcopal Supervisor

The Reverend Dr. M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick, Host Presiding Elder

The Reverend Rosalyn Grant Coleman, Associate Presiding Elder

The Reverend Samuel McPherson, Associate Presiding Elder

The Reverend James Wesley Dennis, III, Host Pastor

Mrs. Joslyn White Dennis, Host Spouse

***TO GOD BE THE
GLORY!!!***

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JUDICIAL

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Presiding Elder Samuel L. McPherson, Sr.
Reverends: Elaine Eskew, Mary Glisson, Phillip Washington, Steven Evans, Sherry Highbaugh

Report

To be reported live during the Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

TRIERS OF APPEALS

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Presiding Elder M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick
Reverends: Rodella Rivers, Eric Dent, Wanda Rapley, John Lewis

Report

To be reported live during the Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

MINISTERIAL EFFICIENCY

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair:

Carey A. Grady

Reverends:

Tobie Pollock, Rhudene Toomer, James Johnson, Kenneth Taylor

Report

To be reported live during the Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

BOARD OF EXAMINERS

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Presiding Elders: Rosalyn Grant Coleman, Samuel L. McPherson, Sr., M. Charmaine Ragin
Merrick

Reverends: Maxine R. Sumpter, George Hicks, Yvonne Feaster, Jannie Collier, Rhudene
Toomer, Debora Grant Scotland, Stanley Flowers, James Dennis, III, Danté
Kenly, Bobby Seepersaud, Tobie Pollock, Carey Grady, Larry Clark, Dennis
Broughton, Jr., Elaine Eskew, Mary Glisson

Report

To be reported live during the Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

CONFERENCE TRUSTEES

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair:	Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.
Co-Chairs:	Presiding Elders Rosalyn Grant Coleman, Samuel L. McPherson, Sr., and M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick
Reverends:	Caesar Richburg, Carey Grady, James Dennis, III, Debora Grant Scotland, Eric Dent, Ertha Bowman, Steven Evans, Larry Clark, Michael Harp, Timothy McKinzie, Phillip Washington, Mary Glisson, Danté Kenly
Brothers:	Allen Etheredge, Larry Thompson, Edison Dupree, Walter Savage
Sisters:	Yvette Vant, Perdita Ford, Joann Grant, Loretta Thomas, Margie B. Mack

Report

In the interim of the Annual Conference, the Columbia Conference Board of Trustees met on Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 7:00 PM via Zoom Virtual Platform. The purpose of the meeting was to respond to the request made by Bethany AME Church of the Newberry District, Bethany wanted to refinance their mortgage loan with Arthur State Bank by accepting a new offer from First Citizens Bank.

By refinancing with another financial institution, Bethany was able to get a fixed interest rate, lower monthly mortgage payments, save some money and get a glimpse of a foreseeable end to this debt. Presiding Elder Rosalyn Coleman made the motion that Bethany AME Church is approved to proceed with refinancing the loan and enter into an agreement with First Citizens Bank, seconded by Rev. Dr. Dante' Kinley. Using an electronic poll, the Board voted unanimously to grant Bethany approval to proceed with the mortgage agreement with First Citizens Bank.

The church continues to benefit from the relationship which Bishop Green has fostered with First Citizens Bank. Our churches continue to receive reduced interest rates and are able to save thousands of dollars on mortgages. Thanks again Bishop Green for using your influence for the benefit of our churches.

The Columbia Annual Conference Board of Trustees together with the Board of Trustees of the remaining five Annual Conferences and the Episcopal Leadership met with Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., on Saturday, November 20, 2021, 10:00 a.m. at the White Oak Conference Center. The purpose of this meeting was to review an opportunity for the 7th Episcopal District to become owners of a valuable piece of property. The Bishop informed the group that the White Oak Conference Center located at 633 Mobley Hwy., Winnsboro, SC was available for purchase. Bishop explained that our goals for becoming owners of Convention property has simply been altered due to COVID 19. Instead of purchasing property and building the Vision Center the opportunity to purchase a facility that meets the needs of the District was presented. After reviewing the potential use, touring the facility and responding to questions, the combined Board of Trustees from all six (6) Annual Conferences voted unanimously to purchase the property consisting of 218 acres and several buildings.

The Columbia Conference Board of Trustees met again on December 9, 2021, for an update. The purpose of this meeting was to further discuss the purchasing of the White Oak Conference Center. More detailed information about the White Oak property was presented. Bishop gave us a glimpse of the vision and the possibilities that the Conference Center affords the District. Bishop made an appeal for the support of the Board to help raise additional funds by December 31, 2021. Pledge cards were distributed. The Board unanimously agreed to support the fund-raising efforts.

The Columbia Conference Board of Trustees respectfully request that the decision to approve the refinancing of the loan for Bethany AME Church and the decision to proceed with the purchase of the White Oak Conference Center be ratified by this Annual Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,
Annual Conference Trustees

Note Further Recommendations:

1. All churches should follow the Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church as it pertains to securing funds.
2. All churches should be diligent in always keeping financial records readily available for the purpose of fiduciary accountability.
3. Churches should be able to trend and forecast the impact of the pandemic on their financial stability.
4. Churches should consider First Citizens as a primary funding source.

DEEDS, ABSTRACTS, AND ABANDONED PROPERTY

Chair: James F. Johnson Jr
Reverends: Isaac Booker, Timothy McKinzie, Leonard Simmons, Aaron Davis
Timothy Taylor
Brother: Walter Nathaniel
Sisters: Brenda Lumpkin, Lillie Boozer, Lorene Anderson, Crystal McDuffie, Tiffany
Lindsay, Donna Bouknight

Report

We the Committee on Deeds, Abstracts, and Abandoned Property, beg leave to make our report.

- The Presiding Elder's District of Columbia reports that The Columbia District has clear title to the properties.
- The follow-up work in the Presiding Elder's District of Lancaster reports the properties to remain intact to the Connectional A.M.E. Church.
- The Presiding Elder's District of Newberry reports that The District has clear title to the properties.

Recommendation:

Adhere to the 2019 -2020 report on abandoned property in Lancaster District, Newberry, and Columbia Districts.

That the Board of Trustees consider marking, and maybe cleaning them up to discourage further vandalism, and defacing of the property.

Furthermore, it is the committee's recommendation that each District's appointed members, on this committee, make their reports at their District Conference of any abandoned property issues, and forward that report to the conference committee's chair.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Committee on Deeds, Abstracts, and Abandoned Property

INCORPORATION OF CHURCH PROPERTY

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair:	Reverend Schrendria Robinson
Reverends:	Wallace Preston, Ertha Bowman, Cassius Barclay, Leonard Simmons
Brother:	André Thompkins
Sisters:	Margie B. Mack, Rosa Montgomery, Dorothy Wilson, Gloria Williams, Patricia Green, Nytoria Jeter

Report

This report is based on conversations with the Presiding Elders of the Columbia Annual Conference and continued review of South Carolina Secretary of State listing of AME Churches in the Columbia Annual Conference.

Rev. Rosalyn Coleman – Columbia District: It is understood that the churches representing the Columbia District are all deeded in trust for African Methodist Episcopal Church and are properly incorporated.

Rev. Samuel McPherson– Lancaster District: It is understood that the churches representing the Lancaster District are all deeded in trust for African Methodist Episcopal Church and are properly incorporated.

Rev. Dr. M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick – Newberry District: It is understood that 29 of 33 the churches representing the Newberry District are deeded in trust for African Methodist Episcopal Church and are properly incorporated. The following 4 churches: Elisha, Hannah, St. Matthews, and White Rock. After review of their deeds, there was insufficient evidence to validate that properties are properly held in trust for the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the incorporation documentation for those churches is in question.

Recommendations:

1. That Presiding Elders and Leadership in local churches view the language of deeds and incorporation documentation to make sure they are worded as referenced in the 2016 African Methodist Episcopal Church Book of Discipline pages 57-67, section 21, page 67.
2. That Presiding Elders and Leadership of Elisha, Hannah, St. Matthews, and White Rock would expedite legal action to ensure that churches be properly deeded and incorporated.
3. Continued training to provide explanation of two basic reasons for incorporation: to help a church provide clearer rules for operation (Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures) and protection of the membership from liability.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Committee on Incorporation of Church Property

PRESIDING ELDER'S SALARY/UPKEEP

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair:	Reverend Dr. Caesar Richburg
Reverends:	Carey Grady, James Dennis, III, Phillip Washington, Rodella Rivers, Wallace Preston, Sonya Lybrand
Brothers:	Johnathan Williams, Walter Nathaniel
Sisters:	Jurelsan Pratt, Thelma Taylor, Deborah Grate, Gail Pitts, Beulah Kelly

We are grateful for the Life and Ministry of our beloved Presiding Elders and the excellent service in superintending the work/ministry in their respective Presiding Elder District of the Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference. "For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for His Name in serving the saints, as you still do". Hebrew 6:10 ESV

Report

The Columbia District Conference convened on March 25, 2022, via Zoom under the leadership of The Reverend Rosalyn Grant Coleman, Presiding Elder of the Columbia District. The Committee on Presiding Elder's Salary and Upkeep was chaired by The Reverend Dr. Caesar R. Richburg. After consultation with the Presiding Elder, it was agreed that the Presiding Elder's Salary and Upkeep remain unchanged for conference year 2022-2023.

The District Conference of the Lancaster District convened on March 26, 2022, on the campus of Allen University in the John Hurst Adams Gymnasium under the leadership of The Reverend Samuel L. McPherson. The District Conference accepted the recommendation from the Committee on Presiding Elder's Salary and Upkeep along with consultation from Presiding Elder McPherson that the Presiding Elder's Salary and Upkeep would remain unchanged for Conference Year 2022 -2023.

The Newberry District Conference met on February 19, 2022, at Miller Chapel AME Church in Newberry, South Carolina under the leadership of The Reverend Dr. M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick, Presiding Elder of the Newberry District. The District Conference recommendations for the Presiding Elder's Salary and Upkeep for Conference Year 2022 -2023 with reallocation was approved. (See attachment) The motion was made by the Reverend James Wesley Dennis and seconded by The Reverend Michael Harp and The Reverend Dr. Mary Glisson.

