

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

RESOLUTIONS

TO THE 51ST QUADRENNIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
2020



The Reverend Dr. J. Elvin Sadler
General Secretary-Auditor

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Office of the General Secretary-Auditor

Department of Records, Research & Archives

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The Reverend J. Elvin Sadler, D.Min., General Secretary-Auditor

The Right Reverend Mildred B. Hines, D.Min., Chairperson

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Sincerely,



**The Reverend J. Elvin Sadler, D.Min.
General Secretary-Auditor
The A.M.E. Zion Church**

FOUNDED 1796

***"Providing Doctrine, Discipline, Information and Research to
"The Freedom Church" and the Kingdom of God"***

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Church and Society



AMEZ 2020 - Resolutions

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R01-2020

Name of Resolution: Pertaining to 400 Years Celebration

RESOLUTION: Pertaining to 400 Years Celebration

Whereas, we affirm that 2019 marks 400 years since the first 20 persons of African descent were forcefully brought to this country as slaves; and

Whereas, we affirm that in the face of slavery, racism, segregation, lynching, inhumanity, false incarcerations, poisoning our communities with drugs, guns, cheap liquor, and a climate conducive for crime, blacks have gone from the plantations to mansions; from Africa through Kansas into the Oval Office; from the use of hands to pick cotton, to the use of hands to invent over fifty original inventions; and

Whereas, we affirm that not enough has been done to celebrate the contributions and the rich achievements of Africans in the diaspora since the inception of their enslavement in the United States; and

Whereas, we affirm that while we are in this season of celebrating our success, it is also an opportunity to call African Americans and people of African descent everywhere, to more collective actions that involves global networking, community building and entrepreneurial collaborations and partnerships that are intercontinental in nature; and

Whereas, we affirm the objectives of The 400 Year Celebration, Inc. organization as follows:

- A. To celebrate the accomplishments over the four hundred Years.
- B. To educate the present generation on the past and prepare the race for surviving successfully for another four hundred years.
- C. To restore forgotten landmarks in African American communities.
- D. To establish an education fund for scholarships for deserving students.
- E. To address social needs in the Black community (family empowerment, helping at risk youths, teaching job readiness skills and addressing substance abuse issues); and
- F. To establish a chronological trail to mark significant geographical locations and events of the struggles of Africans Americans in the United States from 1619-2019.

Be it therefore resolved, that the A.M.E. Zion Church will embrace The 400 Year Celebration, Inc., organization and its mission as a social impact/outreach ministry of the church; and

Be it further resolved, that the A.M.E. Zion Church and the 400 Year Celebration, Inc., organization will collaborate in achieving their common objectives of educating and advancing economic development within African American communities.

Budget Implications:

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): _Rev. Dr. Kathy McFadden



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R02-2020

Name of Resolution: 501(c)(3) Memorandum of Understanding Stewards

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church has decreed that all church assets are held in trust for the AME Zion Church. Accordingly, *The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church* (2016), (hereinafter referred to as "*The Discipline*"), reflects this decree in various places. However, *The Discipline* only appears to cover assets of the local church. it does not include assets held by the conferences and or districts. In that from time to time, church property maybe in the possession of an annual conference or acquired by the Episcopal District. Therefore, the purpose of this resolution is to ensure that all assets of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and its appended bodies are held in trust for The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. (NOTE: all references are from, *The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church* (2016).

Whereas, *The Book of Discipline* (2016), Section 391.4 states the following:

"Trustees' holding of property. All assets owned by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, whether incorporated, unincorporated, or abandoned

- a. Shall be held by the trustees of the church in trust for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; and
- b. Are subject to *The Discipline*, usage, and ministerial appointments of *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said church."

Whereas, Paragraph 393 states that in: "It is the duty of the Pastor and Presiding Elder to see that our church property is deeded according to our *Book of Discipline*, and duly incorporated in accordance with the laws of the state or territory in which it is situated."

Whereas, Paragraph 395 reads: "All written instruments by which premises are held or hereafter acquired as a parsonage for the use and occupancy of the ministers of *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church* shall contain the following trust clause:

"In trust that said premises shall be held, kept and maintained as a place of residence for the use and occupancy of the ministry of *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church* in America, who may from time to time be stationed in such place, subject to the provisions of the discipline and usage of said church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said church, and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds said premises are situated. This provision is solely for the benefit of the grantee, and the grantor reserves no right or interest in said premises".

1. Absence of deed trust clause, trustees' responsibilities. The 46th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that the absence of a trust clause in any deed or other conveyance does not relieve or exclude a local church in any way from its African Methodist Episcopal Zion Connectional responsibilities or from the provisions of this part and does not absolve a local congregation or Board of Trustees of its responsibility if such an intent of or the later congregations and board of trustees is indicated by:
2. The conveyance of the assets to the trustees of the local church or any of its predecessors;
 - a. The use of the name, customs, and polity of *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church* in such a way as to be known to the community as part of the denomination; or
 - b. The acceptance of the Pastor appointed by a Bishop of *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*.

Real property acquired by a conveyance containing either or both of the foregoing trust clauses may be sold in conformity with the provisions of

The Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. When its use as a church or parsonage, as the case may be, has been or is intended to be terminated; and when such real estate is sold or mortgaged in accordance with the provisions of the Discipline of *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*, the written acknowledged consent of the proper presiding Bishop representing *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church* to the action taken shall constitute a release and discharge of the real property so sold and conveyed from either or both of the foregoing trust clauses; or in the event of the execution of a mortgage, such consent of the presiding Bishop shall constitute a formal recognition of the priority of such mortgage lien and the subordination of the foregoing trust provisions thereof; and no bona fide purchaser or mortgagee relying upon the foregoing record shall be charged with any responsibility with respect to the disposition by such local church of the proceeds of any such sale or mortgage.

Be it resolved, that The Book of Discipline (2016), Paragraph 391.4 be amended to read: Paragraph 391.4. "Trustees' holding of property. All assets owned by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, whether incorporated, unincorporated, or abandoned, or whether in possession of the Local church, Annual Conference or Episcopal District,

- a. Shall be held by the trustees of the church, Trustees of the Annual Conference or Trustees of the Episcopal District in trust for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion

Church; and

- b.** Are subject to The Discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said church."

Be it resolved, that Paragraph 393 be amended to read:

Paragraph 393. "It is the duty of the Pastor and Presiding Elder to see that our church property (including property of all appendant bodies) is deeded according to our Book of Discipline, and where applicable, duly incorporated in accordance with the laws of the state or territory in which it is situated."

Be it resolved, that Paragraph 395 be amended to read:

"Paragraph 395. All written instruments by which premises are held or hereafter acquired as a parsonage for the use and occupancy of the ministers of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church shall contain the following trust clause:

"In trust that said premises shall be held, kept and maintained as a place of residence for the use and occupancy of the ministry of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in America, who may from time to time be stationed in such place, subject to the provisions of the discipline and usage of said church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said church, and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds said premises are situated. This provision is solely for the benefit of the grantee, and the grantor reserves no right or interest in said premises".

Absence of deed trust clause, trustees' responsibilities. The 46th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that the absence of a trust clause in any deed or other conveyance does not relieve or exclude a local church, or appendant body of The A.M.E. Zion Church, in any way from its African Methodist Episcopal Zion Connectional responsibilities or from the provisions of this part and does not absolve a local congregation an Annual Conference or Episcopal District, or the

1. Board of Trustees of its responsibility if such an intent of the founders or the later congregations and board of trustees is indicated by:
2. The conveyance of the assets to the trustees of the local church, Annual Conference or Episcopal District, or any of its predecessors;
 - a.** The use of the name, customs, and polity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in such away as to be known to the community as part of the denomination; or
 - b.** The acceptance of the Pastor appointed by a Bishop of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.
3. Real property acquired by a conveyance containing either or both of the foregoing trust clauses may be sold in conformity with the provisions of The Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. When its use as a church or parsonage, or other church use, as the case

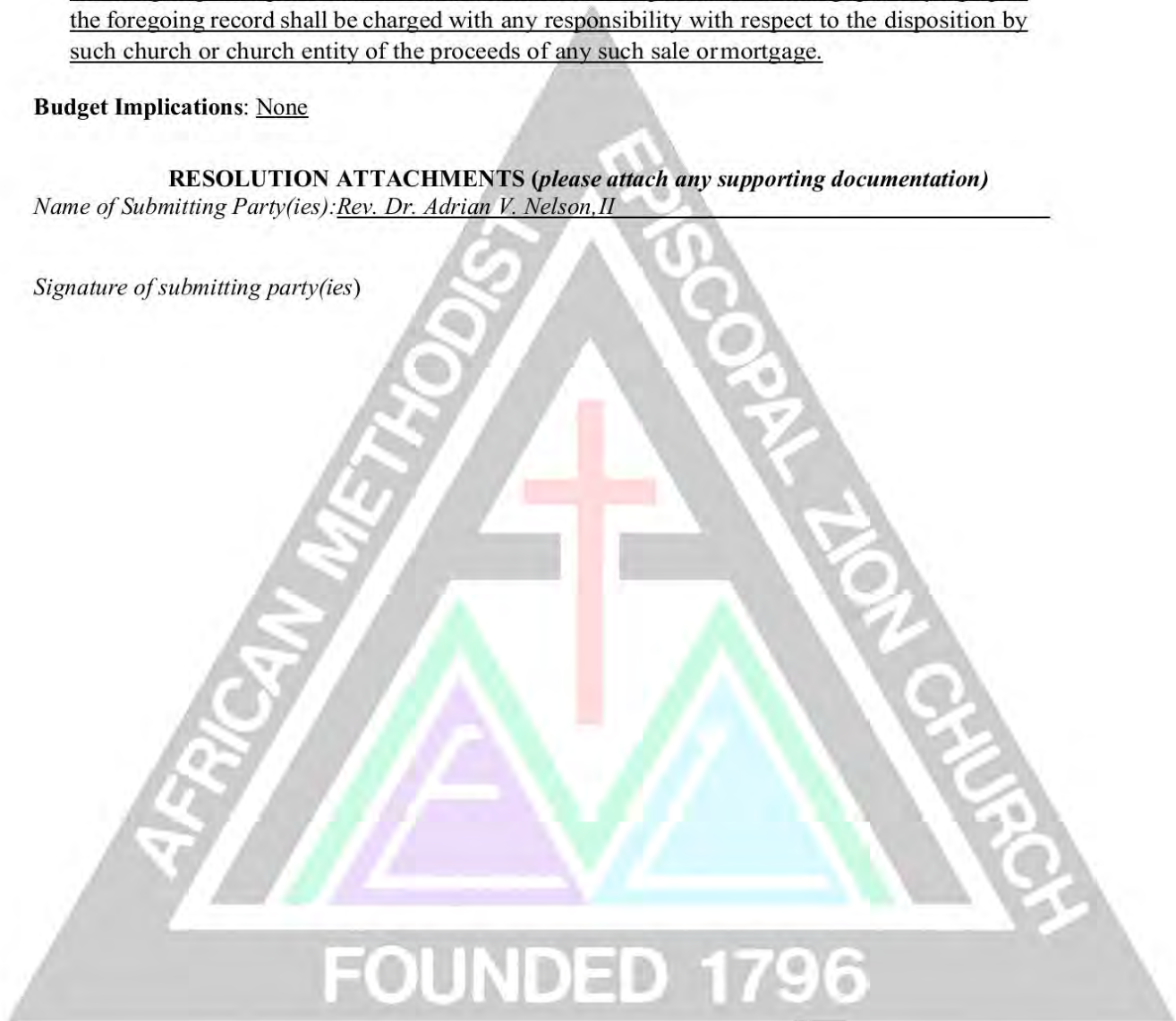
may be, has been or is intended to be terminated; and when such real estate is sold or mortgaged in accordance with the provisions of the Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the written acknowledged consent of the Presiding Bishop representing The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church to the action taken shall constitute a release and discharge of the real property so sold and conveyed from either or both of the foregoing trust clauses; or in the event of the execution of a mortgage, such written consent of the presiding Bishop shall constitute a formal recognition of the priority of such mortgage lien and the subordination of the foregoing trust provisions thereof; and no bona fide purchaser or mortgagee relying upon the foregoing record shall be charged with any responsibility with respect to the disposition by such church or church entity of the proceeds of any such sale or mortgage.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies)



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R03-2020

Name of Resolution: African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Faith, Word and Order Conference Requirement

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, the Doctrine of the AME Zion Church, including its theology, ecclesiology and rituals, are of vital importance to the Church; and

Whereas, the AME Zion Church does not regularly have a Word and Order Conference to review, revisit and revise the Doctrine of the Church.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Bishops shall convene a Faith, Word and Order Conference two years prior to each General Conference to review, revisit and revise the Doctrine, practices and protocols of the Church as needed.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R04-2020

Name of Resolution: AME Zion 403(b)(9) Retirement Plan

RESOLUTION:

Whereas: The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is almost two hundred and twenty-five (225) years old;

Whereas: Many of the human resources, clergy and lay, who serve in the church have no pension or retirement;

Whereas: There are seventy percent of our clergy who are below the age of 70;

Whereas: The Basic Retirement Program is established to provide African Methodist Episcopal Zion Churches and Presiding Elder Districts the opportunity to offer their clergy world-class retirement options using best practices within the financial services industry;

Whereas: The requirements for enrollment in the optional AME Zion 403(b) Retirement Plan (initiated in August 2018) are inadequate and reveal a clear picture of how the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church treats its retired pastors;

Whereas: The Individualized Retirement Plan(s), page 201, paragraph 498, of The Book of Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, 2016, be removed and replaced with the following paragraph:

Be it therefore resolved: The 51st General Conference directs each Pastor and Presiding Elder is to participate in the 403(b)(9) or Optional 401K retirement plan based on their current W-2 or 1099 reported salary. Each enrollee of the 403(b)(9) or Optional 401K retirement plan will have 100% ownership of all contributions to the plan and complete control of all investment options. Each domestic Annual Conference ensures every local African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and Presiding Elder District adopts and funds the 403(b)(9) Basic Retirement Plan for pastors and presiding elders; the Local Church and Presiding Elder District will contribute twelve percent (12%) of the local pastor's and presiding elder's annual salary to Zion's Benefits Services (ZBS) annually. The 403(b)(9) or Optional 401K retirement plan will be administered and managed by a AAA rated carrier. Zion's Benefits Services, INC. will be responsible for engaging qualified agencies that provide Retirement Plans that meet the standards set by The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church;

Be it further resolved: that clergy who have reached the age of 70 and older may be exempted from participating in this connectional retirement plan.

Be it further resolved: that each Presiding Elder District will establish an accountability and verification process for reporting to the Annual Conferences names of churches participating in the AME Zion 403(b)(9) or Optional 401K Retirement Plan.

Budget Implications: Twelve percent of the pastor and presiding elder's salaries.

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Victor C. Wilson, Rev. Dr. Claude Shuford, Rev. Sandra Benton, Rev. Dr. Robert Christian, Rev. Dr. Otha Smith, Rev. Sharon Browning, Rev. Dr. Alvin McLamb, Rev. Reginald Morton, Rev. Sandra Sistare, Mr. David Aiken, Mrs. Vanessa Watt, Mr. Marshall Harris

Signature of submitting party(ies): Rev. Dr. Victor C. Wilson, Rev. Dr. Claude Shuford, Rev. Sandra Benton, Rev. Dr. Robert Christian, Rev. Dr. Otha Smith, Rev. Sharon Browning, Rev. Dr. Alvin McLamb, Rev. Reginald Morton, Rev. Sandra Sistare, Mr. David Aiken, Mrs. Vanessa Watt, Mr. Marshall Harris



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R05-2020

Name of Resolution: Apostle's Creed Universal Church

RESOLUTION: Apostle's Creed Universal Church

Whereas, our reciting of the Apostle's Creed now states that: "we believe in the holy catholic church" and

Whereas, the Apostle's Creed is the oldest creed that exists in two forms-a shorter and a longer: the former known as the "Old Roman Form" dating back to the latter, the "Latin Form" by Tyrannius Rufinus about 390 AD, and

Whereas, the original creed does not contain the word "catholic" in it and

Whereas, the reciting that we believe in "holy catholic church" has placed a negative connotation in the in the minds of those who hear and otherwise would have joined themselves to us and

Whereas, those that hear us recite the Apostle's Creed do not know that the words "catholic church" are meant to refer to the "universal church", and

Whereas, we place an asterisk in our bulletins and literatures to explain that the word "catholic" is meant the word "universal", and

Whereas, other denominations have changed the wording to keep down confusion.

Whereas, to keep down confusion and the turning away of would be members from our churches.

Be it therefore resolved, the wording of the Apostle's Creed be changed to reflect update language by saying that we believe in the "holy universal church" thus removing any potential negativity from our belief.

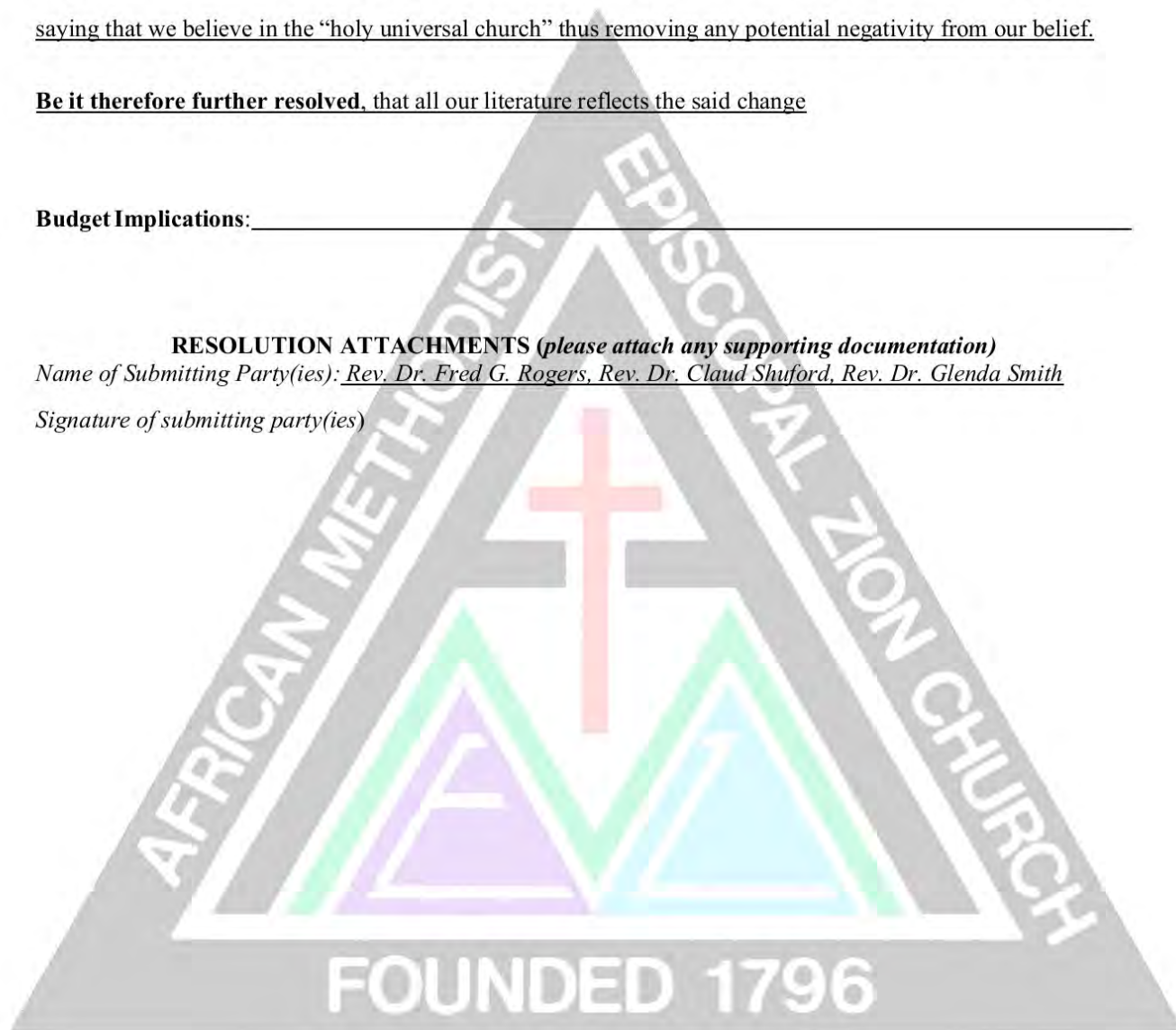
Be it therefore further resolved, that all our literature reflects the said change

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Fred G. Rogers, Rev. Dr. Claud Shuford, Rev. Dr. Glenda Smith

Signature of submitting party(ies)



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R06-2020

Name of Resolution: Scriptures For The Articles of Religion

RESOLUTION: Scriptures For The Articles of Religion

Whereas: the doctrine contained in the Articles of Religion is very significant for our faith, and

Whereas: a few scriptures were added by the General Conference about twelve years ago, and

Whereas: many significant scriptures, and familiar scriptures were not included

Be it therefore resolved: that the General Secretary and the Department of Christian Education review and include at least two (2) more per article.