The Columbia Annual Conference
The Newberry District
The Reverend Dr. M. Charmain Ragin Merrick, Presiding Elder
Presiding Elder’s Salary and Upkeep
(Attachment)

Pine Grove	\$875.00
Providence.....	\$655.00
Thomas Chapel	\$655.00
Mount Moriah.....	\$655.00
White Hall.....	\$650.00
Miller Chapel	\$650.00
Saint James (Columbia)	\$615.00
Brown Chapel (Columbia).....	\$650.00
Jeter Chapel.....	\$600.00
Lower Mount Olive.....	\$600.00
Bethany	\$500.00
Trinity	\$545.00
Mount Hebron.....	\$415.00
Saint Mark.....	\$415.00
Hannah	\$405.00
Pleasant Grove	\$365.00
Saint James (Pomaria).....	\$350.00
Shiloh	\$350.00
Mont Olive (Kinards).....	\$350.00
Antioch/New Chapel.....	\$340.00
Elisha.....	\$325.00
Bethel (Union)	\$250.00
Lever Chapel.....	\$310.00
Saint Paul	\$310.00
Wateree	\$250.00
Saint Matthew	\$215.00
Paradise	\$180.00
Brown Chapel (Newberry).....	\$156.00
Saint Mary.....	\$145.00
Mount Zion (Jalapa).....	\$125.00
Mount Zion (Little Mountain)	\$125.00

MISSIONS, CIRCUITS, AND STATIONS

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend John G. Davis
Reverends: Rev. Lorenzo Dinkins, Rev. Teresa Clark, Rev. Wayne Pratt, Rev. Jeffery Hunter, Rev. Kayla Eskew, Rev. Eric Ginyard, Rev. Gregory Williams
Brothers: Herbert McCray, Kentavius Lumpkin
Sisters: Emma Geiger, Geraldine Butler, Jacqueline H. Fleming, Rita Wise, Tammy Counts

Report

To the Rt. Rev. Samuel L. Green, Sr., President of the Columbia Annual Conference, Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, Episcopal Supervisor, Bishops of the Church, active and retired, Supervisors, active and retired, Host Presiding Elder Dr. M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick, Associate Presiding Elder Rosalyn Grant Coleman, Columbia District, Associate Presiding Elder Samuel L. McPherson, Sr., Lancaster District, Host Pastor Rev. James Dennis III, Pastors, Delegates and members of the 145th Session of the Columbia Annual Conference, Greetings!

Your Committee on Missions, Circuits, and Stations beg to make its report.

As a committee, we were privileged to consult the three Presiding Elders of this Annual Conference and there are no requests for actions regarding any of the Missions, Circuits, and Stations of this Annual Conference.

However, we are happy to report that White Rock Community Church, Newberry District, has virtual services every week. There have also been several baptisms for this conference year.

Respectfully submitted,

Your Committee on Missions, Circuits, and Stations

CHURCH SCHOOL

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Eric R. Dent
Reverends: Maxine Sumpter, Vincent Hall,
Sisters: Bertha Allen, Luevester Davis, Janet Adams, Gail Pitts, Nytoria Jeter,
Laurene Davis

Report

We, the Church School Committee, beg leave to make our report for the Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference. **We find guidance for the Columbia Conference Church School in 2 Timothy 2:15 King James Version (KJV) 15** “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Our Mission: Shall be to teach, train, and nurture, adults, young adults, college students, teenagers, and children in GOD’S Word; preparing them for Christian service by emphasizing Christian principles. Currently, there are approximately 1200 participants attending Church School throughout the Columbia Conference. Covid-19 has had an adverse impact on Church School Attendance. It is our desire that every church will do its part to bring about a holistic realistic approach to getting our Church School numbers at least back to Pre-Covid attendance.

The Lancaster District Church School met at St. Paul-Shaw in Sumter via in-person and virtual under the leadership of Presiding Elder Sam McPherson on Saturday, June 25th beginning at 8:00 am. This was a very impactful meeting that had one hundred and seventy-five in attendance and forty-five in virtual attendance. The theme was: “It takes a church to raise a village and Evangelism Explosion: Sharing the Faith.” Workshops included power point presentations; it takes a church to raise a village, sharing your faith, and a church without evangelism. The presenters were marvelous, and the young people led in a wonderful enthusiastic manner, Sis. Shameka Sims closed us out with a wonderful address.

The Newberry District Church School met under of the leadership of Presiding Elder M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick on Friday and Saturday via in-person and virtual beginning at 8:00 am. On Friday, June 24th, 136 were in attendance, and on Saturday, June 25th, 153weres in attendance. It was an eventful forum of presenters held in the Gallman Park of Newberry. This gathering included horseback riding, arts and crafts, Bible Jeopardy, Hacking, and biblical instructional points for all ages.

The Columbia District Church School met under the leadership of Presiding Elder Rosalyn Grant Coleman at Big Bethel Columbia SC on Friday, June 17th. and Saturday, June 18th. The theme of this Church School was entitled “Blessed Assurance-Acts 16:31. The Church School consisted of around 200 per day by way of in-person and virtual attendance. The Workshops included teaching for faith development, church growth, and gun violence in our community, and we are in this together. All ages took part in this convention.

In our opinion, Church Schools across the Conference must be open to using more technology during Church School. We must use the tool that God has provided and incorporate PowerPoint, YouTube videos, Maps, Diagrams, etc. to supplement lessons to improve Church School going forward. We also may need to consider more use of Social Media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

to reinforce the life application sections of the lessons throughout the week so that the lessons are not just stories of Sunday/One Day but life changing messages during the entire week

The Church School also has a wonderful opportunity to bridge generational divides/gaps in the Church. To improve our Church School, we need to allow discussions between the young and old to understand different perspectives of the lessons. The time could serve as a village experience so that the Elders could build relationships with the young in order to provide guidance and so that youth could speak and share the reality of the world that we live in today. We believe this would also facilitate church growth and development. It is the desire of this committee that teachers would and should participate in training that includes creative teaching methods and technology to meet the need of this present age. We all have a present calling to fulfill. And yes, Bishop Green, all of us should be in attendance in your Sunday School workshop coming up at the Planning meeting in November.

It is the further belief of this committee that Church School should be taught by multiple teachers forming a team so that different people have the responsibility, and it will draw in more people from different families. We must find a way to decrease the time from an hour to thirty minutes, we should make interactive-that is have activities, games, and takeaways items that encourage continuous learning modalities. Pastors can also preach sermons on the importance of Church School. And we must give rewards and make a big deal about them folks that are on time. We should give on time awards, attendance awards and so on.

One of our current challenges is reaching, teaching, and winning the engagement of our youth and young adults. Our Church Schools are involved in various training opportunities such as Vacation Bible School, Church School in the Park, and programs that recognized various spiritual happenings in the local outlets for the Church School Convention participants, and many other activities. **Our goal is:** To provide a spiritual environment where instructions can stimulate thought and provide a forum where faith can be reinforced through knowledge. **Our Objective is:** To meet the needs of every level of the local church by developing and implementing strategies to educate and guide all members of the Church School in 1) Christian discipleship, 2) Christian leadership, 3) To enhance lesson continuity.

Recommendations:

1. Create a culture that embraces technology inclusive of all ages.
2. Create a curriculum that includes creative methods to enhance and increase church school participation and retention.
3. Create a multi-district church school explosion that meets Virtual once a quarter to present and share new ideas regarding church school growth.
4. Create an annual model to involve youth and young adults in developing leadership skills for succession planning in our church school, inclusive of evaluation.
5. Virtual Breakfast before Sunday School and continue eating while discussing the lesson at least once a quarter.

ANNUITY AND INVESTMENTS

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Kenneth Taylor
Reverends: Carey Grady, Richard McKnight, Rodella Rivers, Stanley Flowers, Bernard Davis, Ruth Robinson
Brother: Tyson Ray, Jr.
Sisters: Joann Grant, Bessie Ruff, Maryann Wright, Audrey Burrell, Fay Henley, Crystal M. Goins

Report

To Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Supervisor Phyllis N. Green, Presiding Elder Rosalyn Coleman, Presiding Elder Samuel McPherson, Presiding Elder M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick and members of the 145th session of the Columbia Annual Conference.

Having been presented with reports of each Presiding Elder District Salary and Annuity, and after reviewing those reports we your Committee on Annuity and Investments offer the following.

Total Amount of Annuities per Presiding Elder District:

	<u>Salaries 2021-2022</u>	<u>Annuity 2021-2022</u>
Columbia	\$617,171.66	\$74,060.60
Lancaster	\$672,510.41	\$97,217.00
Newberry	\$669,728.00	\$44,470.40

The Columbia District has no clergy shortages in Annuity

The Lancaster District has 2 Clergy shortages in Annuity totaling \$3,938.00

Name	Amount
Rev. Dr. Jeffery Hunter	\$3,432.00
Rev. Theodore Green	\$506.00

The Newberry District has no clergy shortages in Annuity

100% of all eligible Pastors are participating and reporting in the Annuity Investment

Recommendation:

All Pastors should continue to support and invest through the Annuity and Investment Department as Per Discipline all Pastors are required to be an enrollee of the Church Annuity Department at a rate of 12% of his or her salary.

Humbly submitted your committee on Annuity and Investments

CLASSIFICATION OF PASTORS

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend John Lewis,
Reverends: George Hicks, Mary Glisson, Larry Clark, Camille Carpenter, Isaac Booker, Stephney Pratt
Brother: Deonta Washington
Sisters: Inda Higgins, Thelma Y. Reese, Elsie Wicker

Report

To: Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green Sr., the Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District.

To: Mrs. Phyllis Nadine Green Episcopal Supervisor of the Seventh Episcopal District.

To: The 147th Session of The Columbia Annual Conference

The Committee on Classification of Pastors beg leave to make our annual report. on the classification of pastors.

According to **The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church**, the following qualifications (for classification of pastors) shall constitute the classes:

CLASS A: Full-time pastors having traveled eight years, and any ordained elder holding a degree from a college or seminary and shall have traveled at least one year as a full-time pastor. Full-time pastors are itinerant elders who wholly and solely give of their time and talents to pastoral duties without any other work, professional, or common, that interferes with or prevent the performance of regular ministerial duties as negotiated between the Pastor and the Board of Stewards.

CLASS B: Itinerant elders having traveled four consecutive years as full- time pastors.

CLASS C: Full-time pastors who are itinerant elders in the AME Church.

CLASS D: Full-time pastors who have not been ordained itinerant elders.

CLASS E: Part-time ministers.

As a result of the above information, and a report from each Presiding Elder’s district, we submit the following:

The Columbia District - Presiding Rosalyn G. Coleman

Classification A - 7 Pastors	Classification C - 0 Pastors
Classification B - 0 Pastors	Classification D - 0 Pastors
Classification E - 19	
Total Pastors Serving - 26	

The Lancaster District - Presiding Elder Samuel McPherson

Classification A - 5 Pastors	Classification C - 3 Pastors
Classification B - 0 Pastors	Classification D - 2 Pastors
Classification E - 16 Pastors	
Total Pastors Serving 26	

The Newberry District - Presiding Elder Dr. Charmaine Ragin Merrick

Classification A - 7 Pastors	Classification C - 0 Pastors
Classification B - 0 Pastors	Classification D - 0 Pastors
Classifications E- 24 Pastors	
Total Pastor 31	

It is our prayer that each pastor will continue to flourish in their ministry while encountering the favor of God.

Respectfully submitted,
Your Committee on Classification of Pastors.