Be it finally resolved: that this be done and reported to the 2021 Board of Bishops.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Claud Shuford

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R07-2020

Name of Resolution: Change of Membership Classifications and Nomenclature for Admitting Members into the Local Church

RESOLUTION: Change of Membership Classifications and Nomenclature for Admitting Members into the Local Church

Whereas, the language of admitting members into the A.M.E. Zion Church was adopted and adapted from the Methodist Episcopal Church of America which required that “none may be hastily admitted into the Church, it is our custom to receive all persons seeking fellowship into a preparatory membership on trial...”, is based in part upon the Jewish practice of receiving proselytes into the fellowship , and upon the writings of Lord King, Bishop Stillingfleet, and “Origin against Celsus”², and submits that person joining our Church should be admitted on “Probation” for a period of time;

Whereas, the blight of “Mass Incarceration” has particularly and negatively impacted young African American males, as it replaced slavery, economic, and civic discrimination in the modern era;

Whereas, many young Christ seeking men of color come to our Churches to “flee from the wrath to come, and be saved from their sins”, as well as to seek productive places of belonging in our society, and better their lives through Christian Fellowship;

Whereas, the use of the word “Probation” in this age of “Mass Incarceration” has become a vicious design to keep many young men subverted to second class citizenship in our nation, and carries with it an extremely negative repulsive connotation:

Be it therefore resolved, that the language of the Rituals for Reception of Members in the A.M.E. Zion Church “The Freedom Church”, remove the words “Probation” and “Trial”, and simply read, “That none may be admitted hastily into the Church, it is our custom to receive all persons seeking fellowship with us on profession of faith into a preparatory membership, during which time...”

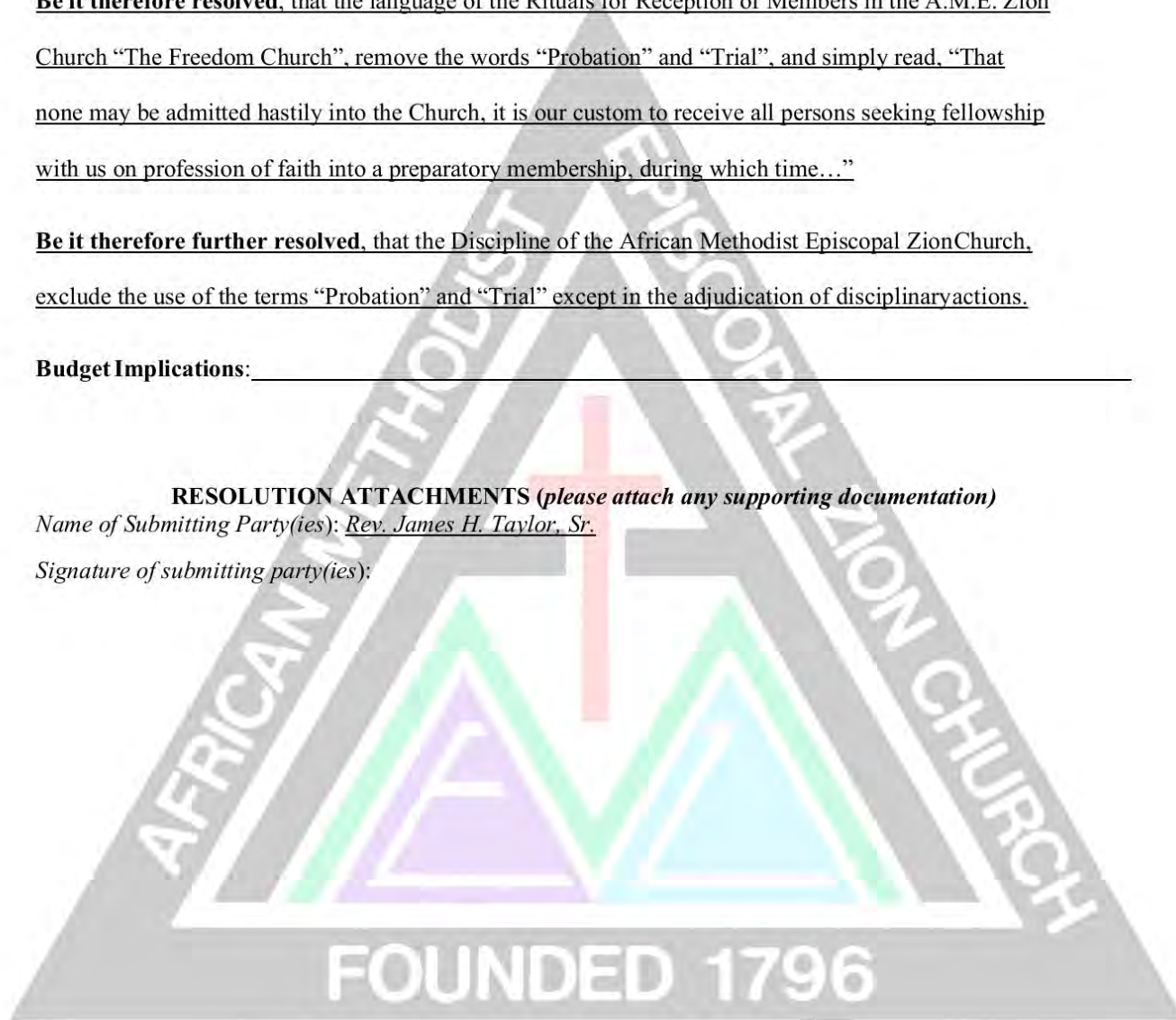
Be it therefore further resolved, that the Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, exclude the use of the terms “Probation” and “Trial” except in the adjudication of disciplinary actions.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. James H. Taylor, Sr.

Signature of submitting party(ies):



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R08-2020

Name of Resolution: Resolution Pertaining to a Denominational Class Leaders System

RESOLUTION: Resolution Pertaining to a Denominational Class Leaders System

Whereas, we affirm that the Class Leader System has been a part of the church from its inception; and

Whereas, we affirm that the Class Leader System is a powerful tool of the church that enhances and strengthens the church and provides a means by which the church can sustain and perpetuate itself for generations to come; and

Whereas, we affirm the unique feature of the Class Leader System, that is the organizing of persons in to small groups to accomplish the work of discipleship within the church, is affirmed in scripture, e.g., Jesus in the organizing of the twelve disciples (Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:12-16); and in Exodus 18:25 with Moses in the organizing of the Israelites into small groups; and

Whereas, we affirm that the contemporary church has found that there is yet much relevance and usefulness in this form of discipleship, and has therefore adopted the small group concept as an integral part of the organizational structure of many of these newly formed churches. They are often referred to as cell groups. These cell groups, however, function much like the class system found in traditional mainline churches; and

Be it therefore resolved, that a Denomination Class Leaders position be adopted to aid in enhancing the

existing Class Leader System of the A.M.E. Zion Church, and that such a position would be established at the Episcopal District, Annual Conference and Local District Conference levels; and

Be it therefore further resolved, that the Denominational Director of Class Leaders' role will be to aid with discipleship, membership retention, and to provide training to class leaders on how to better develop their respective classes. This training will include the development of plans for contacting class members on a regular basis in order to help them grow in discipleship by applying the General Rule of Discipleship to their daily lives. This might be accomplished through the use of new tools via social media, communication tools (e.g. SKYPE, ZOOM, FACETIME, FACEBOOK MESSENGER), as well as the traditional methods of personal visits, regular telephone calls, letters, etc.; and

Be it therefore further resolved, that the Denominational Director of Class Leaders' role will be to help facilitate class leaders within their respective domains, in their efforts to carry out the denominational mission, namely that of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Thus, the development of programs of discipleship to be used by class leaders will be created to meet the unique needs of the episcopal district, conference, and local church levels.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Frank Asumadu

Signature of submitting party(ies):

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R09-2020

Name of Resolution: Election of General Conference Episcopal Annual and District Conference Delegates

RESOLUTION: Election of General Conference Episcopal Annual and District Conference Delegates

Whereas: no definitive language is in our Discipline for the election of delegates, and

Whereas: different conferences have different requirements for elections.

Be it therefore resolved: that a simple majority vote of the delegation becomes Zion's governing law for the election of a delegate to the General Conference, Episcopal meetings, Annual Conference and District conference.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Claud Shuford

Signature of submitting party(ies):

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R10-2020

Name of Resolution: Evaluation of Candidates for Preaching Licensure

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church regards the call to preach “to be both internal and external” (Paragraph 180 of the 2016 A.M.E. Zion Church Book of Discipline); and

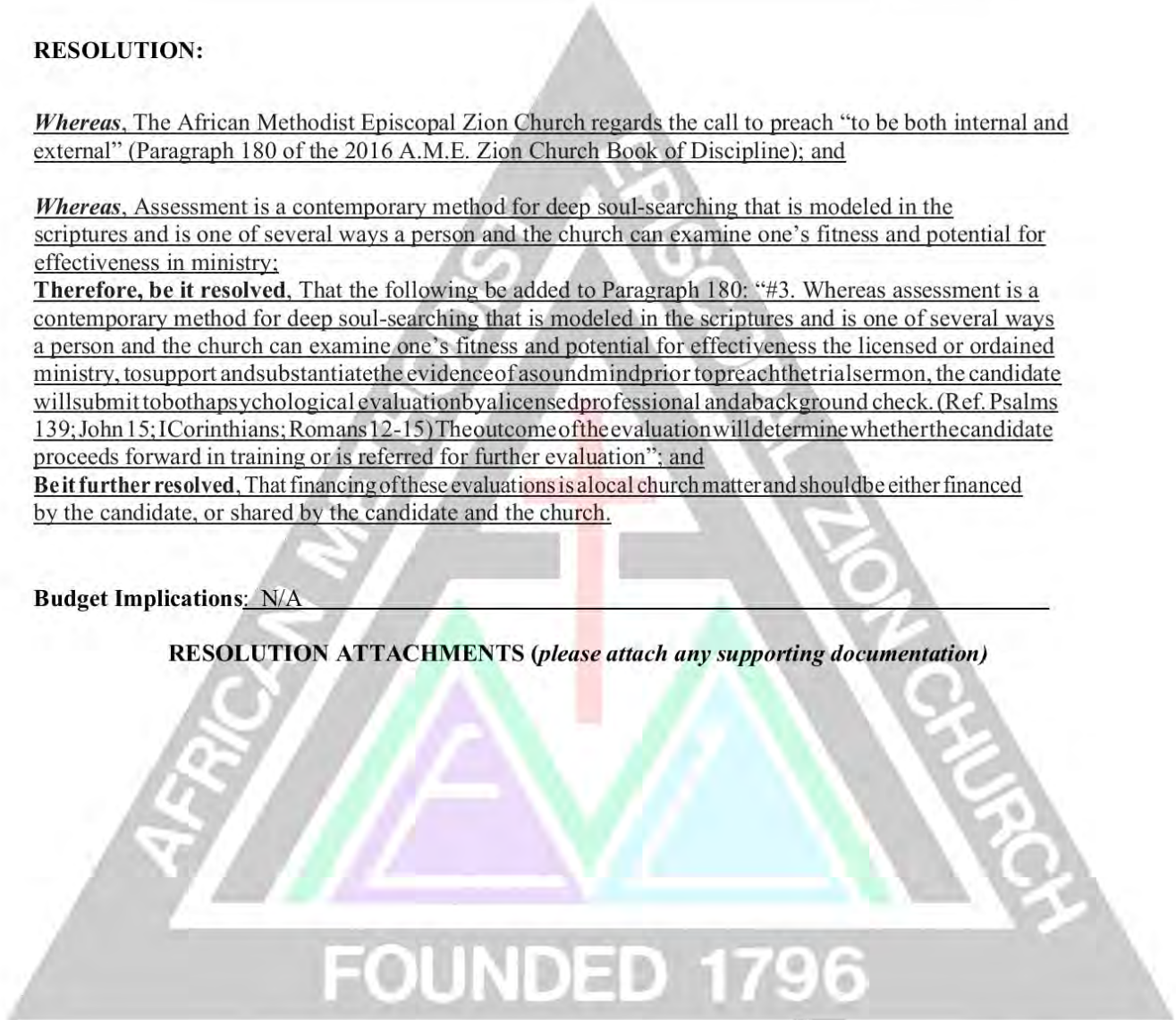
Whereas, Assessment is a contemporary method for deep soul-searching that is modeled in the scriptures and is one of several ways a person and the church can examine one’s fitness and potential for effectiveness in ministry;

Therefore, be it resolved, That the following be added to Paragraph 180: “#3. Whereas assessment is a contemporary method for deep soul-searching that is modeled in the scriptures and is one of several ways a person and the church can examine one’s fitness and potential for effectiveness the licensed or ordained ministry, to support and substantiate the evidence of a sound mind prior to preach the trial sermon, the candidate will submit to both a psychological evaluation by a licensed professional and a background check. (Ref. Psalms 139; John 15; I Corinthians; Romans 12-15) The outcome of the evaluation will determine whether the candidate proceeds forward in training or is referred for further evaluation”; and

Be it further resolved, That financing of these evaluations is a local church matter and should be either financed by the candidate, or shared by the candidate and the church.

Budget Implications: N/A

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*



Name of Submitting Party(ies): Connectional Lay Council

Signature of Submitting Party(ies):

Dr. Mary J. Matthews

Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey

Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Arrington Virginia

Rev. Cary L. Beckwith Western New York

Rev. Angela W. Boyd South Carolina

Rev. Carolyn D. Bratton Western North Carolina

Rev. Dr. Heath Cheek Philadelphia and Baltimore

Rev. Sharon Cheek Philadelphia and Baltimore

Rev. Dr. Rita J. Colbert Philadelphia and Baltimore

Rev. Dr. Frances M. Draper Philadelphia and Baltimore

Dr. Rebecca Branch Griffin Virginia

Rev. Henry D. Hines Cape Fear

Rev. Kay M. Hines Western North Carolina

Rev. Vanessa D. Hinton Virginia

Rev. Reginald Jones

Rev. Dr. William M. Jordan, III West Central North Carolina

Rev. Dr. William E. Kelly Philadelphia and Baltimore

Rev. Lawrence E. Lewis Kentucky

Rev. Dr. Valerie A. Maness New England

Rev. Dr. Lorenza A. Meekins Virginia

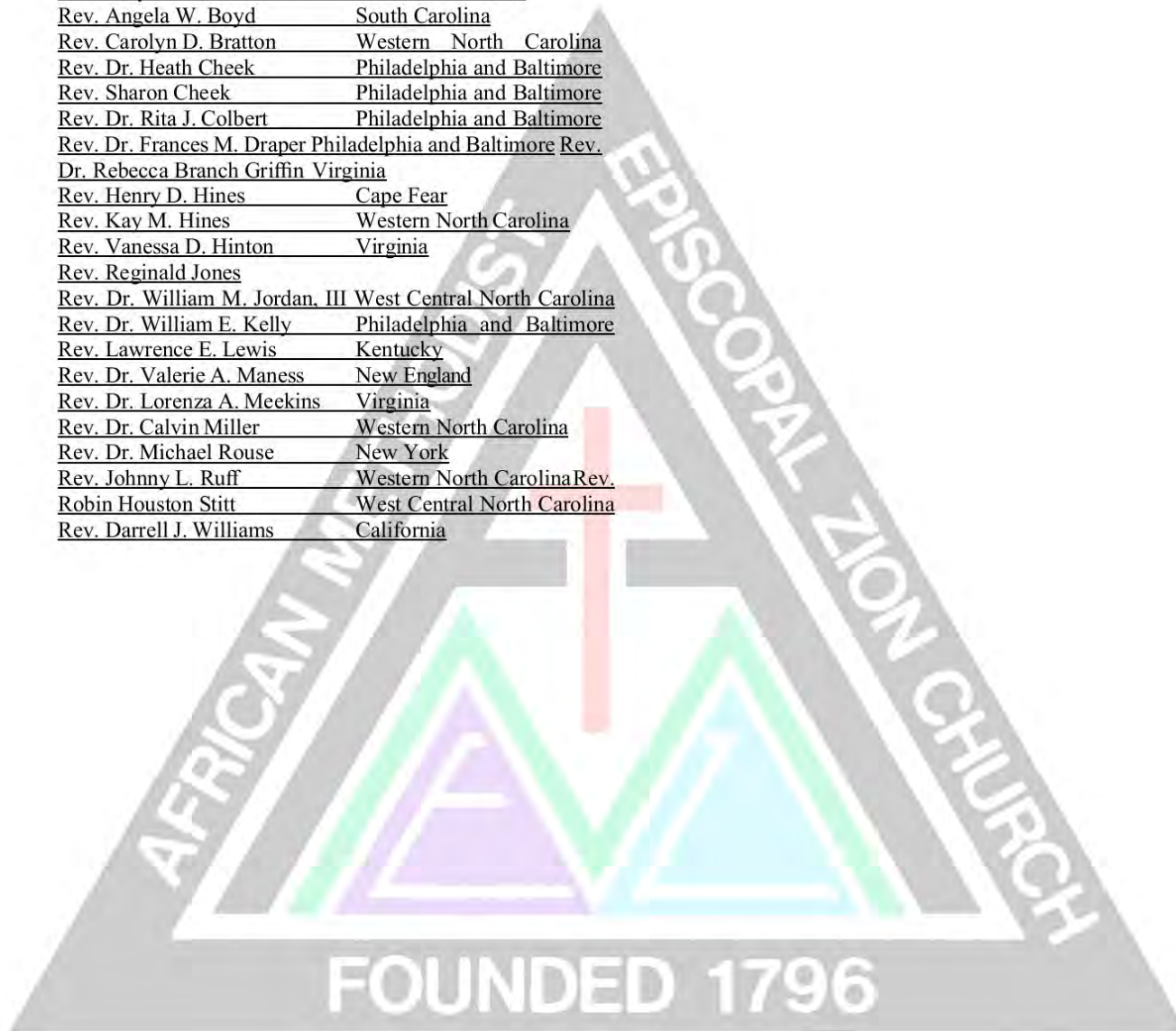
Rev. Dr. Calvin Miller Western North Carolina

Rev. Dr. Michael Rouse New York

Rev. Johnny L. Ruff Western North Carolina

Robin Houston Stitt West Central North Carolina

Rev. Darrell J. Williams California



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R11-2020

Name of Resolution: General Counsel Requirement

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (the “AME Zion Church”) does not have a General Counsel;

Whereas, many members of the AME Zion Church misunderstand that the Judicial Council does not provide legal advice to the AME Zion Church;

Whereas, the AME Zion Church has to retain outside attorneys to provide routine legal advice, as well as legal advice relating to threatened and actual litigation, to the AME Zion Church;

Whereas, most mainline Protestant denominations have a General Counsel/Office of General Counsel that:

- 1) provides routine legal advice to their denomination,
- 2) provides legal advice when threatened or actual litigation arises, and
- 3) advises the church as to what appears to be fair, just, moral, and equitable, seeking to direct the church toward a position of moral and social leadership in harmony with Scripture and reflective of Christian love.

Whereas, the AME Zion Church annually allocates \$150,000 for all legal matters, which is not a realistic litigation budget for a denomination of our size;

Whereas, the AME Zion Church could employ a General Counsel and staff the work of the General Counsel for approximately \$200,000; and

Whereas, it is the aim of this resolution to make it more likely that the AME Zion Church will avoid costly retainer arrangements with outside attorneys because of the preventative legal advice provided by the denomination's General Counsel;

Therefore, be it resolved, that by August 1, 2022, the Board of Bishops establish a process for hiring a General Counsel for the AME Zion Church; and

Be it further resolved, that an appropriate Commission, Committee, or Task Force determine best practices as it relates to supervision and reporting of the General Counsel; and

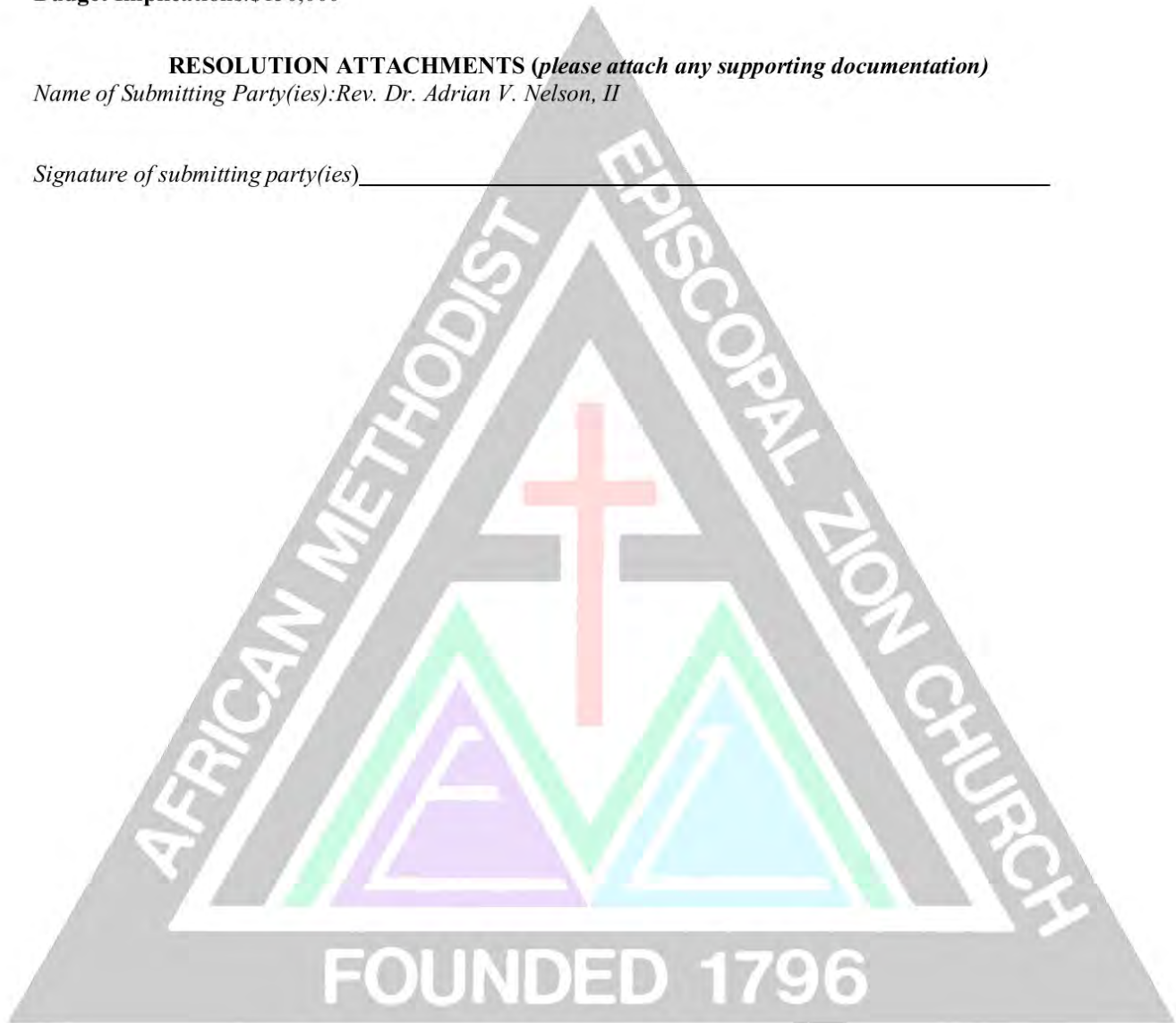
Be it finally resolved, that funds be included in the quadrennial budget of the AME Zion Church to annually fund the staffing of a General Counsel position.

Budget Implications:\$150,000

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

*Name of Submitting Party(ies):*Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

*Signature of submitting party(ies)*_____



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R12-2020

Name of Resolution **Pertaining to A Global Warming Initiative**

RESOLUTION: Pertaining to A Global Warming Initiative

Whereas, we affirm that we have been called to be good stewards over the world that the Lord has entrusted into our hands; and

Whereas, we affirm that the instruction of God to humankind was that we would not destroy the world in which we live. Rather, our task is to preserve the world and to keep it in safekeeping that it may continue to provide sustenance for our wellbeing for generations to come; and

Whereas, we affirm that there are grave concerns about our environment and whether we are doing our best to maintain it; and

Whereas, The Black church cannot sit idly by as this debate continues and not do our part to encourage humankind to preserve the environment for our children and grandchildren.

Be it therefore resolved, that the A.M.E. Zion Church will establish a Commission on Global Warming; and

Be it therefore further resolved, that the Commission on Global Warming will work to educate the membership of the church on the effects of global warming and the role of the church in creating a safer world; and

Be it therefore further resolved, that the Commission on Global Warming will examine and make recommendations to the church and encourage lifestyle changes that will aid in preserving the environment; and

Be it therefore further resolved, that the Commission on Global Warming will review environmental endangerment patterns of companies and make known to our constituents, businesses that are not operating with a sense of social responsibility, to preserve and protect the balance needed in our ecosystem for survival and longevity.

Budget Implications:

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Mark Hawkins

Signature of submitting party(ies)

General Conference Resolutions

G51-R13-2020

Name of Resolution Pertaining to Heritage Day in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

RESOLUTION: Pertaining to Heritage Day in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Whereas, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church has not yet designated a Sunday to be Heritage Day in the AME Zion Church; and

Whereas, the AME Zion Church has its roots in the Mother Land of Africa;

Whereas, the uniqueness of the African heritage is of such that African Americans need desperately to emphasize it more, and Whereas the American history does not truly point to the extensiveness and the significant African contribution both in World History and American History; and

Whereas, the absence of our African heritage in World and American History in the AME Zion Church continue to have a grave deficiency for the correct understanding of World History and our own identity; and **Whereas**, it is truly left up to every denomination to emphasize that which is most important to its existence and factual to its people.

Be it therefore resolved, that the AME Zion church thus hereby designate the Third Sunday in February to be set aside as Heritage Day for African Americans in the AME Zion Church.

Be it further resolved, that on the Third Sunday of February, every local church not only recognizes this as Heritage Day but all of its members from the clergy to the officers, and from the eldest to the youngest be encouraged to dress in an African attire;

Be it also further resolved, that the Christian Education Department of the AME Zion Church provides an array of literature which will encompass some significant aspect of both African and African American contributions in the world, reflecting both AME Zion and non-AME Zion;

Be it also further resolved, that the curriculum of every local church has at least one historical teaching documentation or representation once each quarter as a means of providing significant African history; and

Be it finally resolved, that the Bishop of every Annual Conference will have one day in every Annual Conference session designated as Heritage Day where African attire would be worn, and a thirty minutes segment of the conference will be devoted to the teachings of something about our African Heritage.

Budget Implications:

FOUNDED 1796

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Frank Asumadu, Rev. Dr. Claude Shuford

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____



General Conference Resolutions

G51-R14-2020

Name of Resolution: : Individual Accountability for Bishops

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (the “Church”) is a church that requires accountability among those who serve in leadership at every level;

Whereas, Elders admitted to an Annual Conference must have their character examined and passed annually as it relates to their moral, religious, and official conduct;

Whereas, bishops, though consecrated for episcopal service, are Elders and members of an Annual Conference; and

Whereas, there is no process within the Church for the character of a bishop to be examined, notwithstanding the fact that bishops are Elders and members of an Annual Conference;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Episcopal Committee of the 51st Session of the General Conference of the Church shall establish a process by which the character of each bishop in the Church be examined quadrennially by members of the Episcopal Committee, at each successive General Conference, as follows:

1. It shall be the duty of the Episcopal Committee to investigate, examine, and pass upon the moral, religious, and official conduct of each bishop; his or her traveling among the people of the District; and his or her administration and decisions.
2. It shall be the duty of the Episcopal Committee to inquire into the spiritual, emotional and medical fitness for the vigorous tasks of supervising the work of the District.
3. It shall be the duty of the Episcopal Committee to prepare a permanent record of the examination of each bishop, which, before the close of the General Conference, shall incorporate the same in the official minutes of the General Conference and shall file said record with the General Secretary-Auditor of the Church.
4. Each bishop shall appear in person, separately before the Episcopal Committee for examination.
5. All concerns and/or complaints relating to the fitness and/or moral character of a bishop must be submitted in writing to the General Secretary-Auditor of the Church, Chair of the Episcopal

Committee, and Secretary of the Episcopal Committee sixty (60) days prior to the start of each General Conference.

6. All concerns and/or complaints relating to the fitness and/or moral character of a bishop shall be submitted in a format to be established by the General Secretary-Auditor of the Church.
7. A bishop shall be subject to disqualification to serve as a bishop, using the due process outlined for the defrocking of a bishop, and a finding that said bishop took a retaliatory action against any person who submits a concern and/or complaint relating to the fitness and/or moral character of a bishop.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R15-2020

Name of Resolution: Liturgical Colors

RESOLUTION: Liturgical Colors

Whereas, the 38th General Conference adopted the Liturgical Colors and Seasons of White, Red, Green, Violet, and Black as a guide for use in the A.M.E. Zion Church. See pages 29 and 30 of the 2016 A.M.E. Zion Discipline.

Whereas, we in Zion use (4) Liturgical colors: White, Red, Green, and Purple. An additional color, black is used for times of mourning.

Whereas, the A.M.E. Zion Church uses the color Purple (not Violet) for the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Whereas, the color White (not mentioned in the Discipline) is also used for Epiphany Day

Whereas, the color Red is used during the season of Pentecost which lasts more than 2 Sundays.

Be it resolved, that the segment referred to in the Discipline regarding the adopted Liturgical colors be reworded for consistency, continuity, and for better understanding for the entire Zion Connection. To incorporate the needed changes and/or additions, the wording in the Discipline on pages 29 and 30 should be deleted and written as follows:

White, symbolizing purity and light is to be used for Communion, Baptism, Christmastide, Epiphany Day, Easter and Easter Tide, weddings and may also be used during the season of Trinity.

Red, signifying blood audacity, Christian zeal, and the work and ministry for the church, is to be used for the season of Pentecost, Thanksgiving Day, Church Dedications, and Anniversaries.

Green, symbolic of hope and growth of the Christian Life, is to be used during Epiphany and Kingdomtide (the time between Pentecost and Advent). It may also be used during the Trinity Season

Purple, signifies royalty and high rank. It is to be used for the seasons of Advent and Lent (except on Good Friday). Lent focuses on the coming of Christ and the Lenten season is a time for fasting and praying.

Black, when used, symbolizes death and mourning and will be used on Good Friday and for funerals.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Matilda Merriweather

Signature of submitting party(ies)



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R16-2020

Name of Resolution: Liturgical Seasons

RESOLUTION: Liturgical Seasons

Whereas, the Glossary of the Commonly Used Terms in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is a comprehensive guide for use of the A.M.E. Zion Discipline (see page 452ff).

Whereas, for clarity and meaning, all Liturgical seasons honored by the A.M.E. Zion Church should be included in the Glossary of the A.M.E. Zion Discipline.

Whereas, the seven Liturgical seasons used by the A.M.E. Zion Church are methodically printed in the A.M.E. Zion Bicentennial Hymnal (Responsive Readings-located after the Dedication of the Home and the Index of First Lines) and in the Church School Herald Journals.

Whereas, the seven Liturgical seasons used by A.M.E. Zion Church are not noted in the Glossary of the A.M.E. Zion Discipline; some are omitted.

Whereas, many Liturgical seasons are noted in the Glossary, but their corresponding colors are not given.

Whereas, it would be most helpful and more meaningful to Zion if all seven (7) Liturgical Seasons are defined in the Discipline.

Whereas, the Discipline would be a more thorough document as it pertains to the Liturgical Seasons if all seasons used by Zion are included in the Discipline's Glossary.

Be it therefore resolved, that the omitted Liturgical Seasons be added to the Glossary and colors added for all the seasons for consistency and continuity with the A.M.E. Zion Bicentennial Hymnal and the Church School Herald Journals.

Be it therefore further resolved, to include the needed changes and /or additions, the wording below should be incorporated in the Glossary of the A.M.E. Zion discipline.

Advent, p453- ADD: The color for the season is Purple. DELETE: the term Christmas (page 455)

In lieu of Christmas, Change to Christmas Tide. Change wording in Glossary as follows: This season begins on December 25th, as the birth of Jesus Christ. ADD: Lasting for 12 days (the twelve days of Christmas), the season ends on January 5th. The color for the season is White. Epiphany- page 459 At the end of the explanation in the Glossary, ADD: Epiphany is a celebration of the manifestation of the divine nature of Jesus Christ. The color for the season Green. Note that the color of Epiphany Day is White. Easter Season- page 45

ADD: The color for the Easter Season or Easter Tide is White. Pentecost, Season after, Page 464 Change Advent to Kingdomtide.

ADD: The color for the season Pentecost is Red.

Kingdomtide. This season falls after Pentecost and begins on the Sunday nearest August 31st. It is a time that allows Christians to evangelize and show others the path of light to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The color for the season of Kingdomtide is Green.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Matilda Merriweather

Signature of submitting party(ies)

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R17-2020

Name of Resolution: Pertaining to the Establishment of a Mediation Program

RESOLUTION: Pertaining to the Establishment of a Mediation Program

Whereas, we affirm that the scriptures encourage members of the body of Christ to settle our disputes within and among the body and not have them settled by the ungodly (I Corinthians 6: 1); and

Whereas, we affirm that far too many churches have split, and memberships diminished because conflict was resolved between members and the hierarchal leadership of the church in an ungodly manner, or through a painful and drawn out court battle at the hands of a judge in the court system; and

Whereas, we affirm that the denomination has lost many gifted and talented personalities because of differences among those with grievances not having been settled in an amicable Christian manner; and

Whereas, we affirm that mediation, has been for many years, the method used to solve business disagreements between management and labor; and

Whereas, we affirm that mediation is a redemptive way for members in the body of Christ to resolve conflict, compatible and consistent with Paul's admonition, "Let all things be done decently and in order," (I Corinthians 14:40, KJV); and

Whereas, we further affirm that mediation is a less expensive, peaceful and confidential means of finding a solution to difficult disputes;

Be it therefore resolved, that a new mandate is legislated that no matter of the church, at any level in the denomination, shall be litigated in a court of law before all efforts involving mediation have been exhausted and the parties involved have been unable to reach a satisfactory solution; and

Be it therefore further resolved, that a Mediation System be established within the A.M.E. Zion Church to facilitate this process; and

Be it therefore further resolved, that a task force of clergy and laity be formed, that is comprised of representatives of each Episcopal District, for the specific purpose of determining the manner in which the Mediation System will operate in the

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Kathy McFadden

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____

FOUNDED 1796

General Conference Resolutions Form

GC51-R18-2020

Name of Resolution: Ministry Mental and Emotional Health Evaluation Requirement

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, emotional and mental health are vital for all persons, especially those persons seeking ordination within the AME Zion Church.

Whereas, the AME Zion Church does not require persons seeking ordination within the AME Zion Church to undergo any evaluation of their emotional and mental health.

Therefore, be it resolved, that persons seeking ordination within the AME Zion Church be required to undergo an evaluation of their emotional and mental health prior to preaching their initial sermon;

Be it further resolved, that said emotional and mental evaluation shall be conducted by an appropriate professional organization and or entity identified by the AME Zion Church and retained at the expense of the individual seeking ordination.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R19-2020

Name of Resolution: Pertaining to The Next Generation Movement

RESOLUTION Pertaining to The Next Generation Movement

Whereas, we affirm that the church must be more aggressive in its effort to address the needs and the social concerns of our younger generation; and

Whereas, we affirm that according to World Youth Report (February 20, 2019) today, there are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 in the world, accounting for 16 percent of the global population; and

Whereas, we affirm that the active engagement of youth in sustainable development efforts is central to achieving sustainable, inclusive and stable societies and to averting the worst threats and challenges to sustainable development, including the negative impacts of police brutality, unemployment, poverty, gender inequality, interpersonal conflict, substance abuse, bullying, negative stereotyping, gun violence, crime and migration etc.; and

Whereas, we affirm the work and mission of the Next Generation Movement organization to enlist 12 million children, who will vow to remain free from drugs, guns, violence and imprisonments; and

Whereas, we affirm that since its inception, the organization now has 17 chapters with more than 8,700 Children and youth who have pledged to remain free of the ills of society; and

Be it therefore resolved, that the A.M.E. Zion Church will embrace this social impact ministry as an outreach ministry of the church; and

Be it therefore further resolved, that a Next Generation Movement chapter be established within each Presiding Elder's District; and

Be it therefore further resolved, that the Denomination's Christian Education Department will work in collaboration with the Next Generation Movement in fulfilling the common goal of protecting and saving the lives of our young people.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Mark Hawkins

Signature of submitting party(ies): _____

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R20-2020

Name of Resolution: PASTORAL CARE DIVISION

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, There has been limited or no direction concerning the issue of Pastoral Care for clergy and their dependent families, and

Whereas, The issues of clergy burnout and fatigue, stress-related illnesses, emotional and psychological instability have adversely affected the church and the home,

Therefore, be it resolved, That a Pastoral Care Division be situated at the Annual Conference level, if needed: 1. To develop policies and procedures for identifying and addressing emotional and psychological needs of clergy and their dependent families; 2. To secure independent board certified service providers and make appropriate referrals; and, 3. To provide exit counseling to ministers facing life transitions (i.e. retirement, sabbatical).

Therefore, be it further resolved, That the Presiding Bishop can sanction the Minister of Pastoral Care and Counseling (Clergy in Specialized Ministry) to establish a Pastoral Care Division, if needed, to promote the holistic health of pastors and their families which directly influences the spiritual, emotional, physical, and social well-being of congregations.

Budget Implications: N/A

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Connectional Lay Council

Signature of Submitting Party(ies):

Dr. Mary J. Matthews
Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey
Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Arrington
Rev. Cary L. Beckwith
Rev. Angela W. Boyd
Rev. Dr. Heath Cheek
Rev. Sharon Cheek
Rev. Dr. Rita J. Colbert
Rev. Dr. Frances M. Draper
Rev. Dr. Rebecca Branch Griffin
Rev. Henry D. Hines
Rev. Kay M. Hines
Rev. Vanessa D. Hinton
Rev. Reginald Jones
Rev. Dr. William M. Jordan, III
Rev. Dr. William E. Kelly
Rev. Lawrence E. Lewis
Rev. Dr. Valerie A. Maness
Rev. Dr. Lorenza A. Meekins
Rev. Dr. Calvin Miller
Rev. Dr. Michael Rouse
Rev. Johnny L. Ruff
Rev. Robin Houston Stitt
Rev. Darrell J. Williams

Virginia
Western New York
South Carolina
Philadelphia and Baltimore
Philadelphia and Baltimore
Philadelphia and Baltimore
Philadelphia and Baltimore
Virginia
Cape Fear
Western North Carolina
Virginia
West Central North Carolina
Philadelphia and Baltimore
Kentucky
New England
Virginia
Western North Carolina
New York
Western North Carolina
West Central North Carolina
California



General Conference Resolutions Form

GC51-R21-2020

Name of Resolution: Sale of Church Property

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church has decreed that all church assets are held in trust for the A.M.E. Zion Church. Accordingly, *The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church* (2016), (hereinafter referred to as "*The Discipline*"), reflects this decree in various places. However, *The Discipline* only appears to cover assets of the local church, it does not include assets held by the conferences and or districts. In that from time to time, church property maybe in the possession of an annual conference or acquired by the Episcopal District. Therefore, the purpose of this resolution is to ensure that all assets of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, its appended bodies are held in trust for The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and sale of over one million dollars be approved by the Board of Bishops. (NOTE: all references are from, *The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church* (2016).

Whereas, The Book of Discipline (2016), Section 391.4 states the following:

"Trustees' holding of property. All assets owned by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, whether incorporated, unincorporated, or abandoned

a. Shall be held by the trustees of the church in trust for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; and

b. Are subject to The Discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said church."

WHEREAS, Paragraph 393 states that in: "It is the duty of the Pastor and Presiding Elder to see that our church property is deeded according to our Book of Discipline, and duly incorporated in accordance with the laws of the state or territory in which it is situated."

Whereas, Paragraph 395 reads: "All written instruments by which premises are held or hereafter acquired as a parsonage for the use and occupancy of the ministers of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church shall contain the following trust clause:

"In trust that said premises shall be held, kept and maintained as a place of residence for the use and occupancy of the ministry of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in America, who may from time to time be stationed in such place, subject to the provisions of the discipline and usage of said church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said church, and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds said premises are situated. This provision is solely for the benefit of the grantee, and the grantor reserves no right or interest in said premises".

1. Absence of deed trust clause, trustees' responsibilities. The 46th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that the absence of a trust clause in any deed or other conveyance does not relieve or exclude a local church in any way from its African Methodist Episcopal Zion Connectional responsibilities or from the provisions of this part and does not absolve a local congregation or Board of Trustees of its responsibility if such an intent of the founders or the later congregations and board of trustees is indicated by:

2. The conveyance of the assets to the trustees of the local church or any of its predecessors:

- a. The use of the name, customs, and polity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in such a way as to be known to the community as part of the denomination; or
- b. The acceptance of the Pastor appointed by a Bishop of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Real property acquired by a conveyance containing either or both of the foregoing trust clauses may be sold in conformity with the provisions of The Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. When its use as a church or parsonage, as the case may be, has been or is intended to be terminated; and when such real estate is sold or mortgaged in accordance with the provisions of the Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the written acknowledged consent of the proper presiding Bishop representing The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church to the action taken shall constitute a release and discharge of the real property so sold and conveyed from either or both of the foregoing trust clauses; or in the event of the execution of a mortgage, such consent of the presiding Bishop shall constitute a formal recognition of the priority of such mortgage lien and the subordination of the foregoing trust provisions thereof; and no bona fide purchaser or mortgagee relying upon the foregoing record shall be charged with any responsibility with respect to the disposition by such local church of the proceeds of any such sale or mortgage.

Be it resolved, that the Book of Discipline (2016), Paragraph 391.4 be amended to read:

391.4. "Trustees' holding of property. All assets owned by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, whether incorporated, unincorporated, or abandoned or whether in possession of the Local church, Annual Conference or Episcopal District.

- a. Shall be held by the trustees of the church, Trustees of the Annual Conference or Trustees of the Episcopal District in trust for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; and
- b. Are subject to The Discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said church."

Be it resolved, that Paragraph 393 be amended to read:

393. "It is the duty of the Pastor and Presiding Elder to see that our church property (including property of all appendant bodies) is deeded according to our Book of Discipline, and where applicable, duly incorporated in accordance with the laws of the state or territory in which it is situated."

Be it resolved, that Paragraph 395 be amended to read:

"395. All written instruments by which premises are held or hereafter acquired as a parsonage for the use and occupancy of the ministers of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church shall contain the following trust clause:

"In trust that said premises shall be held, kept and maintained as a place of residence for the use and occupancy of the ministry of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in America, who may from time to time be stationed in such place, subject to the provisions of the discipline and usage of said church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said church, and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds said premises are situated. This provision is solely for the benefit of the grantee, and the grantor reserves no right or interest in said premises".