**Presiding Elder Rosalyn G. Coleman
Columbia District List of Pastors**

Names	Church	Classifications		
1. Caesar Richburg	Bethel	A		
2. Kenneth Taylor	Turner Memorial	A		
3. Deborah Scotland	Spring Hill	A		
4. Steven Evans	St. Paul -Irmo	A		
5. Rodella Burns	Bishop Memorial	A		
6. Lester Drayton	Chapelle Memorial	E		
7. Timothy McKenzie	Emanuel	A		
8. John Lewis	Mount Pisgah	E		
9. Elaine Eskew	New Bethel	A		
10. Tobie Pollock	Greater St. Paul	E		
11. Edward Hill	Friendship	E		
12. Marion Reeves	Spring Hill	E		
13. Jose' Lozano	Piney Grove-Gaston	E		
14. Maxine Sumpter	Youngs Chapel	E		
15. Chaunté Rogers	Pine Grove-Peak	E		
16. Lynda R. Jones	St. John	E		
17. Janie Collier	Williams	E		
18. Timothy Taylor	Mt. Zion	E		
19. Michelle Simpkins	Moores	E		
20. Camille Carpenter	Calvary	E		
21. Kayla Eskew	Kala Eskew	E		
22. Deion Richmond	Mill Creek	E		
23. Schrendria Robinson	Mt. Olive	E		
24. Teresa Clark	Stover	E		
25. James Vant	Adam Northeast	E		
26. Krystal McHoney	Greater Hopewell	E		
		A6	E20	T26

**Presiding Elder Dr. M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick
Newberry District Pastors**

	Names	Church	Classifications
1.	Dr. James W. Dennis	Pine Grove	A
2.	Michael Harp	Lower Mount Olive	E
3.	Dr. Dennis Broughton Jr.	Brown Chapel	E
4.	Wanda Rapley	Providence	E
5.	John Davis	Jeter Chapel	A
6.	Dr. Mary Glisson	St. Mark	A
7.	Dr. Bobby Supersaud	Trinity	E
8.	Dr. Jacques Days	Thomas Chapel	E
9.	Angela B. Days	Thomas Chapel	E
10.	Dr. Dante' W. Kenly	St. James	A
11.	Rhudene Toomer	Mt. Olive	A
12.	Wayne Pratt	Mt. Hebron	E
13.	Ertha Bowman	Miller Chapel	E
14.	Dr. Sherry Highbaugh	Mt. Moriah	E
15.	Ronald McFadden - ID	Bethany	E
16.	Sylvia Roberts	Pleasant Grove	E
17.	Rosa Kelly	St. James -Pomeria	E
18.	Silas Spann	White hall	A
19.	Michael Hill	Shiloh/Mt Zion	E
20.	Bernard Davis	Elijah	E
21.	Dr. Richard McKnight	Hannah	E
22.	Isaac Brooker III	Lever Chapel	A
23.	Vonda D. Gallman- Lic.	Antioch/New Chapel	E
24.	Ben Pratt - Lic.	Bethel -Union	E
25.	Stephany Pratt	Wateree	E
26.	Lawerence Pralour -ID	St. Matthew	E
27.	Cassandra S. Conway	Paradise	E
28.	Eric Gilyard	Brown Chapel/ Sweet Springs	E
29.	Theodora Black	Mt. Zion - Jalapa	E
30.	Kenneth Charles	St. Paul	E
31.	Aaron Davis	St. Mary	E
			A7 E24 T31

**Presiding Elder Samuel L. McPherson, Sr.
Lancaster District List of Pastors**

Names	Church	Classifications		
1. Carey Grady	Reid Chapel-Columbia	A		
2. Phillip Washington	High Hill - Dalzell	E		
3. Stanley Flowers	Saint Phillip-Eastover	A		
4. George Hicks	Allen Chapel- Sumter	A		
5. Larry Clark	Bethel -Wedgefield	E		
6. Eric Dent	St. Paul- Shaw	E		
7. Gregory Williams	Orange Hill- Wedgefield	E		
8. Dr. Jeffery Hunter	Saint Paul. Lancaster	E		
9. Wallace Preston	Willow Grove-Harito	E		
10. Lorenzo Dinkins	Pine Grove-Rembert	A		
11. Theodore Green	New Hope- Winnsboro	E		
12. Yvonne Feaster	Saint John- Winnsboro	E		
13. Leonard Simmons	Bethlehem- Winnsboro	E		
14. James Johnson	Shiloh- Eastover	A		
15. Debra Bradley	Lagree-Sumter	A		
16. Ruth Robinson	Saint Luke, Eastover	A		
17. Cassius Barclay	Mount Zion, Winnsboro	E		
18. Sonya Lybrand	Ebenezer- Winnsboro	E		
19. Terry Gillyard	James Chapel-Lugoff	A		
20. Steve Sterling ID	Mount Sinai- Elgin	E		
21. Ernestine Pringle LE	Reeder Point-Columbia	E		
22. Lillie Williams LE	Benjamin Chapel	E		
23. Valerie Walker	Adam Chapel-Rock Hill	E		
24. P.E. McPherson	Jacobs Mission- Elgin	E		
25. P.E. McPherson	Rock Hill- Columbia	E		
26. Janie Williams	Shady Grove- Blythewood	E		
		A8	E18	T26

SOCIAL ACTION

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair:	Reverend James Dennis, III
Reverends:	Ruth Robinson, Steven Evans, Michael Hill, James Johnson, Chaunté McClure, Silas Spann, Stepheny Pratt, Ronald McFadden
Brothers:	Reginald Macon, Tyson Ray, Jr., Edison Dupree, Wallace Wilson
Sisters:	Vonda Gallman, Margie B. Mack, Dorothy Faye Bookman, Connie Lumpkin, Fayette Belton, Jurelsan Pratt, Bria Frye, Perdita Ford, Jacqueline H. Fleming, Keisha Anderson, Jasmine Mean

Report

To the Right Reverend Samuel Lawrence Green, Supervisor Phyllis Green, Presiding Elders, and members of the 145th Session of the Columbia Annual Conference. The Committee on Social Action is pleased to make the following report:

We, the Committee of Social Action, rise to confirm justice and justice-making as a part of our Christian Duty. It is the church's responsibility to champion God's justice and righteousness in these difficult times. Jesus said that when we hear of wars and rumors of wars, natural disasters, and the inhumane treatment of others, to look for his return. Our job is to prepare the way of Christ Jesus in our communities and cities.

Because of the aforementioned, we offer the following recommendations:

- We urge the Social Action Committee of every local church to prepare their churches and communities for the mid-term elections in November 2022. Voting is an essential tool for the change that we so desperately need. We strongly recommend that each Social Action Committee hold a voter's registration drive and a voter's education forum to inspire people to vote in the upcoming elections.
- We also employ the Social Action Committees of the Columbia Conference to join a community organizing organization. We affirm that there is strength in numbers. Local churches cannot tackle the issues plaguing their community by themselves. By joining a local social justice/community organizing organization, local churches will be able to receive the resources and tools they need to solve local issues.
- Finally, we encourage each local church to have one justice-themed worship service. This worship service should highlight justice work as a biblical mandate and inspire congregants to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

We believe these three simple recommendations will help our churches and communities continue the fight for transformation in our communities and world.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Committee on Social Action

CHURCH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair:	Reverend Chaunté Rogers
Reverends:	Gregory Williams, Wanda Rapley, Lester Drayton, Jr., Sonya Lybrand, Theodora Black, James Vant
Brothers:	Terrence Snider, Jeremiah Martin
Sisters:	Geraldine Butler, Gloria Williams, LaMorris Boyles, Joann Richardson, Satina Rena Thompson, Samone Jackson, Jaleesa Boykins, Libra Wilmore, Ashley Pearson, Jervis Perry, Chantel Brown

Report

As the world transitions during the endemic, people are adjusting to societal, personal, mental, physical, relational, and financial changes as a result of the pandemic. Also, among the changes are where we work and where, and if, we worship.

While people are working differently, having shifted to work-from-home environments, people are also worshipping remotely, and in some cases, not at all.

Now leaders are challenged to nurture the growth and development of the church with this increase in virtual-only worshipers, along with supporting and caring for the smaller population of in-person attendees.

With fewer people physically involved, it's imperative that churches are visible in their respective communities to serve, to build relationships, and to evangelize with the potential for gaining new members.

In addition, we must strive to maintain virtual audiences while attracting others to our online ministries and pursue those who have dropped out of church over the past two years.

One constant among the changes in how we do church is Christ. The world can offer many things to people, but only the church can offer Christ. We must continue introducing people to a relationship with Him and offer life-changing discipleship. This is where authentic growth and development occur.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 28:19)

Recommendations:

1. Use our human resources wisely and create collaborative efforts, including evangelism and outreach ministries, amongst churches in presiding elder districts and conferences.
2. Assign someone to engage with virtual worshipers (online and offline) and provide volunteer opportunities for them.
3. Offer annual technology training to help churches improve the quality of virtual services, introducing new software and social media or other online options.
4. Create safe spaces for pastors to meet one-on-one with their presiding elder and for members to meet one-on-one with their pastor for mental health check-ins and to strengthen relationships in the church.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Committee on Church Growth and Development

CHURCH PLANTING

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chairs: Presiding Elders: Rosalyn Grant Coleman, Samuel L. McPherson, M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick
Reverends: Schrendria Robinson, Larry Clark, Kenneth Charles, Lynda Jones, Leonard Simmons, Rosa Kelly, Lorenzo Dinkins **Brothers:** Terrence Snider, Leroy Harvin **Sisters:** Deborah W. Jones, Janet Adams, Adrienne Grant, Tonya Johnson

Report

Church Planting involves both starting and regenerating new growth. The Columbia Conference has been working in both areas. This past year, the pandemic has helped to delay growth in some areas while providing opportunities for growth in other areas.

Newberry District:

White Rock Community Church was planted in 2015. Although growth has been slow in the early years, the pandemic has helped the White Rock Community Church to grow through its virtual services. Although White Rock Community Church is solely a virtual church, this year we baptized four children.

Lancaster District

The Lancaster District continues to explore the Camden area as a potential site for the extension ministry of Pine Grove, Rembert SC

Adams Chapel AME Church in Rock Hill SC continues to make plans for an extension of the ministry in the Indian Land and Chester areas.

Columbia District

The Columbia District continues to explore areas not populated by AME presence, seeking opportunities for ministry. Along with identifying an area to do ministry, the district is also considering virtual opportunities.

If you are aware of an area or a possibility for starting a new ministry, contact your Presiding Elder.

Recommendations:

1. The Lancaster District: Continue working with the extension sites in progress i.e., Camden, Indian Land and Chester.
2. The Newberry District: A pastor be appointed to serve this congregation to continue the progress begun.
3. The Columbia District: To focus on finding persons to help support our efforts in the area of Church Planting.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Committee on Church Planting

STATE OF THE CHURCH

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair:	Reverend Dr. Stanley Flowers
Reverends:	Jose Lozano, Michael Harp, Krystle McHoney, Yvonne Feaster, Teresa Clark, Lawrence Pralour, Michelle Simpkins,
Brothers:	Vincent Taylor, Charlie Smith, Asia Allen
Sisters:	Vergie Moore, Pandora Jones, Fayette Belton, Loretta B. Moon, Jasmine Drayton-Cohen

Report

To: **Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.**, the 125th Elected and Consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Presiding Prelate of the 7th Episcopal District, **Mrs. Phyllis N. Green**, Episcopal Supervisor, **Reverend Dr. M Charmaine Ragin Merrick**, Host Presiding Elder, **Reverend Rosalyn G. Coleman**, Associate Presiding Elder, **Reverend Samuel L. McPherson**, Associate Presiding Elder, and **Reverend James Wesley Dennis III Host Pastor**, Pine Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church, 120 Steward Road Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Our Zion's Viability

The viability of the church lies in her faithfulness. "The church's job is to be faithful. The growth of the church, survival is predicated on the will and power of God. The church's job is to be the church." With membership on the decline in some of our districts, the church must always understand and know its primary mission: to spread the Gospel and be a witness for Christ in our congregations, to our neighbors, and communities where we reside. We must reflect evidence of love, peace, joy, and unity. Our biblical teaching must be consistent and clear. Everything we do must honor God and be within His will for the church. We should never get so caught up in the administrative ministry that we ignore the real issues. Yet in prayer to God, we can ensure divine planning and strategizing for our spiritual and numerical growth as we plant and water knowing God always provides the increase.