1. Absence of deed trust clause, trustees' responsibilities. The 46th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that the absence of a trust clause in any deed or other conveyance does not relieve or exclude a local church, or appendant body of The A.M.E. Zion Church, in any way from its African Methodist Episcopal Zion Connectional responsibilities or from the provisions of this part and does not absolve a local congregation an Annual Conference or Episcopal District, or the Board of Trustees of its responsibility if such an intent of the founders or the later congregations and board of trustees is indicated by:

2. The conveyance of the assets to the trustees of the local church, Annual Conference or Episcopal District or any of its predecessors;

a. The use of the name, customs, and polity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in such a way as to be known to the community as part of the denomination; or

b. The acceptance of the Pastor appointed by a Bishop of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

3. Real property acquired by a conveyance containing either or both of the foregoing trust clauses may be sold in conformity with the provisions of The Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. When its use as a church or parsonage, or other church use, as the case may be, has been or is intended to be terminated; and when such real estate is sold or mortgaged in accordance

with the provisions of the Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the written acknowledged consent of the proper presiding Bishop representing The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church to the action taken shall constitute a release and discharge of the real property so sold and conveyed from either or both of the foregoing trust clauses; or in the event of the execution of a mortgage, such consent of the presiding Bishop shall constitute a formal recognition of the priority of such mortgage lien and the subordination of the foregoing trust provisions thereof; and no bona fide purchaser or mortgagee relying upon the foregoing record shall be charged with any responsibility with respect to the disposition by such church or church entity of the proceeds of any such sale or mortgage.

Whereas, Paragraph 398, reads: "The Trustees shall not in any case whatsoever dispose of church property by sale or otherwise without written consent of the majority of the members in full connection, expressed by vote in a meeting called for that purpose, of which due notice has been given. Provided, however, that no congregation, Pastor, nor trustee board or agent of the congregation shall mortgage or sell any property of the A.M.E. Zion Church without confirmation of the Quarterly Conference and written consent of the Bishop of the District or the Annual Conference."

Be it resolved, that Paragraph 398 be amended to read: In addition, any church sale, transfer or mortgage of property in the possession of a Local Church, Annual Conference or Episcopal District, exceeding one million dollars be approved by the Board of Bishops with written consent.

Budget Implications:None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R22-2020

Name of Resolution: Pertaining to A Preceptor Succession Plan

RESOLUTION: Pertaining to A Preceptor Succession Plan

Whereas , we affirm that Holy Scripture encourages those in the various professions of ministry to value proper preparation and training, as is noted in II Timothy 2: “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth,” (NIV); and

Whereas, we affirm that institutions of higher learning are altering academic curricula to include experiential learning and internships to better equip individuals for success as they transition into the workplace; and

Whereas, we affirm that preceptor mentoring programs, to prepare individuals for leadership in ministry, are validated by many paradigms found in scripture, for example: Jesus and his Disciples, Moses and Joshua and Elijah and Elias, Paul and Timothy, etc.; and

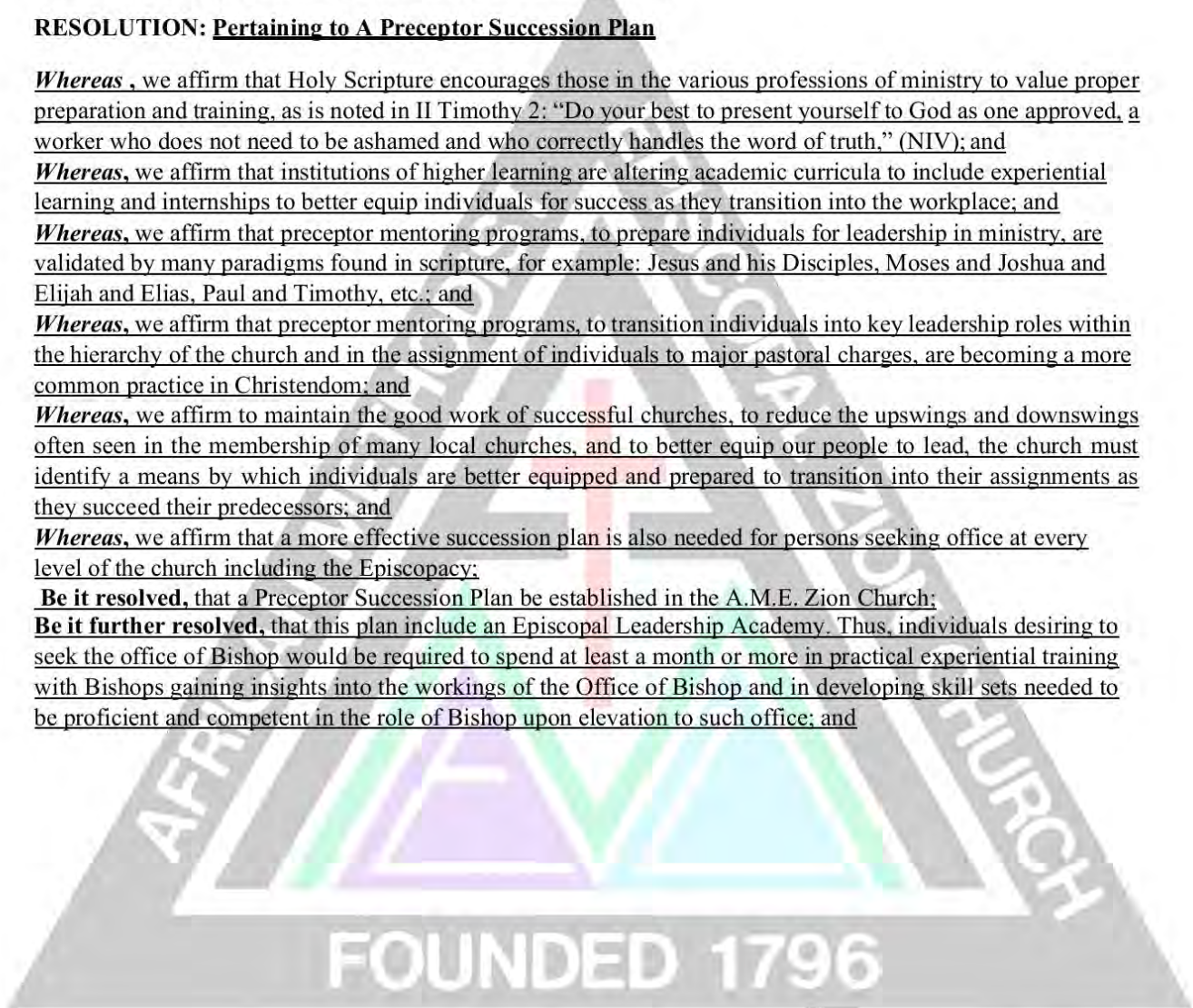
Whereas, we affirm that preceptor mentoring programs, to transition individuals into key leadership roles within the hierarchy of the church and in the assignment of individuals to major pastoral charges, are becoming a more common practice in Christendom; and

Whereas, we affirm to maintain the good work of successful churches, to reduce the upswings and downswings often seen in the membership of many local churches, and to better equip our people to lead, the church must identify a means by which individuals are better equipped and prepared to transition into their assignments as they succeed their predecessors; and

Whereas, we affirm that a more effective succession plan is also needed for persons seeking office at every level of the church including the Episcopacy;

Be it resolved, that a Preceptor Succession Plan be established in the A.M.E. Zion Church;

Be it further resolved, that this plan include an Episcopal Leadership Academy. Thus, individuals desiring to seek the office of Bishop would be required to spend at least a month or more in practical experiential training with Bishops gaining insights into the workings of the Office of Bishop and in developing skill sets needed to be proficient and competent in the role of Bishop upon elevation to such office; and



Be it further resolved, that the Preceptor Succession Plan would include a Denominational Leadership Academy to be developed to offer training to persons desiring to hold positions in the church as General Officers; and

Be it further resolved, that the Preceptor Succession Plan would include a transition Program for pastors to prepare them to be more effective as they transition into major pastoral charges. This program would allow the person identified for the new appointment to shadow the current Pastor and be mentored and provided with insights on the resources, culture and the dynamics unique to the congregation; and

Be it further resolved, that the Episcopal Academy would be developed within the ranks of the Board of Bishops, that the Denominational Leadership Training Program would be developed within each respective department of the church at all levels, and that the Transition Program for Pastors would be developed and maintained by the Bishop assigned to each Episcopal Area; and

Be It further resolved, that a Preceptor Succession Planning Committee be formulated by the Board of Bishop to design the blueprint for the implementation for each component of the plan.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Frank Asumadu

Signature of submitting party(ies): _____



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R23-2020

Name of Resolution: Pertaining to an Economic Sustainability Program

RESOLUTION: Pertaining to an Economic Sustainability Program

Whereas, we affirm that for more than 222 years the A.M.E. Zion Church has functioned on an economic system that depended on the General Claims System as the primary revenue stream for the General Church; and

Whereas, we affirm that the financial realities of many of our churches have changed. Thus, the General Claims System, as it exists today, is drastically creating a financial strain on the current revenue systems of many of the local churches that provide the economic subsistence that is necessary for the viability of the General Church.

Whereas, we affirm that there is an ongoing appeal from the membership-at-large of the A.M.E. Zion church, requesting that attention be given to other innovative and creative revenue streams to help sustain the operating budget of the denomination; and

Whereas, we affirm that the economic indicators of the church would suggest that immediate action should be taken to address what is swiftly becoming a system that cannot continue to sustain the economic demands of the denomination; and

Whereas, we affirm that the future of the church can be rescued by employing strategic steps today.

Be it therefore resolved, that an Economic Sustainability Program for the A.M.E. Zion Church be established; and

Be it further resolved, that this Economic Sustainability Program be charged with focusing on the means by which the church can establish and implement programs to augment the current General Claims Revenue System; and

Be it further resolved, that a 25-million-dollar Economic Development Endowment Fund be approved by the General Conference as the first program to be created and implemented under the Economic and Sustainability Program.

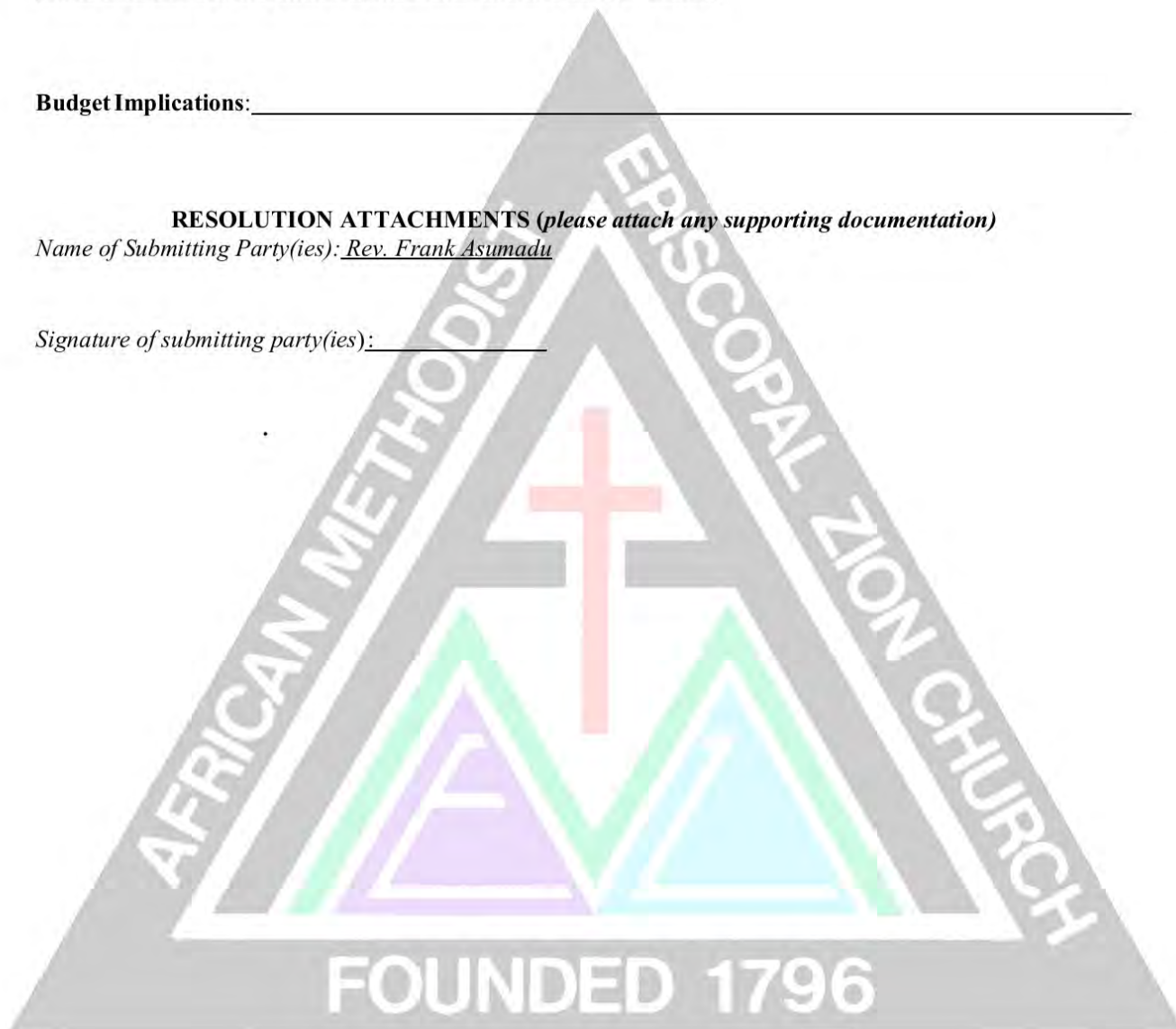
Be it further resolved, that to acquire the seed money needed to fund this effort, that every individual, institution and entity of the church will contribute \$1.00 as seed offering to this Endowment. All contributions would be donated to the church by the Connectional Council of 2021.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Frank Asumadu

Signature of submitting party(ies): _____



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R24-2020

Name of Resolution: The Establishment of the Office of an Ecumenical Bishop

RESOLUTION: Pertaining to Episcopal Expansion

Whereas, we affirm the words of Holy Scripture which states “For there is no respect of person with God” (Romans 2:11, KJV); and

Whereas, we further affirm the words of Holy Scripture which declares “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28, NIV; and

Whereas, we affirm that owing to staggering advances in technological innovation we now live in a Global World Society; and

Whereas, we affirm that The A.M.E. Zion Church is part of the great ecumenical consensus expressed in the historic creeds of the Christian faith: affirmations about the triune God, the person and work of Jesus Christ, and the life-giving ministry of the Holy Spirit, and inclusive of the marks of the church that remain before us as gift and task—namely that of the inclusive church of God that is, holy, universal and apostolic; and

Whereas, we acknowledge the long history of collective engagement and involvement that the A.M.E. Zion has in ecumenical engagement, and in the sharing with Christians across many communions of faith; Eastern and Western, Protestant and Catholic, and in commitment to the central role of scripture in forming and sustaining the church in common doctrine and practice; and

Whereas, we affirm the gracious work of God in creation, and the reality of the image of God in every human being, obscured by sin and alienation from God, but never utterly effaced; and

Whereas, the spirit of ecumenism coupled with ecumenical dialogue challenges the Christian community of all races, and ethnicities to leave our differences aside in order to fight the common enemy of Christ and the people of God; and

Whereas, through ecumenism there is an opportunity for the collective Christian community to learn from each other; and

Whereas, we affirm that there is strength in the unity of faith traditions finding common ground in working together to confront and destroy the face of racism, economic inequality and injustices around the world;

Be it therefore resolved, that an Office of an Ecumenical Bishop be established as part of the hierarchal structure of the church; and

Further be it resolved, that the Ecumenical Bishop will serve as a liaison between the A.M.E. Zion Church and the entire ecumenical community.

Further be it resolved that the Bishop serving in this office will be responsible for inter-faiths relations as

well; and

Further be it resolved, that a significant role of the Ecumenical Bishop will be serve as the voice of the A.M.E. Zion Church--The Freedom Church--that continues to address the need for liberation of all people and to ensure that the poor are not left behind as the spanned of globalization continues to empower and increase economic prosperity for many; and

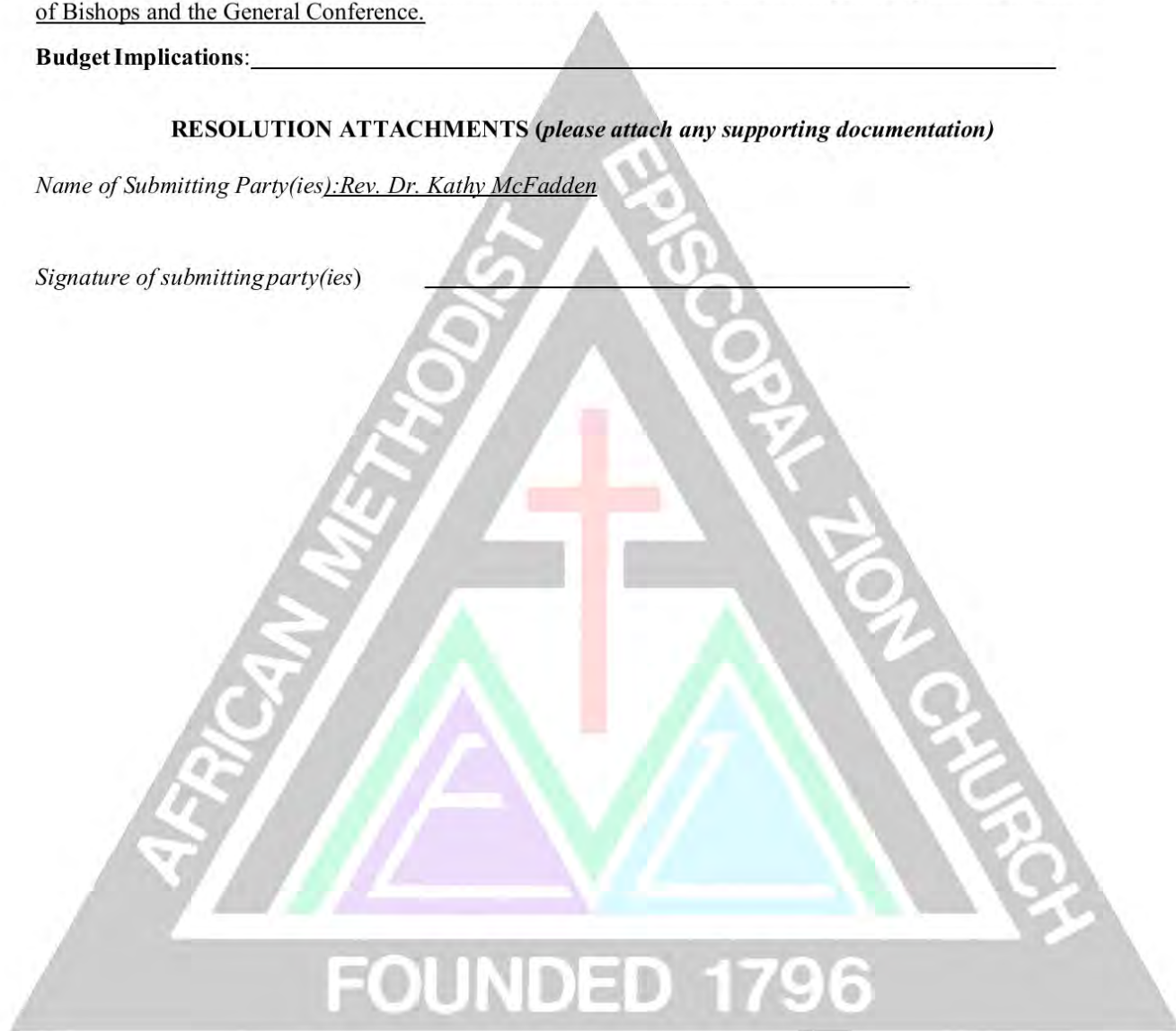
Further be it resolved, that the activities of this office must withstand the scrutiny and approval of the Board of Bishops and the General Conference.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Kathy McFadden

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____



General Conference Resolutions Form

GC51-R25-2020

Name of Resolution: The Establishment of the Office of as Administration Bishop

RESOLUTION: **The Establishment of the Office of an Administrative Bishop**

Whereas, we affirm the necessity to reserve the autocracy of each Presiding Bishop in the governance of their respective Episcopal District as that authority is articulated in the Book of Discipline; and

Whereas, we affirm the need of the church to have a united vision that guides its works as informed by Habakkuk 2:2 which states, "Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it." (KJV)

Whereas, we also affirm that the General Church must also be informed and be guided by the proverb which states that "Where there is no vision the people perish" (Proverb 29:18b, KJV); and

Whereas, the efficacy and the efficiency of the Denomination can be greatly enhanced by the creation, communication and implementation of a central vision, mission and overall direction for the church; and

Whereas, we affirm that the success of the church must be guided by a corporate strategic plan formulated by the Board of Bishop that guides the direction of the business of the church; and

Whereas, all successful organizations operate with corporate goals aligned with measurable objectives and ongoing formative and summative evaluations; and

Whereas, leadership to evaluate the success of the church in reaching its stated corporate goals is necessary; and

Whereas, unity of purpose and unity of direction can only strengthen the church through one who functions in the church with the primary responsibility of being a unifier.

Be it therefore resolved, that an Office of an Administrative Bishop be established as part of the hierarchal structure of the church.

Be It Further Resolved, That this will be an additional Bishop added to the ranks to be elected by the General Conference in the manner as defined by the Book of Discipline; and



Further be it resolved, that the primary role of this office is to oversee the work and well-being of the entire denomination. The person serving in this role will have the responsibility to ensure that the plans and programs of the church will be carried out according to how they have been mandated by the General Church.