As the A.M.E. Church continues to decline in members, the church of God it is critical, and we need to focus on evangelism in our communities and share the Word of God. Immigrants are part of our community. For almost 20 years, people around the world have celebrated World Refugee Day on June 20. Four percent of South Carolina's population is comprised of immigrants. Most immigrants in South Carolina live in the Columbia and Charleston areas.

Our Zion has congregations on every continent, yet most of our congregations in the United States are predominately African American. South Carolina is a refuge state. As immigrants leave these continents the church has an opportunity to come along-side them, making their transition smoother. The church must reach out to the immigrants entering South Carolina to embrace them and

make newcomers welcome in our local congregations. We must welcome and care for the stranger; both foreign and domestic.

We are anchored in God and African Methodism is anchored in rich Christian history. African Methodism is declared the first independent Protestant denomination founded by black people, birthed out of racism, destined to fight against social injustice and stand up for civil and human rights. We are a people not silenced by threats, but vocal through political engagement and social improvement for all minorities.

African Methodism has something worth propagating and has something worth learning from. African Methodism is so important that propagation to other contexts in its current version is necessary. Methodists thought that way in the Second Great Awakening. *Richard Allen* and those who followed him thought in the same vein. We must pick up the banner and run with it. We must move from normalcy. We are a royal nation, a peculiar people. We are filled with the Spirit. Led by the Spirit. The Spirit is ever-present.

Yes, we have churches that are declining in worship, but there are areas where we have not explored; have not witnessed. We cannot stop being the church.

As our congregations' growth ebb and flow, we must continue to explore new territory, seek out places as our fore- parents did, planting churches where people gather. The churches in South Carolina were planted where the populations of people were. In rural South Carolina the churches were planted in the areas where agricultural and manufacturing industries once thrived are gone, and many people moved away because of lack of employment. As a result, many churches in those areas have experienced a significant decline in membership.

The church is more than a building. The church is the people. When one church closes, the members who remain gather and join other churches. When we trace our history, we see this happen time and time again. African Methodists may plant new churches, merge churches, but never give up the mission of the church.

Recommendations:

1. Have more teaching and training on communication skills between senior members and young adults.
2. Invest in more technology that grasps the attention of young adults and meets up with the changes and growth of society.
3. Include both contemporary and traditional music in worship services.
4. Live by the Word of God and not just talk about the Word of God.
5. Pastors and leaders must become more open to change without compromising the Word of God.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Caesar Richburg
Reverends: Carey Grady, Terry Gilyard
Brothers: Bob Gardner, III, Christopher Taylor
Sisters: Frances Watson, Theresa Felder, Kathleen Boyd, Erica Staley, Claretha Conyers, Dorothy Irby, Lynn Caesar

Report

As we gather this week for the 145th Session of The Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference, we all agree that we live in a country that has lived through probably two of the hardest years this nation has ever faced. The pandemic has been punishing. And so many families are living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to keep up with the rising cost of food, gas, housing, and so much more.

Middle-class and working families are having to pay more than seven (7%) of their income for the care of young children. Millions of women have left the workforce because of the pandemic because they couldn't afford childcare, to be able to get back to work. There remains the need for home and long-term care. The need for more affordable housing.

For more than two years, COVID-19 has impacted every decision in American lives and the life of the nation, and many Americans are simply tired, frustrated, and exhausted.

The county has reached new moments in the fight against COVID-19, with severe cases down to levels that are well below the advent of the virus.

The Food and Drug Administration in its fight against COVID-19 continues to look at approving additional booster shots for the nation.

The county continues to be inundated with the heightened level of gun violence across the nation. In addition to the rise in the abuse of law enforcement around the country. The threat of voting rights for people of color, but more specifically for African Americans.

There remains the uprising of white supremacy and nationalism, which has been reenergized by the Trump administration, not to mention the threat to democracy in the country.

Recommendations:

1. Stay protected with vaccines and treatments and remain alert/vigilant for new variants.
2. Form partnerships and collaboration with state agencies regarding ongoing testing sites and making our places of worship vaccination stations.

Respectfully Submitted.
The Committee on State of the Country

TEMPERANCE

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair:	Reverend Marion Reeves
Reverends:	John G. Davis, Leonard Simmons, Dion Richmond, Theodore Green
Brothers:	Antrey Burrell, Jimmie Metts
Sisters:	Bertha Allen, Jervis Perry, Leslie W. Holmes, Dorothy Wilson, Fay Henley, Tanesa Hare, Ashley Pearson

Report

Temperance is defined as moderation in action, thought, or feelings, showing restraint. It is typically described in terms of what an individual voluntarily restrains from doing. This includes restraint from revenge by practicing nonviolence and forgiveness.

References to restraint can be found in our Bibles. James 1:19 tells us, “be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger”. You cannot listen carefully while you are talking, or even while you are thinking about what to say. Many discussions are fruitless for the simple reason that all parties are paying more attention to what they want to say than what others are saying.

Being slow to speak includes the idea of being careful not to be thinking about one’s own thoughts and ideas while someone else is trying to express God’s. We cannot really hear God’s word when our minds are on our own thoughts. We need to keep silent inside as well as outside.

When the appropriate time to speak comes, what is said should be carefully thought out. When we speak for the Lord, we should have the gravest concern that what we say not only is true but is spoken in a way that both edifies those who hear it and honors the Lord in whose behalf we speak. We should pursue every opportunity to read the word ourselves, to hear it preached and taught, and to discuss it with other believers who love, honor, and seek to obey it. At the same time, we should be cautious, patient, and careful when we have opportunity to preach, teach, or explain it to others.

Slow to speak and slow to anger guides us and helps us to avoid hyperbole and volatile rhetoric that can lead to dangerous situations. We must avoid the back-and-forth vitriol that only leads to uncomfortable and regrettable actions. Bitter, harsh, caustic language and criticism seem to be the norm nowadays. Political commentators spewing angry vitriol and rumors have always played a role in politics, but rarely have a backstage operative been so clever and so cynical in the use of vitriol. Temperance allows us to tone it down and walk away. Proverbs 26:20 tells us, “that a fire goes out for a lack of fuel”.

Recommendations:

I appeal to you, therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. *Romans 12:1-2.*

Temperance should be our lifestyle; it is a good self-control tool that should be practiced daily. We must abstain from those things which attempt to separate us from the love of God and allow ourselves to be changed outwardly into conformity to our redeemed inner natures.

The transformed and renewed mind is a mind that's saturated with and controlled by the word of God. It is a mind that spends as little time as possible with the necessary things of earthly living and as much time as possible with the things of God. Only the mind that is constantly being renewed by God's spirit working through God's word is pleasing to God.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Temperance Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair:	Reverend Dr. Maxine R. Sumpter
Reverends:	Eric Dent, G. Bernard, Davis, Jannie Collier, Wanda Rapley, Vincent Hall, Cassius Barclay
Brothers:	Leroy Harvin, Jr., Deonta Washington
Sisters:	Brianna Patterson, Tammy Counts, Mary Thomas, Lakeria Pearson, Janet Adams, Luevester Davis, Asia Allen, Georgia F. Hawkins

Report

Overview

A scriptural foundation for the ministry of Christian Education is Ephesians 4:11-12, which states, *“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ,”* (Life Application Study Bible).

As we know, our world has quickly shifted in ways that we have never seen or experienced before. The church should position itself to make the shift and to provide leadership and guidance to a changing and troubled world. We must be prepared to face the facts of declining membership in our brick-and-mortar facilities and move into a perpetual atmosphere of virtual spaces. We must employ different delivery systems in our preaching and teaching ministries to fulfill the needs of today’s multicultural, multigenerational, and multi-theological, world.

In keeping with our mission of undergirding other ministries of the church, the Columbia Conference Christian Education Department is pleased to share its accomplishments this Conference Year

1. The Conference Christian Education Committee supported and undergirded the evangelism training sponsored by the 7th Episcopal District’s Evangelism efforts by paying the registration fee for the lead participants of each District in our Conference.
2. We responded to the call of the Christian Education Leadership Conference Team by developing and submitting a display of the futuristic church. The visual display depicting the Episcopal theme, “The Beyond” was designed to help participants imagine the church, community, and world of the future church. The title of our display was “Church Without Borders.” The display included a rolling video presentation and objects representing critical thinking of the who, what, why, and how the futuristic church will evolve and is evolving from brick-and-mortar structures to church without borders. The church without borders display depicted a walk from what is now to even out of space ministry.

The Conference Christian Education Committee display was designed, developed, and implemented by the collaborative efforts of the following subcommittee members:

Rev. Bernard Davis, Newberry District
Rev. Wanda Rapley, Newberry District
Bro. Bernard Gilliard, Columbia District
Sis. Shamioka Sims, Lancaster District
Dr. Martha Graham, Columbia District
Rev. Dr. Maxine Sumpter, Conference Chairperson

We strongly believe that the Christian Education ministry should play a vital role in growing our

churches spiritually, numerically, and financially in our fast-changing world. Christian education should play a major role in programming that encourages paradigm shifts and transformation to enable churches to embrace the future.

Recommendation

1. Ensure that Covid is no longer used as a weapon against the mindset of the church, but rather as an opportunity for growth. We recommend that this be done through organized platforms for sharing principles and examples of churches that continue to succeed by growing spiritually, numerically, and financially in spite of Covid and other changing world systems.

We, the members of the Columbia Annual Conference Christian Education Committee, would like to take this opportunity to thank Bishop Green and Supervisor Green for their support and for the opportunity to serve in the ministry of Christian Education.

We, the members of the Columbia Annual Conference Christian Education Committee, would like to thank the Presiding Elders of the Columbia Annual Conference; Presiding Elder Rosalyn G. Coleman, Presiding Elder Samuel McPherson, and Presiding Elder M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick for their support and for the opportunity to serve.