Further be it resolved, that the duty of the Administrative Bishop will be to enhance the unity of the church; and

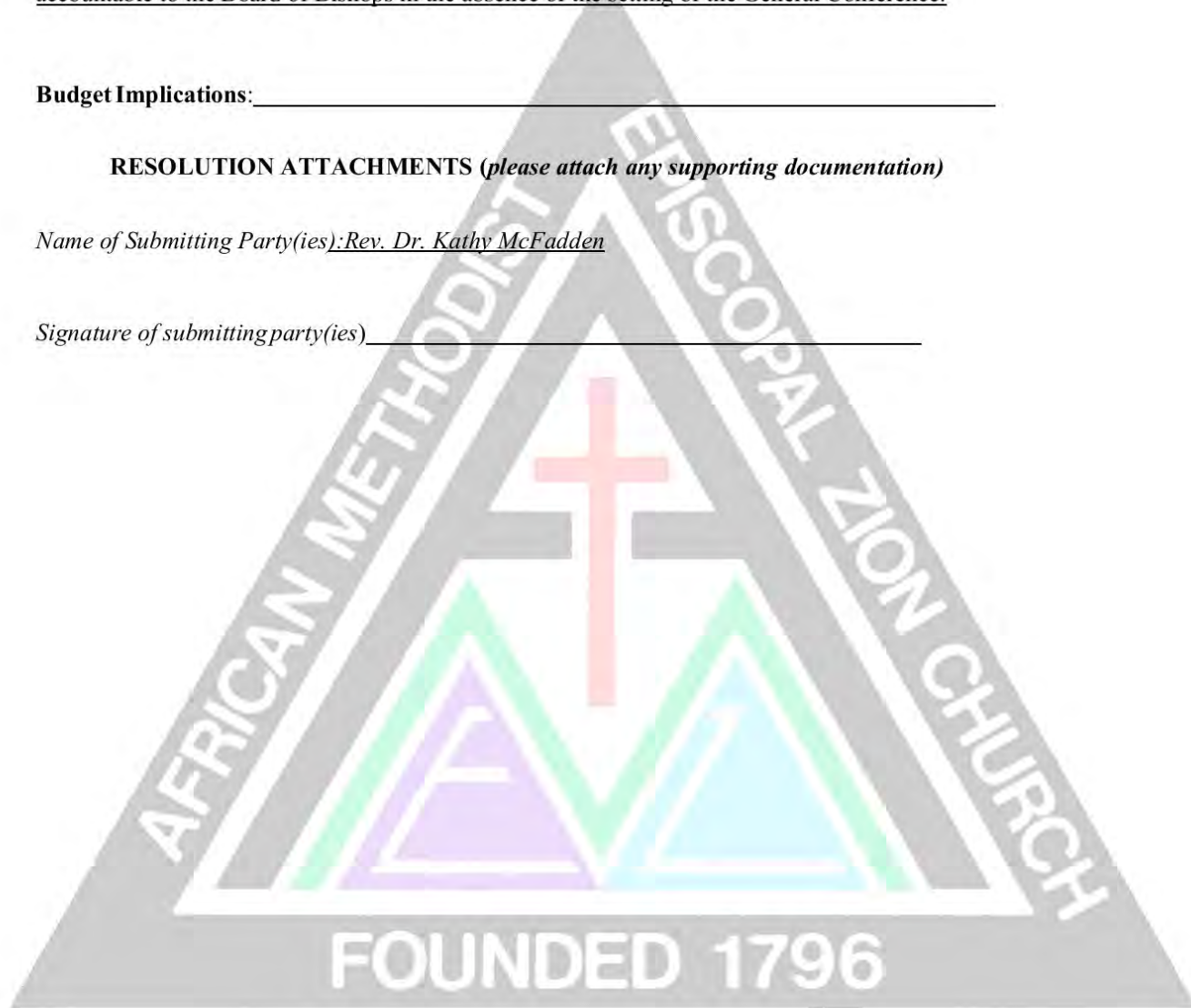
Further be it resolved, to ensure accountability, that the Administrative Bishop will be held accountable to the Board of Bishops in the absence of the setting of the General Conference.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Kathy McFadden

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R26-2020

Name of Resolution: The Freedom Church

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, history records the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church as established in 1796 to free “the spiritual and intellectual gifts of black preachers and black people generally [that] they might be given opportunity for expression;” and

Whereas, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church honors and reaffirms the ideals of its founders, and supports this the Freedom Church known also by the bold contributions of such noted members as Bishop James Varick, Bishop Jermain Wesley Loguen, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and Frederick Douglass, among others; and

Whereas, this present age calls for recommitment and dedication to the causes of social justice locally and worldwide;

Therefore, be it resolved, that each local African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church will engage individually or collaboratively with another Zion Church, and report annually at the District and Annual Conferences, on specific efforts to continually pursue social justice by working to eliminate criminal injustice, inequality in housing and employment, voter and economic depression, discrimination as outlined in the United States Constitution, and such other conditions that contribute to emotional bondage.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)* Name

of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R27-2020

Name of Resolution: To encourage every local society of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church to initiate energy conservation measures and take a proactive role in the reduction of the its carbon footprint

RESOLUTION:

Preamble: Sustainability (Wujek & Dagostino) is defined as meeting the needs of the current generation without compromising the needs of the future generation. Sustainability impacts climate change. President Barack Obama believes it is the fierce urgency of now to embrace the notion of sustainability educationally, economically, and socially. The terms sustainability and green can be used interchangeably when speaking about global initiatives impacting the ecological system and the preservation of the environment. From recycling trash to turning off the lights in a room when not in use, or from reusing the grocery bag to riding a bicycle to work, people all over the world are beginning to embrace this concept of sustainability. Sustainability embraces the notion of using less water to cook, clean and sanitation to installing photovoltaic cells on the roof of a building for it impacts all human beings.

The need for preserving our ecological system is becoming a matter of urgency every day because of climate change. The church should not be passive, but take the lead for the bible says, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof (Psalm 24:1 NASB).

God has favored humanity to be managers of the earth and we must endeavor to do our best to take care of what belongs to Him by reducing our water usage, recycling, and utilizing alternative energy. According to the National Wildlife Federation, global warming is the unusual warming of the earth caused by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas (National Wildlife Federation, 2012).

Whereas, The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church does not have any legislation that address climate change and energy conservation, and;

Whereas, each local society of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church can mitigate its carbon foot print by utilizing Energy Star Appliances, use low flow or tank-less water closets and other fixtures, and;

Whereas, the local societies of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church can initiate a recycling ministry of paper, glass, plastics, cell phones, electronics, tires, etc., and;

Whereas, the local societies of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church may elect to install photovoltaic panels on the roof or wind turbines on the property to reduce electrical consumption from the grid. After a determined number of years, electricity harnessed by the panels can be sold back to the local electrical company for profit. This will greatly benefit the church financially, and;

Whereas, the local societies of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church can reduce its paper usage and transition to electronic means of displaying the bulletin, programs, announcements, etc.;

Therefore, be it resolved, that every local society of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is encouraged to initiate energy conservation measures and take a proactive role in the reduction of its carbon footprint.

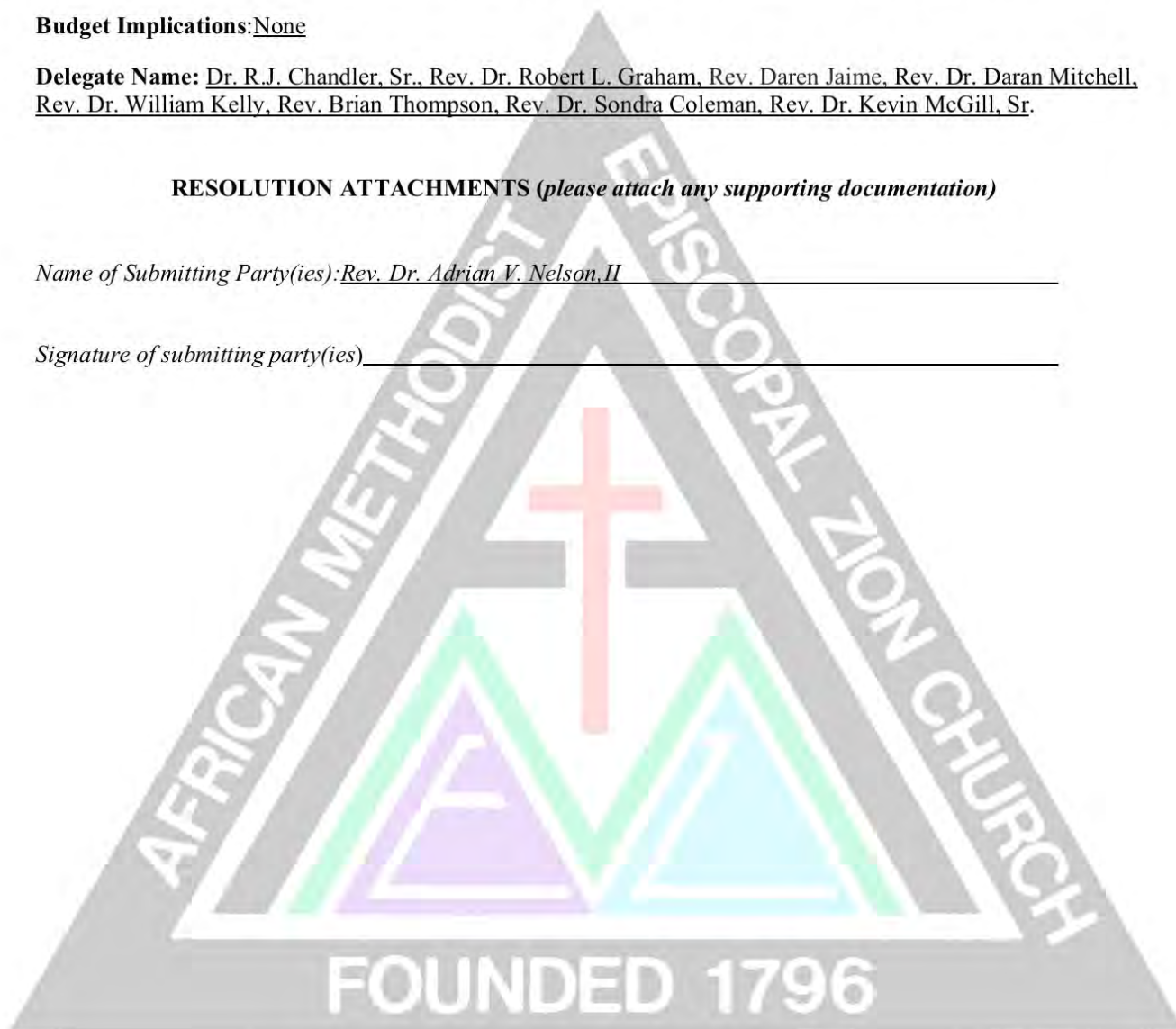
Budget Implications: None

Delegate Name: Dr. R.J. Chandler, Sr., Rev. Dr. Robert L. Graham, Rev. Daren Jaime, Rev. Dr. Daran Mitchell, Rev. Dr. William Kelly, Rev. Brian Thompson, Rev. Dr. Sondra Coleman, Rev. Dr. Kevin McGill, Sr.

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R28-2020

Name of Resolution: To include the Acolyte Installation Ritual in the worship section of the Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

RESOLUTION:

Preamble: The Acolyte Ministry is a vital aspect of Christian Education throughout the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. It is necessary that a ritual for installation of service is to be included in The Ritual – Part II of the Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Installation of Acolyte Ritual

The Pastor robed in white stands before the Altar or near the chancel area. Pastor:

“Let those who are to be installed into the Office of Acolyte, come forth.” The

candidates will proceed to the altar and their parents will stand behind them.

Parents: “Pastor _____ I/we _____ present my/our child(ren) to be an Acolyte.”

Pastor: Dearly beloved children, who now come to be installed unto the Office of Acolyte, consider the meaning of this moment. The primary duties of the Acolyte are to lead the processional, light the candles, assist the ministers and receive the offerings of the people. Hear the words of our Lord, Jesus Christ: “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is Heaven.”

The Apostle Paul says:

“In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life. Therefore, let your loins be girded and burning lamps be in your hands, that you may be children of light. Cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. For you were heretofore in darkness, but now in light in the Lord. Walk, then, as children of the light.”

Scriptural References: Philippians 2:15, 16; Luke 12:35, Romans 13:12, Ephesians 5:8

Pastor: “I ask you, therefore: Do you accept this Office to which you have been chosen, and do you promise to faithfully perform and discharge your duties in the fear of God, according to the rules and doctrine of the Church? (If so, answer:)

Acolytes: “I WILL, GOD BEING MY HELPER.” (TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION)

Pastor: Before you stand these children now being presented for service as Acolytes. They are all acquainted with the nature and purpose of chancel ministry, which is not for show, but to make the service orderly more meaningful and worshipful; to stimulate a greater sensitivity to the liturgy of the Church and to things Holy, being of God, the Father. It is to this end that we now present these candidates for installment as Acolytes:

The COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR reads the names of the Candidates:

(TO THE ACOLYTES)

Pastor: We trust that you hold dear this sacred moment, not only for today but for the duration of your lives. That we may more fully comprehend the Spirit in which you have come, we now ask you to answer these questions:

Pastor: Will you give of yourself unselfishly and earnestly to your duties as an Acolyte, as a labor of love of Jesus Christ and His Church?

Acolytes: (ANSWER: I WILL)

Pastor: Will you always obey them to whom the charge and government over you is required, namely, your Pastor and assisting clergy?

Acolytes: (ANSWER: I WILL DO SO)

Pastor: Will you prayerfully remind yourselves that sharing in the leadership of public worship requires that you live a wholesome Christian life as children of God, always seeking to improve yourselves through Jesus Christ our Savior?

Acolytes: (ANSWER: I WILL, GOD BEING MY HELPER)

(PARENTS AND ACOLYTES KNEELING TOGETHER)

Pastor: (Let us pray) Eternal God, who hast inspired us to worship Thee in the beauty of holiness, Spirit and truth, doing all things respectfully and with a glad heart. Thy will, today, and forevermore – bless, sustain and keep them through Thy Son and our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

(THE PASTOR STANDING AT THE HEAD OF EACH ACOLYTE)

[The Pastor will take the Acolyte by the right hand, help them to stand and say their name]

Pastor: “_____ Take thou, the privilege and responsibility of an Acolyte in the Church of God in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!”

Therefore, be it resolved, that the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church include the installation of the acolyte ritual in the worship section of the Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____

Delegate Name: Rev. Dr. Reginald Chandler, Sr./Dr. Brenda G. Smith/Acolyte Task Force

Annual Conference, Board or Committee: Philadelphia & Baltimore

Conferences



AMEZ 2020 - Resolutions

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R29-2020

Name of Resolution: Episcopal/Annual Conference Trustee or Appointee Demographic Study for Implementation of A Plan for Church Growth and Development of African Methodist Episcopal Zion Churches

RESOLUTION:

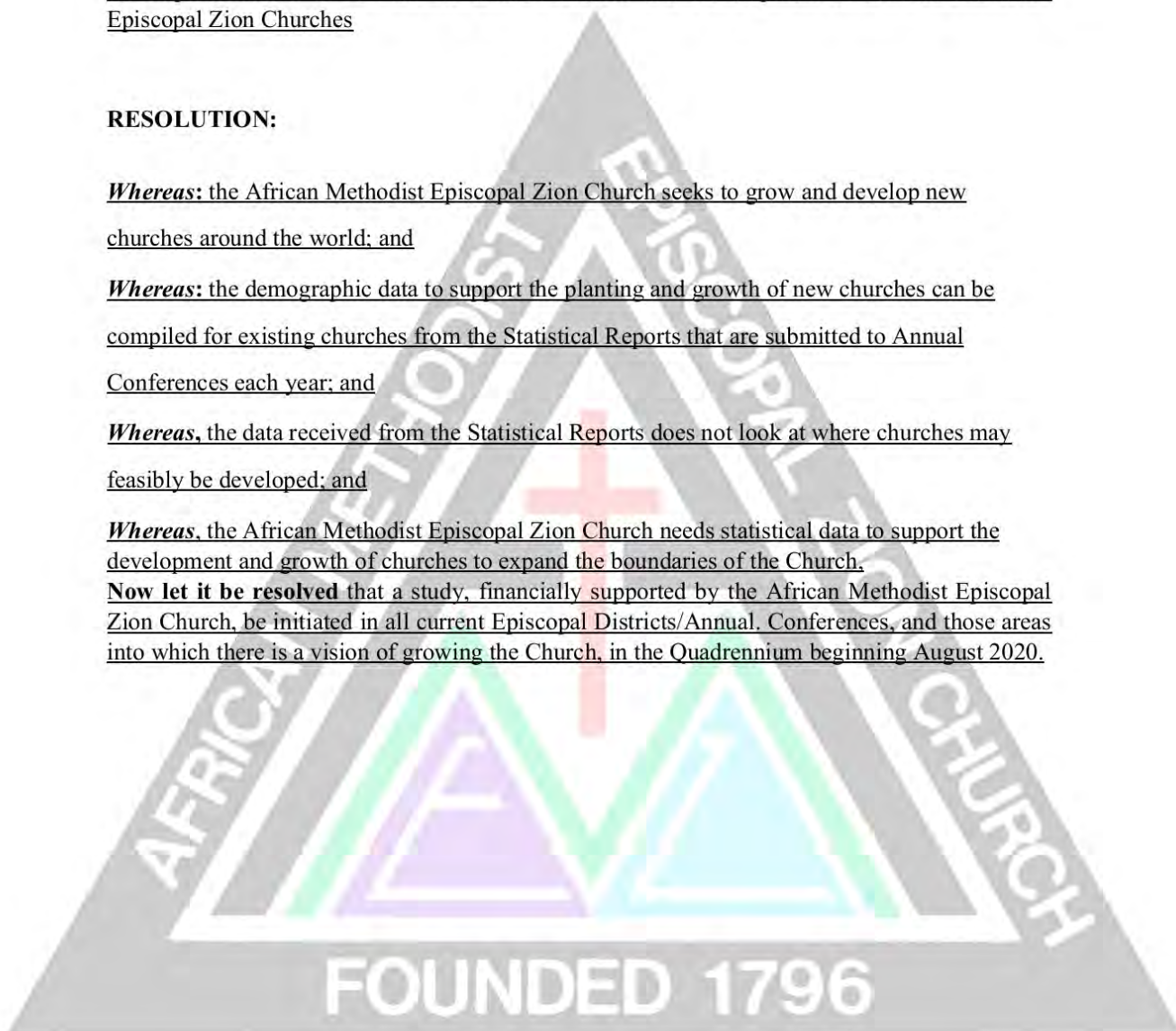
Whereas: the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church seeks to grow and develop new churches around the world; and

Whereas: the demographic data to support the planting and growth of new churches can be compiled for existing churches from the Statistical Reports that are submitted to Annual Conferences each year; and

Whereas, the data received from the Statistical Reports does not look at where churches may feasibly be developed; and

Whereas, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church needs statistical data to support the development and growth of churches to expand the boundaries of the Church,

Now let it be resolved that a study, financially supported by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, be initiated in all current Episcopal Districts/Annual Conferences, and those areas into which there is a vision of growing the Church, in the Quadrennium beginning August 2020.



Let it further be resolved that persons undertaking the study represent the Office of the General Secretary Auditor, the Department of Church Growth and Development, statisticians from Annual Conferences willing to engage the issue, clergy and lay members of each existing Episcopal District/Annual Conference, and persons seeking to enlarge the boundaries of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

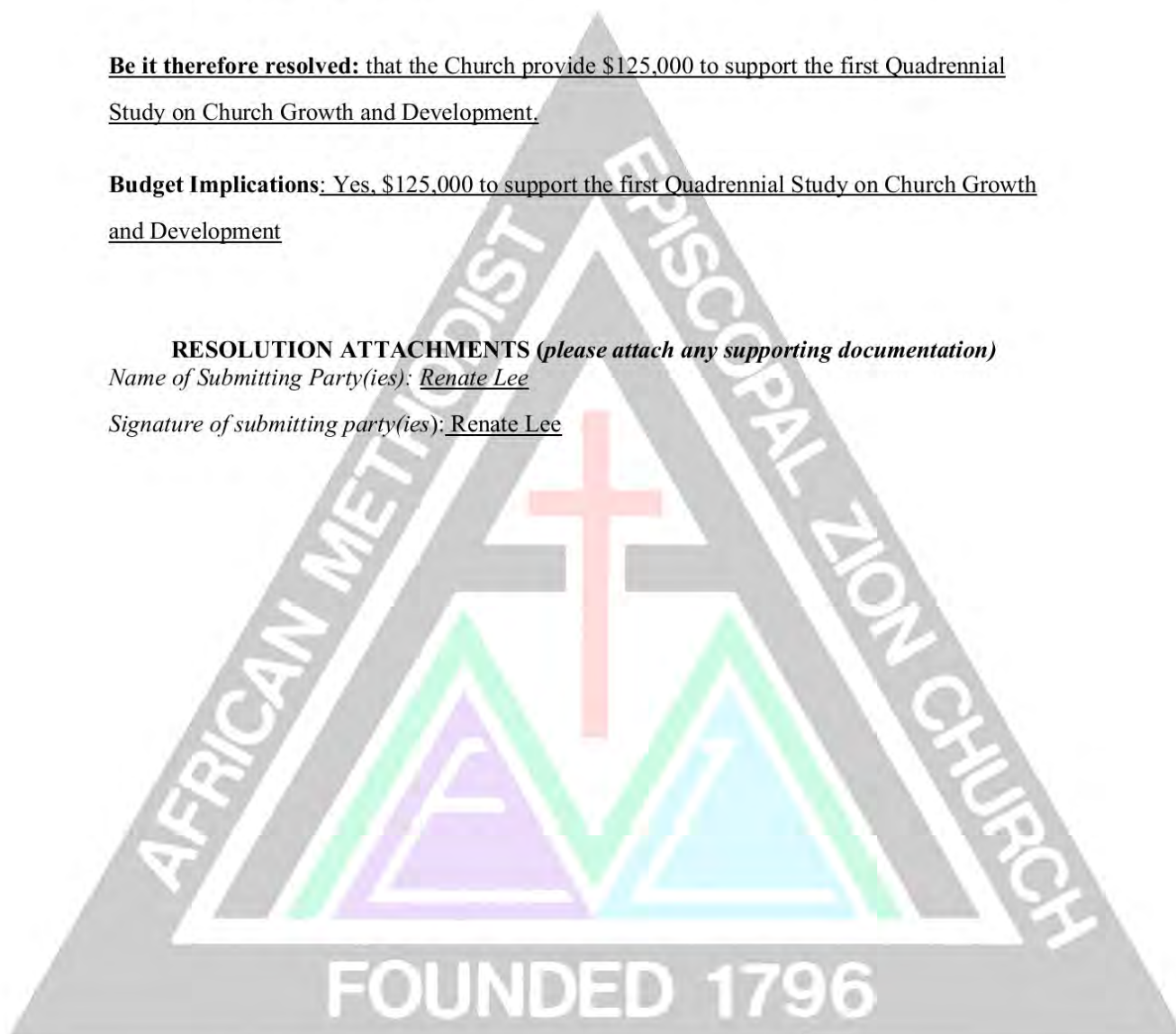
Be it therefore resolved: that the Church provide \$125,000 to support the first Quadrennial Study on Church Growth and Development.

Budget Implications: Yes, \$125,000 to support the first Quadrennial Study on Church Growth and Development

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Renate Lee

Signature of submitting party(ies): Renate Lee



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R30-2020

Name of Resolution: AME Zion 403(b) (9) Retirement Plan

Financial Administration

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is almost two hundred and twenty-five (225) years old;

Whereas, many of the human resources, clergy and lay, who serve in the church have no pension or retirement;

Whereas, there are 70 percent of our clergy who are below the age of 70;

Whereas, the BASIC RETIREMENT PROGRAM is established to provide African Methodist Episcopal Zion Churches and Presiding Elder Districts the opportunity to offer their clergy world-class retirement options using best practices within the financial services industry;

Whereas, considering the scarceness of enrollments since the rollout of the AME Zion 403(b)(9) Retirement Plan in August 2018 makes the success of this ministry dismal;

Therefore, be it resolved, each domestic Annual Conference ensure every local African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of a minimum membership of fifty (50) and Presiding Elder District adopt and fund the 403(b)(9) Basic Retirement Plan for full-time pastors and presiding elders;

Be it further resolved, clergy who have reached the age of 70 may be exempted from participating in this connectional retirement plan.

Be it further resolved, each Annual Conferences shall establish an accountability and verification process for reporting to the Annual Conferences names of churches participating in the AME Zion 403(b)(9) Retirement Plan.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Connectional Trustees Board, Dr. David Aiken, Executive Director
Dr. Avery Brown, Chair of Resolutions Subcommittee, Dr. John Butler, Mr. Eric Smith, II, Attorney Anita Pearson-Royster, Dr. Sondra Coleman, Secretary

Signature of submitting party(ies) All parties signed and approved electronically.

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R31-2020

Resolution: Zion Benefit Services Property and Liability Insurance Program

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is comprised of nine (9) domestic Episcopal Districts in essentially every quadrant of the continental United States of America with a total of more than twenty-five hundred (2500) domestic edifices and facilities, inclusive of church properties and contents, sanctuaries, family life centers, fellowship halls, episcopal residences, parsonages and other residential dwellings;

Whereas, many of these properties are not insured for Replacement Costs and amounts of Liability Insurance don't comply with minimum coverage requirements prescribed in the denomination's Book of Discipline;

Whereas, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church's Zion's Benefits Services (ZBS) Insurance Program has established itself as a reputable and world-class entity, using best practices within the financial services industry, and employs AAA rated insurance carriers to provide levels of protection as prescribed in the Book of Discipline at competitive rates;

Whereas, considering the scarceness of enrollments since the inception of the ZBS Insurance Program with only 28 percent of domestic churches participating across the length and breadth of our Zion, makes the success of this ministry dismal and risk to the denomination undesirably high;

Whereas, with increased participation of churches in the program, premium costs will decrease and spread the risk across a larger contributing pool throughout the denomination;

Therefore, be it resolved, each domestic Annual Conference ensure every local African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is provided adequate coverage for all properties by having all African Methodist Episcopal Zion properties and congregations to maintain Property and Liability insurance coverage under the Zion Benefits Services Insurance Program no later than July 31, 2022;

Be it further resolved, we establish an accountability and verification process for reporting whether property is insured by Zion Benefit Services at each Quarterly, District and Annual Conference

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Connectional Trustees Board, Dr. David Aiken, Executive Director
Dr. Avery Brown, Chair of Resolutions Subcommittee, Dr. John Butler, Mr. Eric Smith, II, Attorney Anita
Pearson-Royster, Dr. Sondra Coleman, Secretary

Signature of submitting party(ies) All parties signed and approved electronically.



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R32-2020

Name of Resolution: AME Zion Resolution for Training on Sexual Misconduct Policies and Procedures

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church 2016 Book of Discipline contains comprehensive policies and procedures relative to Sexual Misconduct (pp. 340-349);

Whereas, the Sexual Misconduct policies and procedures mandate two (2) annual trainings, one conducted by the Annual Conference and the other conducted by each local church for appropriate clergy and laity (p. 343);

Whereas, the Sexual Misconduct policies and procedures mandate each local church to report compliance with the annual training requirement to the Annual Conference (p. 343);

Whereas, the Sexual Misconduct policies and procedures require each local church and Annual Conference to maintain participant logs as permanent records for purposes of accountability and verification (p. 343);

Whereas, there are significant deficiencies in regards to local church and Annual Conference compliance with the provision of the mandated training, maintenance of participant logs, and submission of required documentation;

Whereas, non-compliance with documentation and reporting requirements can have an adverse effect and negative impact on the Property and Liability Insurance on all of our churches;

Therefore, be it resolved, each domestic Presiding Elder district shall receive a copy of the participant training log from each local church on her/his district and submit the same to the Annual Conference at such time and place designated by the Presiding Bishop;

Be it further resolved, each domestic Annual Conference shall maintain, as permanent records, the participant training logs for every local African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in a confidential place and manner, but yet accessible for the purposes of verification and accountability;

Be it further resolved, Zion Benefits Services, Inc. will contract and/or approve qualified providers to offer such training to our local AME Zion churches, ministers, and lay within the entire denomination.

Be it further resolved, all persons covered in the “Policies and Procedures Concerning Sexual Misconduct” section of the Book of Discipline who have not participated in the mandated training may not receive an appointment to serve in any capacity until training requirements have been completed, subject to the discretion

of the Presiding Bishop.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Connectional Trustees Board, Dr. David Aiken, Executive Director
Dr. Avery Brown, Chair of Resolutions Subcommittee, Dr. John Butler, Mr. Eric Smith, II, Attorney Anita
Pearson-Royster, Dr. Sondra Coleman, Secretary

Signature of submitting party(ies) All parties signed and approved electronically.



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R33-2020

Name of Resolution: Young Adult (ages 21-39) Delegates to the General Conference

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, The Quadrennial Address of the Board of Bishops to the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General

Conference included the following recommendation that was accepted (page 23 of 32):

#3 “The AME Zion Church will make young adult leadership development and mentoring a major priority at every level.”

Whereas, The address also noted that it is “Our tendency to want Millennials to “wait their turn” to have

a voice in the church...”; and that “millennials really need us to engage with them in ways that will allow them to apply their gifts and graces in the church NOW!”

Be it resolved: That The 2016 Book of Discipline A.M.E. Zion Church Part IV Chapter I General

Conference Paragraph 107 page 35 Add:

6. The Annual Conferences are encouraged to mentor and support members of the Electoral College or Observers ages 21-39 who present themselves as qualified candidates for election of delegates to the General Conference.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Ervin Reid

Signature of submitting party(ies): Ervin Reid

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R34-2020

Name of Resolution: Electronic Transmission of the Annual Conference Minutes

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, the Book of Discipline directs that the General Secretary-Auditor report to the Board of Records, Research and Archives all official records and to be the repository of all records, research, information and archives; and, (2016 Book of Discipline, Para.400, p.145)

Whereas, the General Secretary-Auditor shall keep a record of the dates and places of birth of all Ministers of the Annual Conference together with the dates of their administration, licensing and ordination. And; (2016 Book of Discipline, Para.404, p.148)

Whereas, this information shall be forwarded to the General Secretary-Auditor by the Secretary of the Annual Conference; wherein, Annual Conference secretaries shall deposit two copies of their respective journals quadrennially or annually, as the case may be, in the central archives and in the appropriate regional archives,

Whereas, all documents of both the Quarterly Conference and Annual Conference proceedings are either held in repository and forwarded to the General Secretary-Auditor to maintain accurate and complete records of the Ministers, statistics and proceedings of the Annual Conference

Therefore, be it resolved, that the information required to be forwarded to the General Secretary-Auditor for the express purposes of maintaining complete and accurate records of all Annual Conference Journals and Statistical records.

Therefore, be it resolved, that in the same manner the Quarterly Conference reporting information is uploaded to a cloud-based system, and forwarded in real time to the General Secretary, Presiding Bishop and Presiding Elder of the district;

Therefore, be it resolved, that in like manner of the Quarterly Conference electronic reporting, the Annual Conference Secretary shall upload to the existing or newly developed cloud-based portal accurate and approved minutes of the Annual Conference during its seating or within 30 days of the close of the Annual Conference.

Be it further resolved, that directly uploading the Annual Conference Journal (minutes) and Statistical information will ensure both accurate and timely submission of the required Journal to the General Secretary-Auditor who is to receive all official records and to be the repository of all records, research, information and archives.

Be it further resolved, that upon the receipt of the Annual Conference Journal and Statistical information in

the General Secretary-Auditor office and after being duly certified by the Bishop of the area and the General Secretary's office a digital link shall be provided to the Annual Conference Secretary and Presiding Bishop who in turn will provide for every Annual Conference registrant an official copy of the Conference Journal/Minutes.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R35-2020

Name of Resolution: General Conference Meeting Days

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, The 2016 Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, page 37, paragraph 118 states, "...the General Conference shall meet every 4 years for 7 days commencing on the 4th Wednesday in July."

Whereas, The general church is making efforts to get younger adults involved in all levels of the denomination.

Whereas, The majority of working people, especially younger adults just starting jobs, do not get more than about two weeks of vacation days per year.

Whereas, The denomination requests the presence of the people at multiple meetings throughout the year and quadrennial.

Whereas, The burden of the expense of the meetings is on the working people and is discouraging and prohibitive to those who desire to attend.

Whereas, I Corinthians 14:40 (NIV) states, "*But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.*"

Whereas, "By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work." Gen 2:2 (NIV)

And being, If God can create the whole world AND universe from nothing in less than seven whole days, we should be able to attend to the business of the AME Zion Church in less than that.

Be it resolved: Decrease the number of days the General Conference is in session from seven days to six days.

Be it further resolved, Use technology to assist with the reduction of days where appropriate by using it assist in the reporting process, reading and approving of minutes, receiving offerings, using texts, emails, and monitors for announcements, etc.

Budget Implications: There are no budget implications necessarily. We are hoping it will lower the budget expenses (one less day to pay the hotel and other conference-related costs) and increase the income (online

giving for people streaming from home).

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Missouri Conference Resolutions Committee

Signature of submitting party(ies) Rev. Niesha Thomas, Mrs. Rose Baker-Moulton & Ms. Regina Barksdale



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R36-2020

Name of Resolution: Quarterly Conference Restructuring

RESOLUTION:

Whereas: The attendance and the effectiveness of the Quarterly Conference has declined significantly over the past decades; and

Whereas, In this digital age churches have access to computers for receipt of quarterly conference forms electronically issued by the General Secretary-Auditor of The A.M.E. Zion Church for completion and electronic submission; and

Whereas, To meet physically often presents challenges (i.e., attendance, travel, and availability) for Presiding Elders, Pastors and members, when the Quarter Conference could effectively be held electronically [as well] [via teleconferencing and (if for visual purposes) through e-programs such as Skype].
Be it therefore resolved, all churches shall report on a quarterly basis and have a minimum of 2 (two) physical meetings every conference year.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev Keith I. Harris, Monica Marshall, Charles Young Ministerial Delegates Jacqueline Edwards, Jasper McCormick, Eleanor Poole, Rhandi Stith, Ruth Young Lay Delegates
Signature of submitting party(ies): Keith I. Harris

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R37-2020

Name of Resolution: A.M.E. Zion Usher Ministry Initiative

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, Page 159, paragraph XII, #3 of the 2016 Book of Discipline of the A.M.E. Zion Church is the only reference of Ushers (Doorkeepers) one of the oldest ministries of the church. It states “The 48th Session of the General Conference directs that a **Connectional Usher Board** be formed as a volunteer society of *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church* under the direction of the Director of Public Affairs”.

Whereas, The purpose and function of the Ushers’ Board Ministry is to **meet, greet and seat those attending the worship service with a loving smile**, as they enter the sanctuary. The Ushers’ Board Ministry is an extension of God’s hands to people.

Whereas, A section of the Book of Discipline of the A.M.E. Zion Church be developed for the Usher Board that states: “The 51st Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that there may be organized at the Episcopal, Conference, District and Local Church levels a Board of Ushers. They shall be appointed by the Bishop, Elders and Pastors at their respective levels.

Be it therefore resolved: The Usher Board Ministry shall make Reports of their activities and finances at the Episcopal District, Annual Conference, District Conference and Quarterly Conference.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Renate Lee

Signature of submitting party(ies) Renate Lee



Discipleship



AMEZ 2020 - Resolutions

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R38-2020

Name of Resolution: Revision of Chapter VII, 2016 Book of Discipline, Board of Church Growth & Development

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, The 2016 Book of Discipline contains inconsistencies in language and titles within the Department of Church Growth & Development, and

Whereas, The ministry of Discipleship and Prayer Coordinators have been instituted within the Department of Church Growth & Development,

Be it therefore resolved, That Chapter VII Board of Church Growth & Development be revised to read as follows:

CHAPTER VII

BOARD OF CHURCH GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

I. Board of Church Growth & Development

Paragraph 591 In order that The A.M.E. Zion Church may conform more closely to the spirit and mission of the ministry of our Lord and employ the most effective means for the accomplishment of the chief end of the Gospel – the salvation of souls; and that the church may more vigorously promote and apply the moral and spiritual agencies by which men are rescued from sin and trained for heaven; and that a more inviting opportunity may be given our ministers to use their evangelistic talent more frequently in conducting revivals; and to systematize the work of evangelism among the ministry, the General Conference directs that there shall be an organization in our church known as the Department of Church Growth & Development, and for the general control of which, there shall be elected by the General Conference, upon the nomination of the Board of Bishops, an Administrative Board of Church Growth & Development consisting of three Bishops serving as the Chair, 1st Vice Chair, and 2nd Vice Chair; one lay person serving as the 3rd Vice Chair; and two members from each Episcopal District – one ministerial and one lay person, whose officers shall be a Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

1. The Administrative Board of Church Growth & Development shall have authority to exercise general control over the Department of Church Growth & Development which includes strategic planning and strategies to help churches create intentional opportunities for congregational renewal and evangelistic outreach.
 - a. The Department of Church Growth & Development shall be continually vitalized with ample administration and adequate budget.
 - b. Each local congregation, in cooperation with the Church School, shall emphasize "Decision Day" annually, in October and undertake an evangelical quota for active membership in the church school.
2. The Department Church Growth & Development shall provide coaching, literature, promotional material and uniformity of approach for local evangelistic efforts. The Administrative Board shall have power to prescribe regulations for the operation of the Department not inconsistent with the provisions of the Book of Discipline; also, to locate its headquarters.
3. The Department shall have the right to employ Evangelists for the field and to regulate their sphere of operation so that all parts of the field may employ the benefits of their service, but it shall not assign Evangelists without the consent of the Pastor except that it be in unoccupied territory.
4. The Department shall have power to regulate the support, entertainment and expenses of each Evangelist who gives his/her full time to the work and shall see as far as possible that each full-time Evangelist rendering effective service is liberally cared for.
5. The Chair of the Administrative Board shall have the power to call special meetings when necessary, and shall preside over all meetings of the Board, and perform all other duties which appertain to the office of Chair. The Vice-Chair shall perform these duties in the absence of the Chair.
6. The Secretary shall keep a faithful record of all the proceedings of the Board.
7. The Executive Director shall receive, receipt for, hold and pay out all money that comes to the Board, from any source. He/she shall disburse the money only as ordered by the Board.

II. Executive Director of Church Growth & Development

Paragraph 592 The General Conference shall elect an Executive Director of Church Growth & Development, whose tenure of office shall be for four years and/or until a successor is elected. The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Church Growth & Development, and shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Board, and shall, under the direction of the Board and the provisions of the Discipline, have the general Executive Director-ship of the Department of Church Growth & Development, conduct the general correspondence and tentatively pass upon the qualification and fitness of Evangelists to be confirmed by the Board. The Executive Director shall make a survey of the field from time to time and under the direction of the Board and upon the invitation of Pastors, assign Evangelists to certain territories. The Executive Director shall confer often with the Board as to the best method of regulating support for the Evangelists both in cities and rural districts, the length of time an Evangelist should spend at any given place and how he/she is to be entertained while there. The Executive Director will be expected to call a meeting of the Evangelists when convenient to exchange opinions as to the best methods of conducting an evangelistic campaign where several churches may combine to that end. The Executive Director's compensation shall be equal to that of other General Officers should their

whole time be given to the work, but it shall be provided for by the Chief Financial Officer. The Executive Director of Church Growth & Development shall report annually to the Board of Bishops, Connectional Council and a quadrennial report to the General Conference. The Executive Director shall be amendable for conduct to the Board, which for sufficient cause, have the power to remove him/her from office and to fill the vacancy.

1. The 46th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that a full time Assistant Director be hired by the Executive Director of Church Growth & Development with the approval of the Board and the Connectional Council, October 2000.

2. That the Assistant Director would have administrative skills as well as an Evangelistic gift. The salary and benefits shall not exceed \$35,000.00.

III. General Evangelists

Paragraph 593 Evangelists employed by the Department of Church Growth & Development shall be known as General Evangelists, provided their whole time is given to the field, and their support shall be regulated by the Board. No one hereafter shall be styled a General Evangelist, nor shall any support be provided for anyone who is not employed and recognized by the Board and who does not give his/her whole time to the work. Once a minister decides to become a General Evangelist and is employed by the Board, they must subscribe to and abide strictly by the regulations of the Board, or they will be dismissed.

IV. Prayer Coordinators: Connectional, Annual Conference, District, and Local Church

Paragraph 594 Connectional Prayer Coordinator - For the promotion of the moral and spiritual fervor of our Church, the Department of Church Growth & Development shall organize and appoint a person to serve as the International Connectional Prayer Coordinator of our Church. This appointment is subject to the approval of the Administrative Board of the Department of Church Growth & Development, whose responsibility shall be to organize Prayer Coordinators across the Denomination, call special seasons of prayer, and provide instructions and insight in the area of prayer of the denomination.

1. Annual Conference, District, Local Church Prayer Coordinators - For the promotion of the moral and spiritual fervor of each Conference, District and local church, the Department of Church Growth & Development should encourage the organization and appointment of persons at every level of our Church who desire to give part of his/her time to the prayer ministry of our Church. Each appointed person shall be subject to the approval of the Pastor, Presiding Elder and Bishop of the respective Conference.

2. Each local church, District, and Conference shall have a Prayer Coordinator. The Prayer Coordinators in local churches shall make up the prayer team for the District. The District Prayer Coordinators shall make up the prayer team for the Conference. The Conference Prayer Coordinators shall make up the prayer team for the Episcopal Area. Prayer Coordinators should provide reports to the Quarterly Conference about the progress of the prayer ministry in the local church. Prayer events and praise reports should also be included in reports as the Lord answers prayers and blesses the ministry of prayer. Prayer Coordinators on the District and Conference level should provide reports to the Conference and Episcopal District Coordinator annually.

V. Discipleship Coordinators: Connectional, Episcopal, Conference, and District

Paragraph 595 Connectional Discipleship Coordinator - For the promotion of the growth and spiritual

development within our Church, the Department of Church Growth & Development shall organize and appoint a person subject to the approval of the Administrative Board of the Department of Church Growth & Development, who desire to give part of his/her time to the discipleship ministry of our Church. Fostering Christian relationships in weekly accountability class meetings is a key strategy in making Christian disciples. Connectional Discipleship Coordinator shall provide in-depth instructions and training to assist the Church in placing discipleship at the heart of the church and keeping it there.

Paragraph 596 Episcopal, Conference, and District Discipleship Coordinators - For the promotion of the growth and spiritual development within our Church, the Department of Church Growth & Development should encourage the organization and appointment of persons in each Episcopal District, subject to the approval of the Bishops of the Episcopal District, who desire to give part of his/her time to the discipleship ministry of our Church. Each appointed person shall receive adequate, systematic training that may result in the revitalization of the Class Leaders system that has been used effective in making Christian Disciples. The effort is designed to enhance small group discipleship.