We, the members of the Columbia Annual Conference Christian Education Committee, would also like to thank the district and local church Christian Education Directors who served diligently in the ministry of Christian Education this Conference year.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Maxine R. Sumpter,
Conference Christian Education Director

FAMILY LIFE

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Debra Bradley
Reverends: Cassandra Sligh Conway, Janie Williams, Terry Gilyard
Brother: William Anderson
Sisters: Brenda Geiger, Bessie Ruff, Kathy Rabb, Rita Wise, Brenda Lumpkin, Patience Stevenson, Rebekah Brackenridge

Report

There are many negative factors which are affecting the lives of Black families. Child Trends, a leading research organization conducted a study in 2021 that focused exclusively on improving the lives of families. Their research/study illuminated what is relevant to Black families and children in the United States. It also shed light on the role of federal policies in creating, maintaining, and addressing inequities with a specific focus on access to early care and education for Black families.

The impact of structural and social racism has shaped the idiosyncrasies in laws, policies, and practices that have built racist institutions and created and exacerbated inequality. This inequality has affected the foundation of the family. This inequality has also continued to manifest a system that supports white privilege. In essence, this outlook has intentional disadvantaged the black family structure and life. These inequalities in policies have negatively impacted the lives of Black people in several ways, including where they live; the education they receive; their employment and economic opportunities, access to childcare, mental and physical health outcomes, political standing and power; and the way they are treated in our systems of law and justice.

Virtually every facet of the lives of black families has experienced the impact of systematic laws and policies, regardless of their socioeconomic status or social standing. Pew research suggests that black households have only 10 cents in wealth for every dollar held by white households. It also suggested that an overwhelming majority of blacks (92%) say whites benefit from societal advantages more than blacks. These indicators remind us that we are not there yet, and they imply that there is much work to be done. However, we should pause to celebrate the accomplishments of those who pressed forward to build a wholesome family life. Despite the disparities found in the structural layout, we should also acknowledge and celebrate the positive effects of building a healthy family life.

Recommendations:

1. Our churches should:
2. Continue to encourage, promote, and inspire families to pursue employment, and higher education.
3. Provide emotional and spiritual support to families who are displaced.
4. Empower families to seek federal agencies and resources.
5. Help the family to have a positive outlook on life despite living in an incongruent society.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Brother Alex Blocker
Brothers: Jeremiah Days, Justin Irby
Sisters: Miranda Blocker, Adriane Boulware, Andrea Byrd, Robin Cleckley, Cierra Bowers, Cheyanne Chambers, Kristyn Webber, Destinee Taylor, Ashton Jackson, Nadhea Wiley, Gabriella Evans, LaAdrain Kinsler, Doretta Irby, Diamond Jones, Precious Jones, Shyla Brailsford

Report

To the Right Reverend Samuel Lawrence Green, Supervisor Phyllis Green, Presiding Elders, and members of the 145th Session of the Columbia Annual Conference. The Committee on Youth Ministries is pleased to make the following report:

This year, we have intentionally continued our purpose of educating our youth about Christ, the Connectional Church, and the Women's Missionary Society. Our meetings strive to prepare our youth for a lifelong walk with Christ. Youth were exposed to tips on navigating during the pandemic, preparing for the journey back to school, and connecting to Jesus Christ through prayer and Bible study.

Our youth supported their communities by donating through Souper Bowl of Caring, sharing boxes with Samaritan Purse, adopting families through Family Helping Families and the Angel Tree, and donating care packages to daycares, hospitals, and nursing homes. Additionally, our youth participated in Self Denial Week by volunteering at food banks, uploading inspirational messages on social media, and showcasing their talent through various forms.

Recommendations:

- Continue to create and execute programs and events that have value and purpose.
- Partner with other youth ministries on all levels and share ideas as we plan activities.
- Work with local churches to have one youth-led event a quarter.
- Continue using social media platforms to communicate and stay connected.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Danté Kenly

Reverends: Valarie Walker, James Dennis, III, James Vant, Krystle McHoney, Lawrence Pralour, Steven Dowling, Noluthando Ntsangani, Vincent Hall, Dion Richmond

Brothers: Deonta Washington, Jerimiah Martin, Benjamin Pratt

Sisters: Shay Robinson, Christy Wise, Jonique M. Small Washington, Shamioka B. Johnson Sims, Stacy S. Nelson, Ayanna Broadus, Jalessa Boykins, Kimberly Stubbs, LaAdrian Kinsler, Brandy Mayers, Ahmirah Wilmore, Adrian Koon

Report

SEE THE RAYAC REPORT

PRISON MINISTRY

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Lester J. Drayton, Jr.
Reverends: Debra Bradley, Dr. Sherry Highbaugh, Janie Williams, Silas Spann, Sylvia Roberts
Sisters: Bertha Allen, Luevester Davis, Janet Adams, Gail Pitts, Nytoria Jeter, Laurene Davis

Report

Greetings to the 145th Session of the Columbia, South Carolina Annual Conference. We, the members of the Committee on Prison Ministry, beg leave to make our report.

Review of Some Statistics:

There are currently 38,000 people incarcerated in the state of South Carolina. Over 55% are housed by the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC), about 29% are in local county prisons throughout the state, 12% are housed in the four federal prisons located in South Carolina, and about 3% are youthful offenders. While there is a slight decline in new incarcerations, in part due to COVID-19, the rate has increased for non-white offenders. Seeing that non-white offenders in general, blacks in particular, make up far less of the state's population, they are imprisoned at a much higher rate. This clearly points to a racial disparity within our justice system, from the charges they receive to the sentence they are given.

In addition, while the United States towers above every other nation in the world by more than 5 times the average worldwide as it relates to imprisonment, South Carolina even surpasses the United States rate. One can enter any prison, whether a state, federal or local system and find that people of color are overrepresented. While these statistics point out social justice issues, they offer valuable information to churches in our Zion that have prison ministries.

Currently, the recidivism rate in South Carolina fluctuates between 20-23% over the past eight years. What is not immediately known is the rate of those who participate or attend religious services and Bible studies is less than 8%. Ministries like Prison Fellowship, JumpStart, Kairos of SC, Columbia International University Prison Initiative, etc., are helping to lower the recidivism rate by churning out inmates that have grown spirituality and are ready to reenter society intending on being who God wants them to be. Some inmates that were involved in ministry while incarcerated have entered active ministry within outreach organizations, halfway houses and even churches after leaving prison.

Reflection of the Scriptures:

This is good news for us! Churches with prison ministries are contributing to the impact of the redemptive process inmates experience when brought face-to-face with the Gospel. Since our prisons are overpopulated with people that look like us, it is reasonable to believe that we stand a great chance in making a significant difference in combating the stigma the system has placed on our brothers and sisters. Due to a lack of access to inmates because of the pandemic, inmates still benefitted from active prison ministries by receiving hygiene and meals brought in during the holidays. We even have churches that annually participate in Angel Tree to get Christmas gifts to the families of incarcerated inmates.

In conclusion, while we are tormented by maltreatment of a system that is unfair to blacks, we cannot forget to minister to those that are behind bars. In Matthew 25, Jesus articulates a mandate for missions, and He mentions the prisons as part of that mission. When the question is asked in verse 39, “when did we see You in prison and ministered to You?” He then said, *Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.* ~ Matthew 25:40 NIV

Recommendations to the Church:

We understand that there are various prison systems we can visit and various ways we can increase our involvement. Therefore, we, the Committee on Prison Ministry, wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. **Pray for the inmates.** The Bible clearly lets us know how God feels about the incarcerated and how they are treated. The Bible challenges us to “*continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering*” (Hebrews 13:3 NIV).
2. **Seek out AME members that are incarcerated.** Believe it or not, there members of our churches that are imprisoned, most of them are not connected to their local church. All churches are urged to identify if they have members past or present that are in prison and make every effort to restore them to fellowship. Work with the prison chaplain at their institution to assist with this.
3. **Consider accepting the incarcerated into membership at your churches.** Inmates are no exception when it comes to evangelism. Inmates tend to hold their allegiance to the ministry that has cared for them during their time in prison. They get saved in prison and some even get baptized in prison. Why can't our church participate in the process of one of them coming to Christ and be baptized into the fellowship of the AME Church?
4. **Register to become a volunteer with the prison your church wants to minister in.** Prisons are required to conduct background checks on everyone desiring to enter the prison. Complete the required paperwork to be able to go in to conduct Bible study, life skills classes, pastoral visits and conduct worship services.
5. **Support prisoners though donating their various needs.** Inmates are often in need of some essentials like hygiene, paper, and envelopes, etc. Check with each institution to determine their needs and give generously.

Respectfully submitted,

The Committee on Prison Ministry for the 145th Session of the Columbia, South Carolina Annual Conference

HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair:	Reverend Camille Carpenter
Reverends:	Wanda Y. Rapley, Tobie H. Pollock, Theodore Green,
Sisters:	Deborah Grate, Debra Bradley
Brothers:	Herbert McCray, Charlie Smith

Report

To The Right Rev. Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District; Supervisor Phyllis N. Green, Episcopal Supervisor. Host Presiding Elder; Reverend Dr. M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick Newberry District, Associate Presiding Elders: Reverend Rosalyn G. Coleman Columbia District, Reverend Samuel McPherson Lancaster District, and Reverend James Dennis III, Host Pastor and First Lady Joslyn Dennis; Pastors, Clergy, Delegates, Laity, and Guests of the 145th Session of the Columbia Annual Conference.

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we the Hospital Ministry, beg leave to make our report. In the 2021 Annual Conference report, we presented four recommendations.

Our report this year, will focus on one of the recommendations:

To identify contact persons within local hospitals and organizations in each Presiding Elder's District in the healthcare arena [amend 9/2021]. We, the members of the hospital committee recommend for the benefit of our Zion that each Presiding Elder District maintain a list of chaplains and clergy who can provide the following:

- Spiritual and emotional support to the patient and their family.
- Information for the patient and their family of health care facilities regarding policies during times of highly infectious diseases.

Research continues to show that the COVID virus remains active throughout the world. Although, the number of deaths and infected persons has decreased with the mass number of citizens receiving vaccines and previous infected persons. Many of the hospitals and nursing homes have made allowances for family members to visit non – Covid patients, as well as Covid patients who are not on ventilators. Each facility has established individual guidelines with regards to visitation.

The committee recommends that in the 2023 conference year, the Hospital Ministry Committee with guidance from the Columbia Conference Presiding Elder's create a network directory of licensed, specialists and/or certified persons who have the ability and/or expertise to offer healthcare, counseling, training, specialized certifications (CPR, etc.) in order to equip and/or minister to those in our Zion.

We will continue to review and implement one of the following recommendations annually:

1. Research avenues in which to host continuing education, certifications, networking, internships, and resource opportunities geared towards hospital ministry.
2. Establish partnerships or identify a contact person with local hospitals and organizations within each Presiding Elder's District to promote hospital ministry opportunities. (Deadline, March 2023).

3. Create a network directory of licensed, specialists and/or certified persons who have the ability and/or expertise to offer healthcare, counseling, training, specialized certifications (CPR, etc.) in order to equip and/or minister to those in our Zion. (Deadline by May, 2024).
4. Promotion of bereavement/grief counseling seminars for both clergy and laity in each presiding elders district.

The Hospital Ministry would like to thank The Right Rev. Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the 7th Episcopal District, the Presiding Elders, and the Columbia Annual Conference for the opportunity to serve on the 2022 Hospital Ministry Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
The Hospital Ministry Committee,

DISASTER AND PREPAREDNESS

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Disaster follows disaster; the whole land lies in ruins. In an instant my tents are destroyed, my shelter in a moment. Jeremiah 4:20

Chair: Reverend Sylvia Roberts
Reverends: Rodella Rivers, Cassandra Conway-Sligh, Casius Barclay
Brother: Steven Dowling
Sisters: Sierra Hampton, Fayette Belton, Shaundra Moreland

Report

To: **The Right Reverend Samuel Lawrence Green Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District, Supervisor Phyllis N. Green, Episcopal Supervisor of the Seventh Episcopal District, Reverend James Wesley Dennis III Host Pastor, Reverend Dr. M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick, Host Presiding Elder Newberry District, Reverend Rosalyn G. Coleman, Associate Presiding Elder Columbia District, Reverend Samuel McPherson, Associate Presiding Elder Lancaster District,** the Delegates, Alternates and Members of the 145th Session of the Columbia Annual Conference; we humbly submit the following report from the committee on Disaster Preparedness:

As earlier reports to this blessed body have been conveyed, the urgent need for planning is clear. Last year we pointed out wildfires “in the state of California” in which they are still battling today. Now we need to turn our attention to the floods in the state of Mississippi. Especially, in Jackson MS of the great Pearl River. Families had to evacuate, homes are flooded and there is no clean drinking water. We are praying for the churches that may have experience s flooding issues in the Eight Episcopal District. We are mindful that South Carolina, we continue experience high sea levels in Charleston which makes flooding the norm of the low county. In Disaster Preparedness, one must think now about protecting and planning for natural disasters, hurricanes, COVID 19 and life-disrupting events due to these natural disasters. We must educate ourselves, especially to protect the community of color. We, (community of color) continue and always more likely to be unequally affected by natural disasters.

We, the Columbia and Newberry Districts, in partnership with a Disaster Preparedness Grant through South Carolina State University, the train to trainer model continue to do training in the community. We continue to supply training on Disaster Preparedness Train to Trainer (TNT) model in various agencies on becoming prepared during a disaster. We have hosted the 2nd Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Conference via Zoom. The conference was well attended by 35 agencies that participated. Also, various radio stations in Aiken S.C provided the train to trainer model for 15 radio sites in their catchment area.

There are three tropical storms predicted for 2022 named: Earl, Danielle and Javier. According to the National Hurricane Center, the storms will be destructive due to the warm waters in the Atlantic Ocean, which will bring heavy rain and storm surges that will also lead to flooding in many areas, from Florida to South Carolina except for Javier. Javier is a threat to eastern pacific coast as per the report. It is reported that all shipping lines be aware of the storms.

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) 2022, continue to report that South Carolina continues to be one of the most vulnerable states in the nation, to be affected by hurricanes and tropical storms. The effects of these hurricanes include high winds, tornadoes, and

inland flooding associated with heavy rainfall that usually goes with these storms. As we remember other hurricanes that have plagued our state with lives loss and property damage, we need to be on alert to be more prepared. The cost is insurmountable due to these natural disasters.

As we make this report to the Columbia Conference of the Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, we implore you to be more vigilant and ready to have emergency management protocols set up within our local congregations. As the pandemic (COVID 19) continue to plague our nation and other nations; we (each local church) should follow the directives of the CDC and the Seventh Episcopal District of AME church Health Ministry to control or minimized the spreading of this dreadful virus through our local churches. It is recommended that the Columbia Conference, and all conferences to follow these important guidelines to protect God's People.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The first point of contact in an emergency should be the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, SCEMD 2779 Fish Hatchery Road, West Columbia South Carolina 29172, (803) 737-8500, EMAIL: www.SCEMD.org You can click on the link to find your zone for more information on planning, evacuation route and shelter instructions in your county.
- Each Presiding Elder District needs to address the emergency preparedness planning within their local churches. This includes periodical checks upon proper insurance coverage to include flood damage insurance by Prelate of the 7th Episcopal District Bishop Samuel L. Green and his committee.
- Continue to develop and cooperate with efforts currently in place, to inform our church populations on the need to investigate and apply methods of preparedness on multiple levels, so that persons who need care are not overlooked and are provided with the care they need. Churches need to be encouraged to design respite sites with emergency bags, beds, blankets, cell phone chargers and etc. for persons who may be displaced.
- An updated and current resource manual of Emergency Preparedness planning needs to be developed for each Presiding Elder District to include manual which needs to be found at the Episcopal Office in case of a disaster.

Respectfully submitted by
The Disaster Preparedness Committee

LAY ORGANIZATION

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair:	Brother Larry Thompson
Brothers:	Laval Oxendine, Alonzo C. Lewis, Allen D. Etheredge, Reggie Wicker, Ervin Lane, Edison Dupree, Warnell Rhett, James Green, Walter Nathaniel, Darris Hassell, Bruce Fuller, DaMarkus Robinson, Eric Jeffcoat, Adrian Koon, Kendrick Cleckley
Sisters	Thelma Griggs, Margie Mickle, Cynthia Toland, Pamela Griddine, Joretha Jenerette, Deborah Portee, S. Yvette Vant, Evon Whitt, Eunice Miller, Connie Lumpkin, Loretta Moon, Anne Brewer, Diane Caldwell, Niovia Davis, Barbara Means, Diane Boyd, Sioux N. Taylor, Perdita Ford

Report

Salutations: Greetings on behalf of the Columbia Conference Laity in the Precious and Powerful Name of Jesus, the Christ.

Through much prayer, the Laity of the Columbia Conference along with the pastors, continues to faithfully fulfill the great mission of our Zion, the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Conference Lay meetings were held bi-monthly. God allowed the Laity to stay connected by conference calls and virtual and in-person meetings with CDC Covid-19 protocols in place.

The Columbia Conference welcomed two new district Presidents: Dr. Reggie Wicker (Newberry District) and Brother Allen Etheredge (Columbia District).

The Columbia Conference had its major fundraiser (Columbia Conference Insulated Travel Mugs). We are grateful for the assistance of Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green.

The Columbia Conference Laity, Presiding Elders and Pastors participated in the SED Lay Retreat, which was held at the Sheraton in Myrtle Beach, SC., under the leadership of President, Keith Britton.

The Columbia Conference Laity, Presiding Elders and Pastors thanked our SED Lay President, Brother Keith E. Britton, for allowing the Conference to host the 2022 State Lay Convention which was held on the campus of Allen University.

The Laity are excited about the purchase of the White Oak Convention Center (The Vision Center) in Winnsboro, SC. To God Be the Glory!

Virtual Health Forums were held across the Columbia Annual Conference:

- Dr. Linda Bell, South Carolina DHEC State Epidemiologist, speaker
- Ms. Lisa Scott, spoke about colorectal cancer
- Recognized Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Month (October)

Additional Forums were held across the Columbia Annual Conference:

- The Honorable Wendy Brawley, House District 70, gave updates on what is happening at the State House, including the upcoming elections and how important it is to complete your US Census form when received.
- Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott discussed getting more of our young people more involved in our church activities on all levels. He noted that young people are knowledgeable of where we keep guns in our vehicles.
- A request was made to have Ms. Sarah Clingman, Attorney at Law, continue her conversation about Family Law.
- Brother Laval Oxendine (SED Lay Parliamentary), a nationally certified parliamentarian, gave updates on the different types of motions.

The Columbia Conference Lay had representation at the Spring Connectional Lay Executive Board Meeting in New Orleans.

The Columbia Conference Lay had representation at the General Board Meeting (Observers), Investiture, Christian Education, and Sons of Allen meetings, which were held in Atlanta, Georgia.

With grateful hearts, we continued our lay ministry with Harvest Hope Food Bank of Columbia, United Ministries of Sumter, Grieving Needs Foundation of Winnsboro, Bryan Center Nursing Facilities, and Butler's Home Care (Prosperity). We could not visit these facilities due to the COVID-19 Pandemic; our contact was through the family members. We continued our card ministry to the active military members as well.

We give special thanks to our Presiding Elders - Reverend Rosalyn G. Coleman, Reverend Dr. M. Charmaine Ragin-Merrick, and Reverend Samuel L. McPherson, Sr. - for their leadership, support, and encouragement.

Recommendations:

1. Encourage the parents of youth to get their kids who are eligible vaccinated for COVID-19.
2. Continue to help the youth to learn computer skills to complete their homework assignments, especially in rural areas where no internet access is available.
3. Continue to contribute monetary donations for the youth to attend summer camps.
4. Continue to ask the laity to attend other annual conferences, not only during the SED Lay Retreat, State Lay Convention, and Annual Conference Series.

CLASS LEADERS

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair:	Reverend Lynda R. Jones
Reverends:	Dr. Stanley Flowers, Michael Hill
Brothers:	Walter Nathaniel, DeMarkus Robinson
Sister:	Diane La Brew

Report

To: The Right Reverend Samuel L. Green Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District, Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, Episcopal Supervisor; Reverend Dr. M. Charmaine Ragin-Merrick, Host Presiding Elder; Reverend Samuel McPherson, Associate Presiding Elder; Reverend Rosalyn G. Coleman, Associate Presiding Elder; Reverend James Dennis, Host Pastor, other pastors and ordained ministers, conference chairpersons and delegates of the 145th Session of the Columbia Annual Conference, we the Committee on Class Leaders wish to make our report.

The Class Leader System within the A.M. E. Church can be described as the lifeblood of the church because of the spiritual and vital role it has played and continues to play within the growth of the church. One of the main ingredients of the Class Leader System is to instill piety and Christian commitment in those who would come to affiliate with the church. The Class Leader System was introduced at the very first General Conference of the A.M.E. Church. Bishop Richard Allen adopted the “Class Leader System,” that was initially instituted by John Wesley. Later, Bishop Henry McNeal Turner was given recognition for promoting the importance of the “Class Leader System.”

As we continue to live and strive in this era of Covid-19 pandemic, the question is: “When you can no longer go to the church; can the Church still be the Church?” We often hear the phrase “the Church doors were shut” but if we can reevaluate that statement, it would be safe to say, the Church doors were never shut but opened to new ways to do ministry. Covid-19 pandemic can also be seen as a catalyst for reimagining and implementing the “Great Commission”, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19) Covid-19 has helped to reiterate the importance of the Class Leader System. Staying connected during the Covid-19 pandemic reminded so many of us how important relationships are within the body of Christ and our personal lives.

Therefore, moving forward and as we rethink Church, it’s imperative that the “Class Leader System” be implemented and practiced according to Biblical principles and the discipline within every local congregation in our Zion. As the physical heart pumps and supplies blood to the body, the “Class Leader System” is the heart of Methodism that makes sure every member is accounted for and connected to the body of Christ. Pastors are to be prayerful in assigning Class Leaders because their selection could either have a positive or negative effect within the body of Christ. Class Leaders are to be sincere and serious about the call of Christ. One that shares the Gospel and not the gossip. The Class Leader System is a two-way street and the primary focus is to establish meaningful relationships that go beyond the walls of the church.

In conclusion, we would like to make the following recommendations.