Paragraph 597 The Department of Church Growth & Development should encourage each Bishop to provide adequate, systematic training for the Presiding Elder in their conference; each Presiding Elder should provide adequate, systematic training for the Pastors of their District; and each pastor should provide adequate, systematic training for the Class Leaders in each local church. Each pastor should be strongly encouraged to select and nominate persons who meet the qualification as designated in the Book of Discipline. Each nominated and elected Class Leader should be strongly encouraged to review, study and carryout the duties of a Class Leader as revealed in the Book of Discipline under "*The Class Leaders.*"

VI. Conference Evangelists

Paragraph 598 A minister of an Annual Conference who desires to give part of his/her time to Evangelism subject to an appointment to a Pastoral Charge by the Bishop, shall be styled Conference Evangelist whose sphere of operation shall be confined to his/her Conference Territory, except when Executive Director of Church Growth & Development, in concurrence with the Conference Evangelists' Presiding Prelate, invites him/her to assist in an effort. Conference and District Directors of Evangelism

Paragraph 599 The 45th General Conference directs that each Bishop shall see to it that Conference and District Directors of Evangelism shall be appointed at each Annual Conference and their names and addresses filed at the office of the Executive Director of the Department of Church Growth & Development immediately upon the close of the Annual Conference.

VII. Pastor and Evangelism

Paragraph 600 Neither the Board of Church Growth & Development, the Executive Director of Church Growth and Development, nor any General Evangelist shall force an evangelistic campaign upon a Pastor against his/her advice. However, a Pastor who is not possessed of this spiritual gift should stand ready to welcome a good evangelist to conduct a revival for and with him/her, yet it is his/her privilege to object to such service if he/she prefers to conduct his/her own revival.

VIII. Presiding Elders and Evangelism

Paragraph 601 While the office brings the Presiding Elder largely in contact with the temporal economy of the church, his/her sermons and instructions should be appeals for people to be saved. He/she should stress this thought above all others in his/her Quarterly Conference and sermons. He/she might leave a lasting impression

upon the people which might eventuate in souls being saved. In each Quarterly Conference let him/her seriously inquire of the number of conversions.

IX. Local Board of Church Growth & Development

Paragraph 602 The Pastor who stresses his/her salary and finance to the exclusion of the salvation of souls need not be surprised if there is a decreasing of interest in his/her sermons on the part of his/her congregation. He/she should not only preach evangelistic sermons and conduct revivals constantly but should organize a local Board of Church Growth & Development among the devout members of his/her church to assist him/her in prayer meetings, in special service for the unsaved at the church or in their homes. Local Preachers, Exhorters, Deaconesses, Class Leaders and others can render great service in this way.

X. General Evangelism

Paragraph 603 With all the sermons preached, even true religion often becomes dimmed and intermittent and often needs rekindling by revival influence. The ministry of Jesus Christ was a revival type. He preached repentance, so did the Apostles. The tendency of the church today is to expand itself through finance and fine edifices. These we must have, but reliance upon them alone produces spiritual declension and bareness. A genuine revival of religion fills the church with members, arouses its activities, quickens its sympathy, and increases its moral and spiritual power by shaking off its lethargy; increases ministerial power by invigorating the soul of the Minister, makes church work easy and enjoyable, produces a spirit of benevolence among the people and proves to be a harvest season for gathering in the fruits of Pastoral seed sowing.

XI. The Quadrennial Church Growth & Development Evangelism Congress

Paragraph 604 As the A.M.E. Zion Church seeks to develop models, tools and resources to grow and develop healthy churches, it imperative that the work not center itself around numerical growth to satisfy statistical analysis rather the church growth model should emulate the teachings of Jesus. Acts 2:42-47 provides a theological framework for five components that the denomination should keep at the forefront of its methodology: the need to be intentional about our prayer life, the importance of preaching and teaching, the necessity for an effective Class Leader systems, the importance of providing for the needs of our communities, and the understanding of God's divine authority in our lives.

1. The 45th General Conference directs that the Department of Church Growth & Development shall be required to hold a connection wide Quadrennial Church Growth and Development Evangelism Congress during the first year of the quadrennial following the General Conference. The delegation of this Congress shall be comprised of Bishops, Presiding Elders, Pastors, Prayer and Discipleship Coordinators (at all levels), Conference Evangelists, Conference Directors, District Directors, and Local Directors of Evangelism. There should also be one delegate representing each Annual Conference and each Presiding Elder District. All members of the delegation are encouraged to pre-register to facilitate proper planning for structured classes, adequate financing for materials and supplies. The goal of this Congress shall be to teach, train, equip, strategize, and develop a plan of implementation for evangelizing the church for new life and the community for the salvation of souls.

2. The Conference Directors of Evangelism shall plan together with their respective Bishop and hold a Conference Evangelism Congress annually, except that such Conference shall not be held during the year of the Quadrennial Evangelistic Congress.

3. District Directors of Evangelism shall plan together with their respective Presiding Elders and hold a District Evangelism Congress annually, except that such shall not be held during the year of the Quadrennial Evangelism Congress.

XII. Home Missions

Paragraph 605 The 45th General Conference directs that the Department of Church Growth & Development shall include a Division of Home Missions. For the promotion of the temporal and spiritual interest of the church, and for the relief of mission charges, and preachers on the poor fields, and to assist in planting new societies, the General Conference of the AME Zion Church directs that there shall be a ministry under the heading of Church Growth & Development called the Home Mission Ministry.

1. For the maintenance of the Home Mission Ministry and to aid in the expansion of the church through planting new societies, the General Conference of the AME Zion Church directs that there shall be apportioned from the Connectional Budget which shall be paid by the Chief Fiscal Officer, and the apportioned funds of the Woman's Home and Overseas Missionary Society which shall be paid by its Treasurer, to the Executive Director of the Department of Church Growth and Development, who is the Treasurer of the Department.

2. The Executive Director shall use his/her time in advancing the general interests of the Home Mission Ministry, by traveling, lecturing, soliciting and otherwise. He/she shall be the accredited agent for the Home Mission Ministry. He/She shall be amenable for his/her official conduct to the Department of Church Growth & Development Administrative Board.

3. The General Conference directs that the Home Mission Ministry funds shall be distributed to Conferences whose Connectional Budget is less than \$50,000.00. The Department of Church Growth and Development and the Bishops of Mission Conferences shall be allowed to target cities for church expansion during each quadrennial. In order to assist the work of expansion, 25% of the department's Home Mission Ministry annual budget shall be used for new church plants.

4. All applications for aid for mission field efforts are made by the Bishop of the Conference and are approved by the Chairman of the Board and the Executive Director of the Department of Church Growth & Development. All requests shall be made only after a careful assessment has been done of the need. Aid for potential church plants, upon the approval of the Bishop, shall be made after the church planter has been identified, a planting team has been established, coordinated training sessions have been conducted and a target area has been selected. The Department of Church Growth & Development shall provide assistance in the churchplant.

5. The Department of Church Growth & Development Home Mission Ministry shall provide for the following funds: Limited Loan Funds, Emergency Funds, and Donation Funds. The money received for loans shall be used only for loans on Church and Parsonage Property, deeded to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. The Emergency Funds shall be held at the disposal of the Executive Director to be used when a delay would be dangerous in saving church or parsonage property. The Donation Fund given shall be accounted for and reported at the meeting of the General Administrative Board of the Department of Church Growth & Development. In making donations, the Executive Director shall act as agent for the Home Mission Ministry, under the direction and oversight of the Chairman and the Administrative Board.

Budget Implications: N/A

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Church Growth & Development Board

Signature of submitting party(ies): Rev. Dr. Douglas L. Maven, Secretary



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R39-2020

Name of Resolution: Anniversary Days and Collections

Whereas, The Book of Discipline of the A.M.E. Zion Church directs that every Church School shall emphasize "Decision Day" annually in the month of October. However, it may be observed any time during October or even in November; and

Whereas, It further directs that each Church School should undertake an Evangelism quota for the harvest of souls (conversions, new members, re-dedications) gathered during the previous twelve months, as well as those entering the ministry or any form of Christian service;

Be it therefore resolved, That "Decision Day" shall be listed in the Anniversary Days and Collections Section of the 2020 Book of Discipline; and

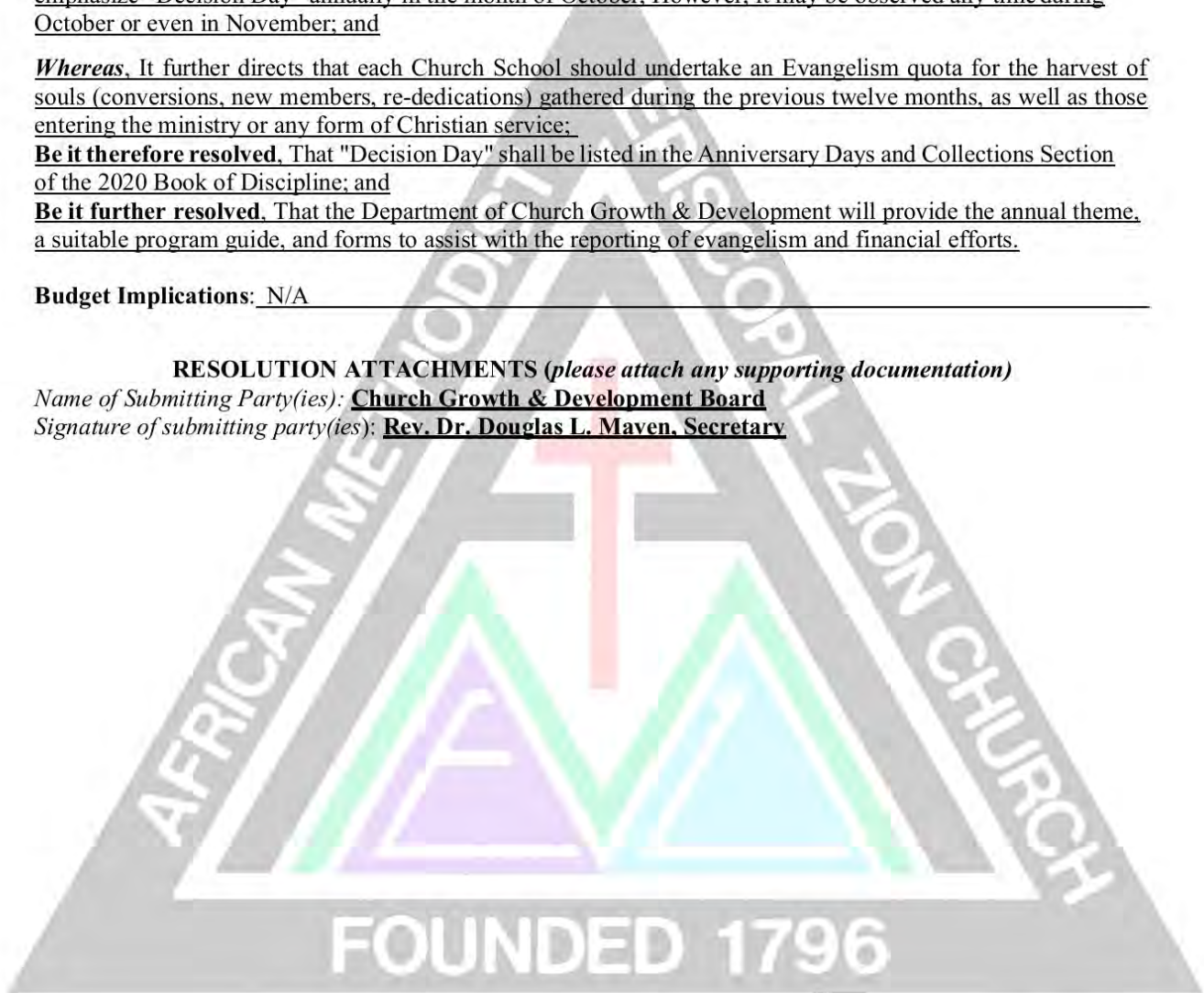
Be it further resolved, That the Department of Church Growth & Development will provide the annual theme, a suitable program guide, and forms to assist with the reporting of evangelism and financial efforts.

Budget Implications: N/A

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Church Growth & Development Board

Signature of submitting party(ies): Rev. Dr. Douglas L. Maven, Secretary



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R40-2020

Name of Resolution: Quadrennial Church Growth & Development Evangelism Congress – An Episcopal Priority

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, The 45th Quadrennial General Conference directs that the Department of Church Growth and Development shall be required to hold a connection wide Quadrennial Church Growth & Development Evangelism Congress during the first year of the quadrennial following the General Conference; and

Whereas, The delegation of this Quadrennial Church Growth & Development Evangelism Congress shall be comprised of Bishops, Presiding Elders, Pastors, Prayer and Discipleship Coordinators (at all levels), Conference Evangelists, Conference Directors, District Directors, and Local Directors of Evangelism; and

Whereas, There should also be one delegate representing each Annual Conference and each Presiding Elder District; and

Whereas, All members of the delegation, Bishops, Presiding Elders, Pastors, Prayer and Discipleship Coordinators (at all levels), General Evangelists, Conference Directors, District Directors, and Local Directors of Evangelism, are strongly encouraged to pre-register to facilitate proper planning of structured classes; adequate financing for materials and supplies; and

Whereas, The 45th Quadrennial General Conference directs that each Bishop of domestic conferences shall be required to register and have in attendance at each Quadrennial Evangelism Congress Annual Conference Directors together with one other delegate from the conference. Each Presiding Elder of domestic districts shall be required to register and have in attendance at each Quadrennial Evangelism Congress, the District Director together with one other delegate from the district level; and

Whereas, Pastors and Local Directors shall be encouraged to attend the Quadrennial Evangelism Congress;

Be it therefore resolved, The Annual Conference Directors of Evangelism shall plan together with their respective Bishop and hold an Annual Conference Evangelism Congress annually, except that such Evangelism Congress shall not be held during the year of the Quadrennial Evangelism Congress; and

Be it resolved, That District Directors of Evangelism shall plan together with their respective Presiding Elders and hold a District Evangelism Congress annually, except that such shall not be held during the year of the Quadrennial Evangelism

Congress; and

Be it further resolved, That to actualize the mission of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church that includes: praising God, being obedient to the demands of the Gospel, telling the story of God's gracious acts in creating and redeeming the world, inviting persons to commit their lives to Jesus Christ, and serving as ministers of God's liberating and reconciling grace; and

Be it further resolved, That the goal of the connection wide Quadrennial Evangelism Congress shall be to teach, train, equip, and strategize how to actualize the mission of the A.M.E. Zion Church and to develop a plan of implementation for evangelizing the A.M.E. Zion Church for new life and the community for the salvation of souls; and

Be it further resolved, That the 51st Quadrennial Conference shall direct that Bishops and Presiding Elders will recognize the Quadrennial Evangelism Congress planned and implemented by the Department of Church Growth & Development as an episcopal priority and to see that no other major episcopal events or programs that may deter attendance are scheduled at the same time, and

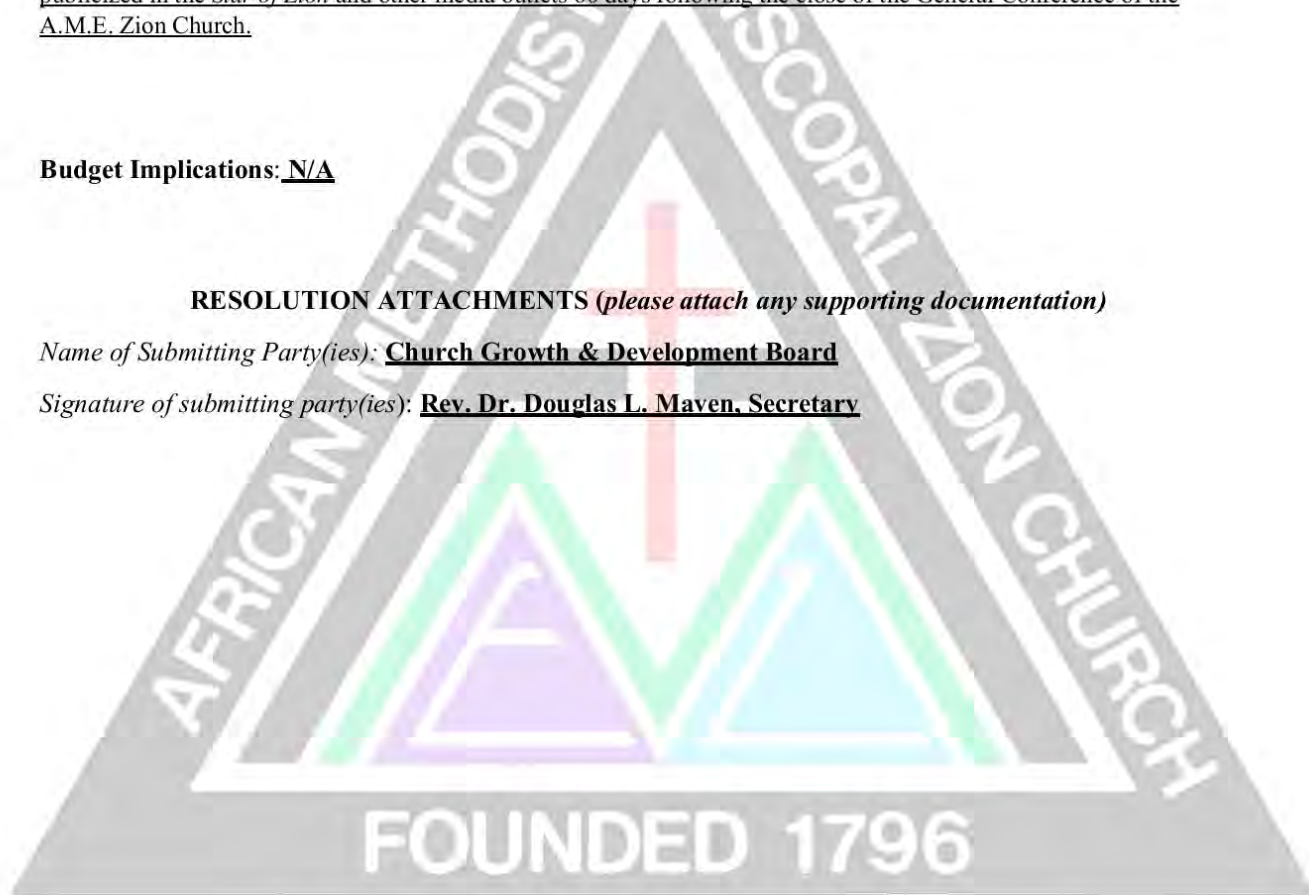
Be it finally resolved, That the date, location, and registration information for the Quadrennial Evangelism Congress is publicized in the *Star of Zion* and other media outlets 60 days following the close of the General Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Budget Implications: N/A

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): **Church Growth & Development Board**

Signature of submitting party(ies): **Rev. Dr. Douglas L. Maven, Secretary**



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R41-2020

Name of Resolution: Clarity and Consistency of the Roles and Duties of Christian Education Boards

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, The Book of Discipline, page 220, ¶528; Sections &3, “The Board,” defines the role of as: “...The Christian Education program for the Annual Conference shall be under the control of said Board. The Christian Education Board may conduct Christian Education meetings, Ministers’ Institutions, Leadership Conferences in cooperation with the Christian Education Department, and provide a budget for the same”

Whereas, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church: A Resource Manual for Christian Educators, 2018, page 52, #5 states: “ Planning and conducting meaningful Christian education days during annual conference and at other times for effective participation by children, youth, and adults of all ages.”

Whereas, defining clearly the roles of the Board of Christian Education and the departmental officers at the Episcopal, Conference, and Local Church will create a more unified and consistent planning and training processes.

Be it therefore resolved: the following language: “ For further clarification in regards to “The Board” see ‘The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church: A Resource Manual for Christian Educators’” be added as a part of The Book of Discipline page 22, ¶528; Sections 2&3.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Renate Lee

Signature of submitting party(ies): Renate Lee

Education



AMEZ 2020 - Resolutions

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R42-2020

Name of Resolution: Resolution Pertaining To A Class Leaders' Training Academy

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, we affirm that competent and effective leadership in our churches requires training; and

Whereas, we affirm that according to the word of God we are instructed to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15, KJV); and

Whereas, we affirm that no formal training for class leaders in the AME Zion Church exists presently; and

Whereas, we recognize the important role that the class leaders have in watching over the members who have been assigned to their care, by checking in with members weekly, visiting those who are absent, inquiring how their souls prosper, advising, reproving, comforting, and exhorting as necessary; and

Whereas, we further affirm that the role of the class leader is essential in discipleship, spiritual formation, and retention of church members but that without the proper training the persons assigned to this task cannot adequately perform these duties; and

Whereas, we acknowledge that while the AME Zion church boasts 1.4 million members worldwide that in recent years there have been reported membership declines at the rate of greater than 3 % per year;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that to address the problems of loss of membership and inadequate training of class leaders that the A.M.E. Zion Church will embrace the development of a Class Leader Training Academy with a formal course of study at the General Conference level, because this need is a universal need throughout the entire AME Zion Church body and not specific to any one episcopal area; and

Be it Further Resolved that a Director of Class Leader Training at the general conference level will be chosen to develop curriculum and to oversee this project; and

Be it Further Resolved that episcopal directors in each episcopal district will be chosen and tasked with overseeing the implementation of the training academy in each episcopal area; and

Be it Further Resolved that those assigned to oversee the development and training of the Class Leaders'

Training Academy will be under the control of the Board of Christian Education whose task is to promote and supervise the Christian training and development of the entire membership of the denomination.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Mark Hawkins

Signature of submitting party(ies):



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R43-2020

Name of Resolution: For SAGE (Seniors Advancing God's Excellence)

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, at the 2014 Annual Conference of the Western Episcopal District, of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AME Zion) Church, of the California Conference, Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate, assigned Reverend Leona M. Welch to begin a conference level Seniors' Ministry. Reverend Welch immediately founded SAGE (Seniors Advancing God's Excellence) and began implementing events and activities for seniors.