Recommendations:

1. That the Class Leaders follow the teaching of Christ through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Leaders are to develop a plan for regular contact with class members to encourage and help them grow in discipleship as each one reaches one.
2. Class leaders are called to continual training as they expand and familiarize themselves with resources to support class members as they provide ministries for the 21st century. The Bible is the key point of contact. A concise study of the church discipline and spiritual literature are also helpful in connecting disciples.
3. The class leader should meet monthly with the pastor to keep the pastor informed of their ministry. This will also be a great opportunity for the pastor to offer encouragement and additional resources if needed. The Pastor is the spiritual leader in charge of the class leaders that are appointed.
4. Learn new technology to keep in touch with members and families by phone, text, email, FaceTime, Zoom, Facebook, etc....
5. Send birthday cards, handwritten cards, gifts, prayers, words of encouragement, and small gestures to show your love and care.
6. Remember, relationships are fundamental. People often are not concerned with how much you know, but how much you care. Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Humbly submitted on this day during the 145th Session of the Columbia Annual Conference.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference



The Columbia Annual Conference

Date: September 09/ 21//2022

Columbia Conference Branch Women's Missionary Society

Felita Grady Hicks, President

To: The Right Reverend Samuel L. Green, Sr.

Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, Episcopal Supervisor, and the members of the 145th Session of the Columbia Annual Conference

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. O magnify the Lord with me and exalt His name for ever.

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, whose mission of mercy on Calvary's rugged cross has allowed each of us the opportunity to serve as missionaries in an ever-changing world. COVID-19 has changed the way we live, the way we work, the way we worship, the way we socialize, and the way we help others. In spite of the challenges of the pandemic, we have been able to continue the work of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, comforting the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing those who are naked and caring for our young people in exemplary fashion. It is in that spirit, that I submit the report of the Columbia Conference Women's Missionary Society for conference year 2021-2022.

God's Commission, Our Mission, Our Calling, we are committed to empowering women, embracing the child, and Eradicating Hunger.

Our Conference theme this year: Heeding the Call, Sharing the Word and Loving God's people.

The Columbia Conference WMS began the Conference Year by continuing the fight against Breast Cancer by participating in the Walk for Life. We walked in support of breast cancer survivors, and in memory of those who fought valiantly. The third Sunday in October was set aside to wear pink to highlight the struggle for a cure. Churches provided information on mammography and buddy systems were set up in local societies to ensure that women scheduled their mammograms and other follow up services designed to keep women safe.

The tragedy of Domestic Violence was highlighted on the fourth Sunday in October. Missionaries and supporters dressed in purple to bring attention to the fact that South Carolina ranks in the top five in the nation for violence toward women. We heard from domestic violence survivors and counselors and committed ourselves to becoming more observant of those who may be suffering in plain sight. We also heard from the late Dr. Sonya Davis Lewis a domestic abuse survivor who tragically was killed several months later in a tragic accident while at a rally.

The missionaries of the conference recommitted themselves to the work of missions at our planning meeting held on November 2021. Each Commissioner presented her goals and objectives for the year. Our featured speaker for this meeting was: Dr. Ashley Cleveland who presented our Self Care Module; ***Questions to ask your Health Care provider.*** A healthy missionary is an effective missionary.

The Episcopal focus was shared, and we will continue our partnership with Compassion International, the outreach to young people in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Brazil. To undergird our mission activities, we adopted the *following Sustainable Goals for 2022.*

1. *Good Health and well-being,*
2. *Decent work and economic growth,*
3. *Zero hunger*
4. *Eradicating Poverty.* In all of our mission activities we respond with the intent to make a difference in the lives of those both near and in our communities

We returned to an in-person WMS Retreat in Myrtle Beach in January and the Conference attended in large numbers. Transform her: the theme of the retreat was planned entirely by our Young Adult Missionaries. We thank the Young Adult Missionaries from the Columbia Conference sisters Quianna Couthen and Jessica Jones and Shakira Robinson in for serving on the planning committee and facilitating sessions all designed to bolster.

In January, we also attended the Connectional Board Meeting, in Atlanta Georgia under the leadership of our Connectional President, Dr. Deborah Taylor King. This meeting was spiritual, inspiring, and planned to perfection by the Connectional Executive Board.

The February focus for missionaries was the fight against heart disease in women. We wore red on the third Sunday of the month shared heart health information in our congregations and participated in walks and fitness activities to ensure that no woman should die of a broken heart.

Our education meeting was held on February 6, 2022. During our meeting we continued our focus on self-care by shared information on *Meditation & Mindfulness. Ms. Jazmyne Spain, our mindfulness guru, urged us to slow down and spend time observing and reflecting on our thoughts, staying in the present, the importance of relaxation and getting rid of the tendency to be so hard on ourselves. If we don't take the time to relax and renew we will be of no help to our families and those we serve through our mission activities.

During the meeting we also reviewed the constitution and discussed the changes that were made at last Quadrennial and ratified at the General Conference

Heart Healthy Cooking Demonstration

The Heart Healthy cooking demonstration was conducted by a "Surprise Chef" the Rev. Dr. George E. Hicks. He prepared a no-bake graham cracker dessert which included graham crackers, applesauce, and Cool whip. YUMMY 😊😊😊

Each Area met during the months of February and March and presented information on social justice and political activism, and domestic violence. We heard from Dr. Patricia Witherspoon who presented a comprehensive overview of Diabetes and its toll on our community. As a conference we are working to lower A1C's and blood pressures.

We heard from former Rep. Wendy Brawley who enlightened us on the need to vote and to educate ourselves about what is happening not only nationally, but also in our communities. The SC State

legislature is attempting to roll back some gains that have been made and if we are not careful we find ourselves without a voice.

We wore orange in June and marched MDA moms demand action continued to demand action on gun violence by our legislators. Letters were written d to demand change particularly after the Uvalde student and teacher massacre.

This connectional project urges advocacy and awareness about the tragedy of gun violence in the United States. Missionaries wore orange, held rallies and programs the weekend of June 4-6, 2021 and remembered the Emmanuel Nine.

We officially launched the MOMS in prayer May a national ministry designed to pray for students in schools. To date we have 18 prayer groups dedicated to praying for students in schools across the Columbia Conference footprint.

We continued our partnership with Church Women United by donating funds to continue our work with helping local agencies support those in need.

Other mission activities included volunteering at Harvest Hope Food, bank, visiting nursing homes, participating in community clean ups, donating to an all -inclusive playground for children with special needs, supporting the Angel Tree project, adopting families and Operation Cool Down where over 50 fans were collected and distributed to the elderly in our communities who do not have access to air conditioning.

We attended Holy Convocation and Aspire in large numbers. We continue to partner with DJJ in our outreach to young women by continuing the Backpack project. This project supports young women who are leaving DJJ. The backpacks were filled with hygiene products, headbands, towels, washcloths, school supplies and inspirational reading material. We are contacted by DJJ when young women leave the facility in Columbia and we share the back packs with them upon their release.

Our year end meeting was held in person for the first time in two years and we gathered at Reid Chapel AME Church on August 13, 2022 to hear amazing reports from the Area Chairs and the YPD Directors. The Mighty men of missions were recognized as were Young Adult Missionaries, Life Members and Torch lighters. We also recognized the unsung heroes of the continuing civil rights movements those who serve as poll workers and managers every Election Day. The President's Award was presented to Sister Harriet Etherege., Area Chair of the Columbia Area.

As President, I was privileged to bring the missionary message to Chappelle Memorial AME Church, Bethel AME Church and to serve as a Presenter at the Piedmont Conference Education Meeting.

As we end the conference year, we will support the homeless women in our community by providing them with hygiene kits and personal care items and we will provide monetary assistance to transplant patients in our local churches.

We mourned the loss this year of some giants in we said farewell now to Judge Mildred Weathers McDuffie, Sister Ruth Black and Sister Teresa Hawthorne. Their work inspired generations and their legacies live on.

Recommendations:

1. We will increase our advocacy for social justice, by becoming involved in civil rights organizations, and by writing to our elected officials.
2. We will continue our fight to defeat the COVID-19 virus. We continue to encourage vaccination, share new information and continue wearing masks and social distancing.
3. We will use our platforms to encourage everyone to vote. We will personally take young people to register and will ensure that folks either get to the polls or vote absentee ballot. Not voting is not an option. The stakes are too high. Mid Tern elections are looming, and there has been an aggressive assault against voting rights. We must remain vigilant.
4. We will continue to spotlight, promote, and encourage women in their entrepreneurial, educational, and spiritual efforts.

THE SONS OF ALLEN

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Brother Alton B. Cobb
Reverends: Larry Clark, Dennis Broughton, Jr., James Vant, John Lewis, Marion Reeves
Brothers: Vincent Taylor, Clinton Huff, Lowery Williams, Laval Oxendine, Monroe Miller, James Anderson, Bob Gardner, John Thomas

Report

The Sons of Allen of the Columbia Annual Conference continues to be an integral ministry in the conference. The organization continues to minister to men, both young and older, to bring them into a closer relationship with God. We have had to overcome some challenges in our workings of the organization due to the ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, God is good, and we have remained steadfast in doing the work of ministry that the Sons of Allen organization is recognized for.

The following is a brief recap of the activities that took place throughout the conference this past conference year:

- The conference Sons of Allen continued to meet virtually and by telephone conference throughout the year to continue the work of the conference.
- President Alton Cobb met on various occasions with the 7th Episcopal District leadership to discuss matters of interest and concern at the district level.
- The Lancaster Chapter Sons of Allen sponsored a Prayer Breakfast in March 2022 that was well attended.
- The Lancaster Chapter also provided support and assistance to the Presiding Elder during the district Pentecost service on the first Sunday in June.
- The Lancaster Chapter also assisted with the distribution of food boxes to three churches for distribution to their members and the community at large.
- The Columbia Chapter conducted a community food drive at Spring Hill AME Church in the spring of 2022.
- The Newberry Chapter provided food for the Newberry District Church School Convention.
- The Chapter also provided food care boxes for the elderly and disadvantaged in the Newberry area.
- The Chapter did visitation visits to the sick and shut-in in the community.

We are proud of the work that has been and is being done by these men of God. We continue to support the work and other ministries of the Columbia Annual Conference and look forward to another wonderful year in 2022/2023. We appreciate the honor to serve as President of the Conference Sons of Allen, and “To God Be the Glory.”

Recommendations:

There are no current recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Columbia Conference Sons of Allen

RAYAC

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair:	Reverend Dr. Danté Wynne Kenly
Reverends:	Lawrence Pralour, Valarie Walker, Dion Richmond, James W. Dennis III, Krystle McHoney, James Vant, Steven Dowling, Noluthando Ntsangani, Vincent Hall.
Brothers:	Deonta Washington, Jerimiah Martin, Benjamin Pratt, Adrain Koon
Sisters:	Shay Robinson, Shemieka B. Johnson Sims, Christy Wise, Jonique M. Smalls-Comrie, Stacy S. Nelson, Ayanna Broadus, Jalessa Boykins, Kimberly Stubbs, LaAdrian Kinsler, Brandy Mayers, Ahmirah Wilmore

Report

To The Right Reverend Samuel L. Green Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District, Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, Episcopal Supervisor; Reverend Dr. M. Charmaine Ragin-Merrick, Host Presiding Elder; Reverend Samuel McPherson Associate Presiding Elder; Reverend Rosalyn G. Coleman, Associate Presiding Elder; Reverend James Wesley Dennis III, Host Pastor, other pastors, ordained ministers, conference chairpersons and delegates of the 145th Session of the Columbia Annual Conference, we the Committee on Young Adult Ministry (YAM) & Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC) wish to make this report.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church has been a spiritual, social, and political force and young adults have been an integral part of each component. The church as we knew it before the pandemic and now somewhat post-pandemic no longer exists. Yet, we do not know what the church of the future will be. One thing we know for sure is that it will be different. It needs to be different. In fact, it has to be different! If we are to be the church to reach new people, we must pivot in different and new ways. No doubt you've seen statistics about Millennials leaving the church in droves. Believe it or not, Millennials aren't dissatisfied with church. They are weary of seeing church leadership be more passionate about complaining than they are about teaching and serving. Instead of focusing on what's wrong, Millennials want you to focus on what we can do to help. Millennials desire to be mentored, not simply "preached at." Instead, they want to be part of a community that works together to put serving others at the forefront.

According to page 504 the 2016 Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the fourfold purpose of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council Richard Allen Young Adult Council includes the following:

1. Discipleship by bringing young adults into a covenant relationship with Jesus Christ teaching them how to live Christ centered lives and serve as Christian mentors to youths.
2. Leadership training to develop young adults into Christian leaders within the AME church and the community at large to effectively represent and voice the concerns of a new generation.
3. Fellowship to create and provide opportunities for the Christian fellowship among young adults.
4. Networking to provide resources for young adult ministries within the AME church and the community at large. Also, to provide opportunities for young adults to use God given gifts and talents for king building.

Although the book of discipline provides rich and undergirding guidelines of our organization and committee, the church has witnessed a paradigm shift with COVID-19 pandemic. It has forced leaders and laity to embrace technology. Consequently, like some of our young adults within your local church has been crying

out for a very long time in order to connect and be useful within their local church. Now more people are using technology and social platforms to reach people beyond the four walls of the church. While we believe the African Methodist Episcopal Church has a rich history, we also believe the church must adjust some of its methods to serve the present age. To attract and retain young adults, we offer the recommendations below.

Recommendations:

1. Every church in the seventh episcopal or within the Columbia Annual Conference should have a social media presence. Whether it's Zoom, Facebook Live, YouTube, Livestream, Stream yard or Restream. Pastors and Young Adults should know how to work or willing to learn the technology in your church.
2. Establish an on-going RAYAC worship experience, or revival, per the Presiding Elder district to facilitate further opportunities for discipleship for the RAYAC peer group. Coordinated by pastors and laity of RAYAC and Presiding Elder which will aid RAYAC members use and develop leadership skills while sharing the message of the Gospel to reach the target audience.
3. Develop and establish ongoing RAYAC meet-up events, and/ or outings for young adults to grow in life and love together. Creating safe spaces is key to forming and developing lasting relationships and bonds within the Body of Christ. Facilitating opportunities for networking, communication, forums, and peer support is important for connection, fellowship, discipleship, transformation, and growth. This would allow for continuous encouragement, collaboration, and strengthen relationships across the district, conference, and connection.
4. Pastors and active members of local congregations should assist young adults in discovering and using their spiritual gifts in the church. Allowing young adults to use their gifts and appreciating their contributions will make them feel valued and may encourage them to take on other responsibilities and eventually become church leaders and officers.
5. That we encourage every young adult and Pastor in our local church to help to establish a RAYAC organization within their local churches and within the presiding elder districts. So that they could be engaged in worship on any given Sunday, or perhaps have their own particular Sunday or separate contemporary worship experiences.

We are grateful to our episcopal leadership for including young adults in all aspects of the church, whether it was in-person settings and virtual platforms. Thank you for setting the example of how to invest and use social media to reach and save souls for the Lord.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Committee on Young Adult Ministry and RAYAC

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Ruth E. D. Robinson
Reverends: Teresa Clark, Angella Beckford Days, Stepheny O. Pratt, Kayla Eskew, Schrendria Robinson, Rodella Rivers, Wanda Rapley, Rosa Kelly, Debra Bradley, Yvonne Feaster, Sonya Lybrand, Debora Grant Scotland, Tobie Pollock, Betty Wannamaker, Tina Gogo

To The Right Reverend Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District; Episcopal Supervisor Phyllis N. Green; The Reverend Dr. M. Charmaine Ragin-Merrick; Host Presiding Elder; Associate Presiding Elders – The Reverend Rosalyn Coleman, The Reverend Samuel McPherson; The Reverend James Wesley Dennis, III, Host Pastor; Mrs. Joslyn White Dennis, Host Spouse; Clergy, Delegates, Laity, and Guests of the 145th Session of the Columbia Annual Conference: The Women In Ministry of The Columbia Conference Greet You In The Marvelous Name of Jesus.

THEME: WALKING IN STRENGTH: IRON SHARPENING IRON

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

Report

The Women In Ministry of The Columbia Conference began our journey gathering virtually on the fourth Sunday evening of each month. We shared our walks and had powerful moments of inspiration coming from Reverend Debora Scotland, and Reverend Wanda Rapley. The Conference Coordinator, Reverend Ruth E. D. Robinson, along with others led intercessory prayer as God filled the platform. Reverend Dr. Tobie Pollock introduced us to MSA Hospice, which has an area that focuses on the special needs of women undergoing chemotherapy. This area is referred to as ‘Chemo with Style’, where wigs, scarves, and bags are donated for the women. We donated new wigs, t-shirts, caps, carry bags, inspirational make-up mugs, and other personal items. We also gave cards and monetary gifts to our bereaved families. The Columbia Conference Coordinators undeterred by the pandemic lead with invigoration.

The Lancaster District: Reverend Tina R. Gogo, District Coordinator, took the district higher under her leadership and reports:

The Mission: The Lancaster District Women In Ministry mission was to identify, develop, support, and expand the presence of Women In Ministry in the Lancaster District. Other missions were community service, encouraging ME Time and Fellowship.

Accomplished Goals and Projects: The Lancaster District completed community service by donating personal and food items to the United Ministries in Sumter, SC and the Eugenia Residential Community Care Home in Columbia, SC. The WIM encouraged our sick & shut-in with prayer calls for healing, sending cards, and given monetary gifts of love. The district also sent cards and donations to the retired pastors, letting them know they were not forgotten. Pastoral and Licentiate support was given through love, prayer, and encouragement. We supported the Conference and Episcopal levels of WIM. Many of our members attended the SED Retreat.

The Newberry District: Reverend Angella Beckford-Days, District Coordinator, raised the bar and gave leadership a new meaning and reports:

The Mission: The Newberry District Women In Ministry's mission was to stand united, move forward and be stronger together.

Accomplished Goals and Projects: The Newberry District held monthly meetings virtually and promoted and collected Connectional and Conference dues along with registering fifteen WIM and seven Associates to the Connectional and Conference WIM. Three members attended the Connectional Quadrennial, and three members supported the Episcopal District WIM by attending the SED WIM Retreat. We raised funds for a Memorial Scholarship in memory of Rev. Rosette Davenport Gallman and hosted an 'Our Story' with a panel of various WIM during Women's History Month. Collections and donations were given to Sister Care and the Food Pantry for Allen University. Cards were sent to the WIM members during sickness and a monetary gift was given during bereavement. During the month, a birthday text was sent to WIM members and associates.

We encouraged the WIM to register for Connectional Maximize Your Ministry. The district is preparing to award a scholarship totaling \$1,500.00 on September 9, 2022, at the District Closing Worship.

The Columbia District: Reverend Teresa Galloway Clark, the District Coordinator, courageously took the district's spiritual eyes to the needs of the community and reports:

The Mission: The Columbia District Women In Ministry's mission was to continue to reach the community to ensure those who requested assistance were aided with their endeavors, to not only be confident individuals, but also viable candidates in their educational and career pursuits.

Accomplished Goals and Projects: The Columbia District WIM donated clothes, games, and small household items for a church's community giveaway where the sponsors offered prayer and food. Under the coordination of Rev. Rodella B. Rivers, the Columbia District WIM provided hot meals for the Allen University Football Team while they were away from their homes over the Thanksgiving Holiday. The Columbia District WIM continued to assist the community with the updating of Resumes, Curriculum Vitae, and Autobiographies. We assisted High school graduates and their guardians with completing college applications and financial aid forms. Our associate member, Brother Timothy Counts was a member of WIM Prayer Warrior Team.

Recommendations:

1. Community Outreach/Volunteer to a Hospice and Senior Care
2. Build a stronger unity within the ministry
3. Have workshops on Self Care
4. Workshops to educate on Mental Health
5. To be supportive to those entering the ministry

CHRISTIAN DEBUTANTE-MASTER COMMISSION

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Sister Patrice Bryant-China, Conference Commissioner
Reverend: Rev. Moses Rembert, Conference Associate Commissioner
Sisters: LaVelma Toland, Newberry Area Commissioner, Host
Diane LaBrew, Columbia Area Commissioner
Takima Nelson, Lancaster Area Commissioner

Report

Salutations: Greetings to Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr. Presiding Prelate of the 7th Episcopal District, Sis. Phyllis Nadine Green, Episcopal Supervisor, Rev. Dr. Charmaine Ragin-Merrick, Host Presiding Elder, Newberry District, Rev. Rosalyn G. Coleman, Associate Presiding Elder, Columbia District, Rev. Samuel McPherson, Host Presiding Elder, Lancaster District, Ministers, and all members of the 145th Session of the Columbia Annual Conference

On behalf of the Columbia Conference CDMC we bring you the following highlights of this Conference Year:

- Eight Debutantes and Masters will be presented during our Annual CDMC Ceremony.
- All Debutantes and Masters worked within their community donating food, masks, sanitizers, and cleaning supplies.
- Our participants have had workshops about trafficking, etiquette, AME history and Bible trivia.

We would like to thank the Presiding Elders, Commissioners, Advisors, Volunteers, Parents and Guardians for all their hard work and dedication and for ensuring that our young people completed all requirements.

Recommendations:

1. Each church will support the Columbia Conference CDMC at all levels.
2. Continue to partner with YPD and Church School to plan joint Christian Education opportunities.
3. Increase the number of Allenites, Sub-Debs and Sub-Masters.

MEMORIALS

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Wanda Rapley
Reverends: Terry Gillyard, Edward Hill, Sherry Highbaugh, Janie Williams, José Lozano,
Theodore Green
Sisters: Chelesa Davis, Dorothy Faye Bookman

Report

To be reported live during the Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

RESOLUTIONS

Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Ertha Bowman,
Reverends: Chaunté McClure, Ruth Robinson, Timothy McKenzie
Brother: Paul Pringle
Sisters: Perdita Ford, Libra Wilmore, Yvette Vant, Brandy Mayers, Vergie Moore,
Michelle Grady, LaDazia Anderson

Report

To be reported live during the Columbia South Carolina Annual Conference



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