Subsequently, Bishop Staccato Power appointed Reverend Leona Welch as Annual Conference Director of SAGE. Bishop Powell has expanded the work of SAGE throughout the Western Region.

WHEREAS, the primary emphasis for SAGE is to honor and support that group in our society and church life that strongly, characteristically, and essentially imparts wisdom and grace into our lives, by means of their longevity and experience, and in the case of the Christian world, their seasoned walk with God, this ministry is vital.

WHEREAS, SAGE is a high-profile, energetic, Christ-centered ministry of co-ed, senior aged individuals that exist to promote the cause of Jesus Christ through His command to *God ye therefore... to love one another*, and to *carry one another's burdens*, this ministry works diligently toward that end.

WHEREAS, SAGE is a ministry of the AME Zion Church, it shall continue to work to advance God's kingdom as it remains amenable to the AME Zion Church and works to advance the mission of the AME Zion Church.

WHEREAS, SAGE has for six consecutive years been a faithful, consistent, vital, viable and effectual Seniors' Ministry, giving 3-4 seminars/workshops per conference year, it brings education and activities in social, mental and physical health, and spiritual matters. SAGE stresses the gifts of seniors as well as keeps in mind that seniors have their own unique brand of needs. It also promotes a cross-generational approach to ministry.

WHEREAS, SAGE is constantly working toward inclusiveness, it relies on individual representatives of the local churches to serve as a voice between the church home and the Seniors' Ministry. SAGE is a traveling ministry, taking the workshop to the churches, regardless of distance. It is of utmost importance to this ministry that the workshop remains accessible to all.

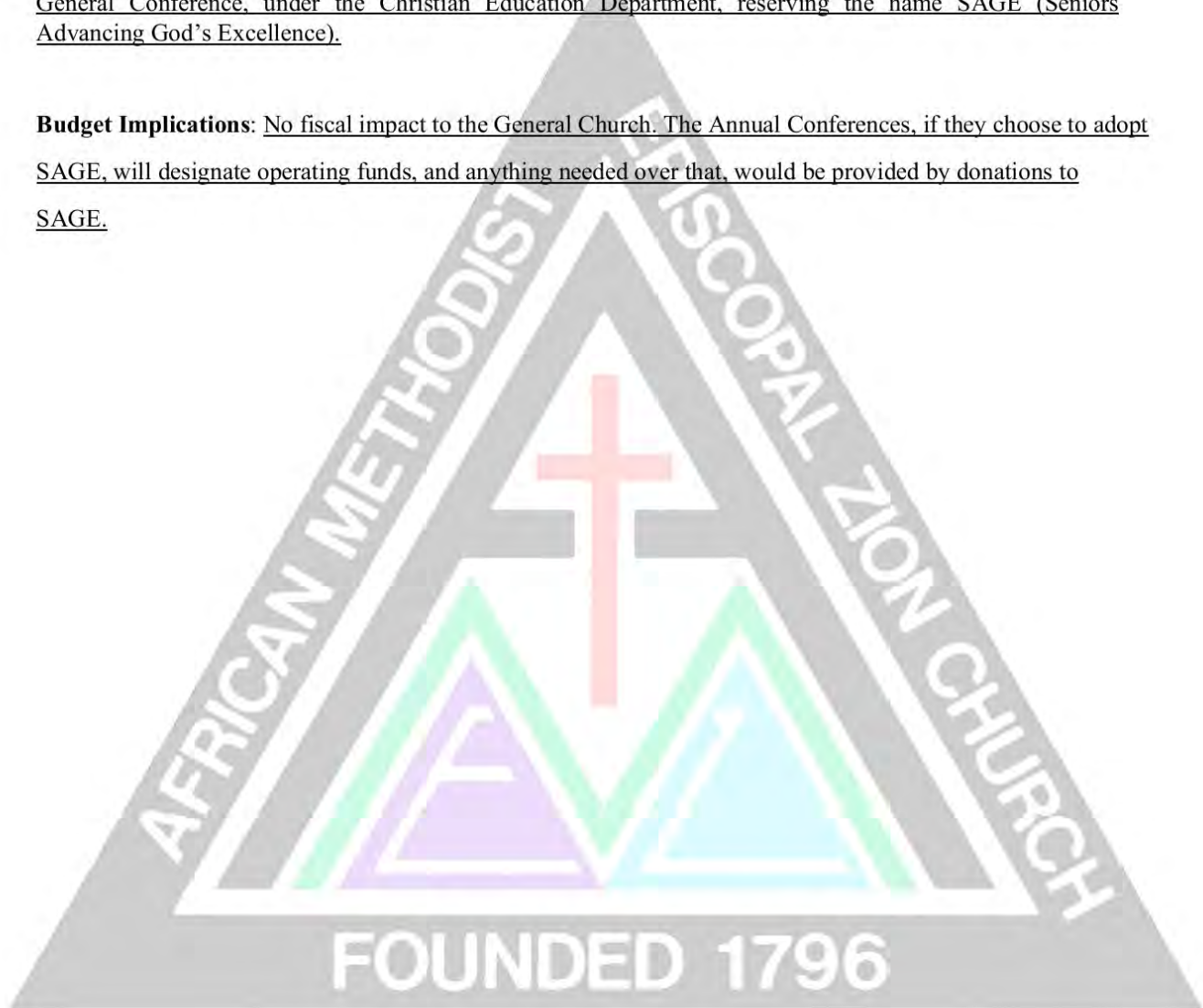
WHEREAS, SAGE is dedicated to remaining a vital and consistent ministry of the AME Zion Church, continuing to bring crucial and healing information and education to its members, it presents the ministry's VISION for the future:

To begin a Senior Summit to bring together Senior Ministry workers across the AME Zion Connection, to plan strategies for keeping a steady beat toward the senior cause.

To hold subsequent conference calls in regional clusters to keep the senior cause connected.
To become a vital vehicle for aid and support for the local churches in their seniors' ministries.
To remain open and accessible to the General Conference Leadership, remaining flexible to the direction of the Body.

BE IT THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that SAGE (Seniors Advancing God's Excellence), be admitted to the General Conference, under the Christian Education Department, reserving the name SAGE (Seniors Advancing God's Excellence).

Budget Implications: No fiscal impact to the General Church. The Annual Conferences, if they choose to adopt SAGE, will designate operating funds, and anything needed over that, would be provided by donations to SAGE.



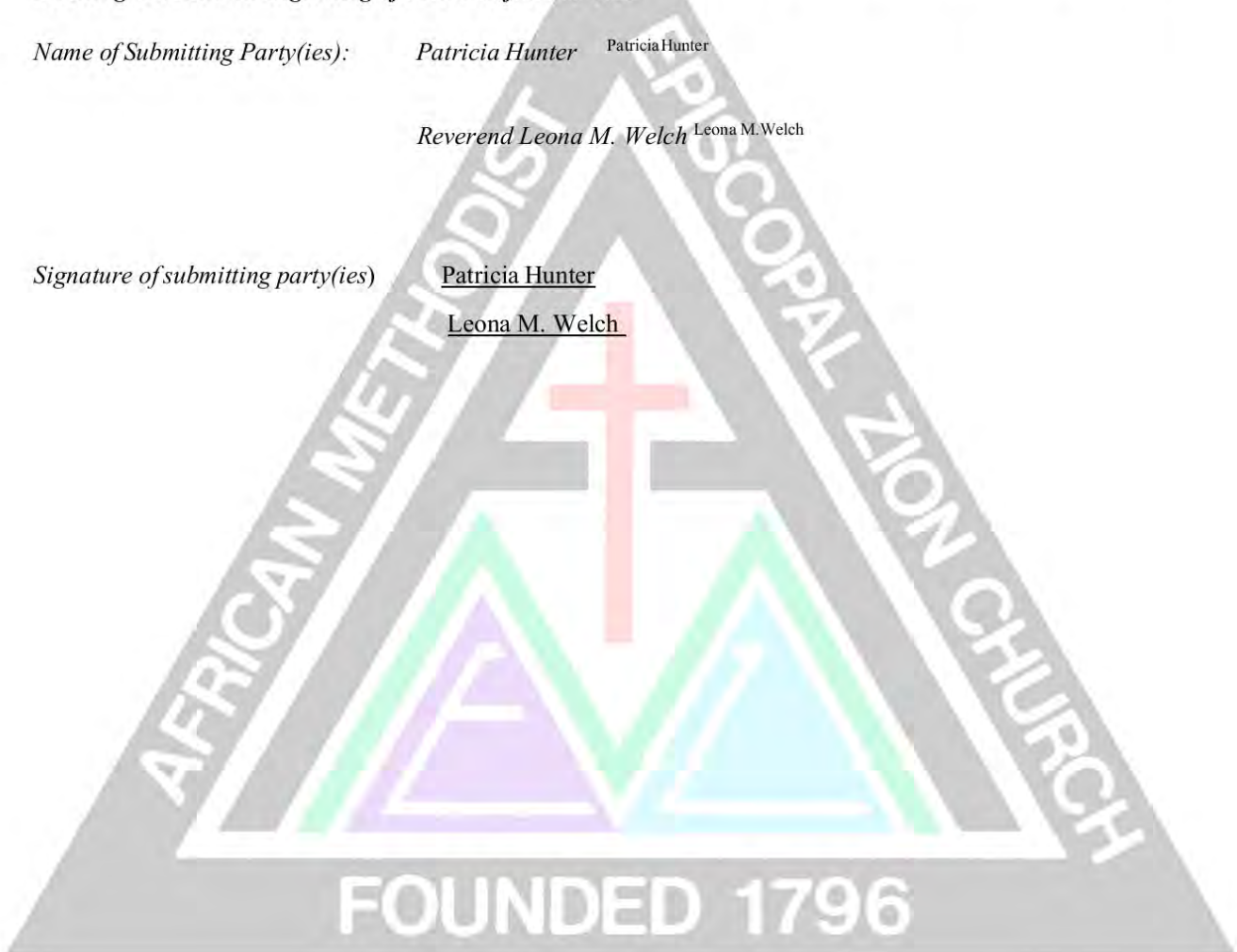
RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)***Seminars Held (some repeated, at the request of the members):***

Ministering to the healing and recovering, and hospice care, Preventing Financial Exploitation of Seniors, Mental Health: Combating Fear, Cross-Generational Conversation, Mental Health: Depression and Suicide among Seniors, Concerning Estate Planning and Real Estate, Retreat for Representatives and Officers, A Call for Seniors to Stay the Course, Poetry/Writing Workshop, Mental Health: Writing to Heal, Celebrating the Talents of Seniors, Mental Health: Preventing Physical, Emotional, and Sexual Abuse of Seniors, Saturday Morning Revivals- at Beginning of each Conference Year

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Patricia Hunter Patricia Hunter

Reverend Leona M. Welch Leona M. Welch

Signature of submitting party(ies) Patricia Hunter
Leona M. Welch



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R44-2020

Name of Resolution: Description of the Assembly of Christian Educators

RESOLUTION:

Whereas: The Assembly of Christian Educators (ACE) provides important resources and opportunities for training competent and effective Christian Educators throughout The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, and

Whereas: Paragraph 522 Section 3 of the 2016 Book of Discipline contains a short and inadequate description of ACE that does not explain its actual nature and purpose,

Be it therefore resolved: New sections should be added to Paragraph 522 of the Book of Discipline containing the following information concerning The Assembly of Christian Educators (ACE):

OBJECTIVES: The objectives of this organization shall be:

- 1) To enhance the implementation of the mandate of Jesus: "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 KJV)
- 2) To provide a periodic forum for the presentation of ideas;
To explore trends and share information with all Christian Educators in The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church;
- 3) To support and implement denominational programs and projects; and

4) To satisfy requirements of denominational representation.

MEMBERSHIP:

The membership of this organization shall include Christian Educators appointed by Bishops, Presiding Elders, and Pastors. Membership eligibility of any Christian Educator shall be initiated upon the payment of dues in advance. Upon payment of dues, all appointed and elected Christian Educators shall have all the rights and privileges of The Assembly of Christian Educators.

OFFICERS:

The officers of The Assembly of Christian Educators shall be a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, a Chaplain, a Parliamentarian, and twelve Regional Vice Presidents. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the bylaws and by parliamentary authority adopted by The Assembly of Christian Educators.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(Please attach any supporting documentation.)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): The Kentucky Conference Resolutions Committee

Signature of Submitting Party(ies) Harriett McElvaney

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R45-2020

Name of Resolution Pertaining to Lomax-Hannon Junior Budget Appropriation for College Expansion

RESOLUTION: Pertaining to Lomax-Hannon Junior Budget Appropriation for College Expansion

Whereas, we also affirm the need for the A.M.E. Zion Church to continue to be in the forefront of the African American community, the nation and the global community in providing educational opportunities for the disenfranchised and the marginalized; and

Whereas, upon graduation, there continues to be an exodus of young people from the region, which has a direct impact on present and future potential A.M.E. Zion local church growth and development in the area; and

Whereas, we affirm that the Lomax-Hannon Junior College continues to serve a needed an important role in the education system of the church as an extension site for Hood Theological Seminary, as a site for Conference Studies; and other community based outreach program; and

Whereas, currently there are few secondary and post-secondary educational options for African Americans in the Butler County area; and

Whereas, plans are underway to create a Liberal Arts Associate Degree Program at the College, with majors in English, business administration, accounting, criminal justice, biology and nursing which could bring new life, and population growth to region; and

Whereas, plans are unfolding to also create a Technical/Vocational Associate Degree offerings and certifications in HVAC, plumbing, electrical, masonry, carpentry, graphic designs and information technology; and

Whereas, plans are moving forward to establish a STEM based Charter School, beginning with an elementary school program and progressing to become a fully developed state of the art high school on the grounds of Lomax-Hannon; and

Whereas, buildings on the campus are currently undergoing renovations to house an Adult Day Dare Program; and

Whereas, given that these programs and projects will require an increase in the administrative cost to run the campus, and an increase in cost to bring buildings up to code, and an increase in the maintenance upkeep cost as the use of the facilities and grounds increase;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Connectional budget appropriation that is allocated to Lomax-Hannon Junior College be increased by \$150,000 to assist in funding the expansion opportunities underway.
Thus, Lomax-Hannon annual budget appropriation from the Denomination, if granted the increase, would therefore be \$350,000 per year.

Budget Implications: An increase of \$150,000.00 per year on the connectional budget

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Kathy McFadden

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R46-2020

Name of Resolution: Assembly of Christian Educators (ACE) Ministry and Purpose

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, the Assembly of Christian Educators (ACE) is responsible for providing training and development for all ages, as currently stated in the Book of Discipline;

Whereas, the "Adult Component" and "Adult Subgroup" are phrases that have not and are not currently defined in our Book of Discipline or within the Christian Education Department structure;

Whereas, the "Adult Component" is currently not and has not been an active part of the ministry structure of the Assembly of Christian Educators (ACE) or within the Christian Education Department;

Whereas, several entities within the general Christian Education Department address the Christian Education needs of adults, such as the Commission on Family Life, the Commission on Spiritual Formation, Zion Women Rock, the Institute on Aging, the Just For Seniors Ministry, etc;

Whereas, the constitution of the Assembly of Christian Educators (ACE) states in Article 3, Section 1, "The membership of this organization shall include Christian educators appointed by Bishops, Presiding Elders, and Pastors," in Section 2, "Membership eligibility of any Christian educator shall be initiated upon the payment of dues in advance," and in Section 3, "All appointed and elected Christian educators upon the payment of dues shall have all the rights and privileges of The Assembly of Christian Educators."

Therefore be it resolved, that strike Paragraph 522, #3 and replace with, "The 51st Session of the General Conference directs that the purpose of the Assembly of Christian Educators (ACE) is to design, promote and supervise Christian training and development for all ages and to provide assistance to the Christian Education Department of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Membership of the Assembly of Christian Educators (ACE) shall be open to all Christian Educators, in accordance with its constitution and by-laws."

Be it therefore resolved, that add #5 to Paragraph 522, "The Christian Education Department will unify, supervise, and promote Christian Education for Adults at the connectional level."

Additional Information: The Executive Board of the Assembly of Christian Educators unanimously endorsed this resolution on January 12, 2020.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II _____

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R47-2020

Name of Resolution: A.M.E. Zion Usher Ministry Initiative

RESOLUTION:

Whereas: there is currently no doctrine that governs the Usher Board. Our Ushers are using doctrine of the Baptist, Methodist, and other denominations.

Whereas: a volunteer group of Ushers from each Episcopal Area, Conference and District be formed to develop a Handbook for Ushers of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Whereas: the volunteer group shall be under the direction of the Director of Public Affairs. The volunteer group shall meet via teleconference so there will be no cost to the Connection.

Be it therefore resolved: that the Handbook shall include as a minimum the history, purpose, duties and responsibilities, and attire for Ushers.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Renate Lee

Signature of submitting party(ies). Renate Lee

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R48-2020

Name of Resolution: Line Item Budgets for The Judicial Council, The Board of Records, Statistics and Archives, Convention Management, Zion Benefits Services, Inc., The Board of Global Missions, and The Department of Church Growth and Evangelism

RESOLUTION:

Whereas: an assessed amount for each of these departments is described, there are no line item budgets for the use of these funds.

Whereas, having a line item budget for these departments will give the corporate membership a better idea of how the funds to these departments are distributed.

Be it therefore resolved: be it resolved that a line item budget for each of these departments be developed and included in the chapters related to the departments at an appropriate place in the description of the department in the Book of Discipline.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Renate Lee Signature

of submitting party(ies). Renate Lee

Financial Administration



AMEZ 2020 - Resolutions

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R49-20

Name of Resolution: Process for Allocating Connectional Claims

RESOLUTION:

Whereas: The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (“the Discipline”) does not contain a consistent process for the assessment allocation of the Connectional Claims, and a fair, balanced and equitable process is much needed and;

Whereas: Paragraph 427 (2016 AME Zion Church Book of Discipline, Section II Page 164) referring to the Connectional Budget Department states: “The General Conference shall make the appropriation of the Connectional Budget to the various Episcopal Districts and Annual Conferences in amounts commensurate with the strength of such Episcopal Districts and Annual Conferences.”

Whereas: there is no specificity on how such “strength” is defined or determined and no mathematically sound or formula-based method currently exists within the Connectional Budget Board’s techniques for a reliable process and for the benefit of transparency to the entire denomination and;

Whereas, Paragraph 91 (2016 AME Zion Church Book of Discipline, Section I, page 28) referring to the Duties of Members states: “Every member of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, including Bishops, Ministers, Preachers and their spouses, and Laypersons, is required to pay an annual amount commensurate to the Connectional Budget apportionment for the support of the Connection.”

Whereas: any additions, deletions or shifting of Presiding Elder Districts and/or local churches during the restructuring of any Episcopal Districts and Annual Conferences need to be accommodated with efficient tools for assessment allocations.

Be it therefore resolved,; that the General Conference through the Connectional Budget Board use a more formula based method of allocating Connectional Budget expenses by employing a “per capita” (per member/headcount) methodology and further adjust by a cost of living index as salary/income is usually driven by the cost of living germane to each respective area within the Episcopal District.

Budget Implications: Redistribution of Connectional Budget

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____

ADDENDUM

A. PROPOSED PROCESS

The proposed process is as follows:

1. Divide the Connectional Budget total annual expense by the total AME Zion membership numbers as provided by the AME Zion Church General Secretary Auditor (less membership numbers of Annual Conferences with no budget responsibility) to create a baseline “per headcount” amount as a starting point. This example assumes one million members (ex. \$7,520,633 divided by 1,000,000 members = \$7.53 per member).
2. Identify the Cost of Living Index of the state(s) of each respective Annual Conference or multiple states for Presiding Elder districts inside multiple states within an Annual Conference; *Ex. (Philadelphia & Baltimore Annual Conference will use Maryland (Baltimore District – 1.297), District of Columbia (Washington District – 1.58), Virginia (Northern Virginia District – 1.00) and Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Harrisburg Districts – 1.01) in order to determine the Cost of Living Index(ices) for each Annual Conference).*
3. Multiply the baseline number in Step 1 by the respective Annual Conference Cost of Living Index (e.g. national average = 1.00; each state adjusts upward or downward). For multi-state Annual Conferences

multiply each Presiding Elder District by their respective state's Cost of Living Index. *Ex. (Baltimore District – \$73.46), District of Columbia (Washington District – \$89.05), Virginia (Northern Virginia District – \$57.33) and Pennsylvania (Philadelphia-Eastern Shore District – \$62.48) (Harrisburg - \$62.48)*

4. Multiply the adjusted baseline amount by the total District/Annual Conference membership.
Ex. (Baltimore District– $\$78.33 \times 2,845 = \$209,808$), (Washington District – $\$89.05 \times 3,600 = \$320,589$), (Northern Virginia District – $\$57.33 \times 309 = \$17,714$) and (Philadelphia-Eastern Shore District – $\$62.48 \times 666 = \$41,613$), (Harrisburg - $\$62.48 \times 500 = \$31,241$)
5. One year prior to the General Conference, the Connectional Budget Board (CBB) shall determine each state's cost of living rate to be applied at the presentation of the Connectional Budget effective at the 2024 General Conference.
6. Furthermore, in accordance with the 2016 Book of Discipline, paragraph 413 concerning the further apportionment of the Annual Conference budget: *“The Board shall formulate the “Annual Conference Budget” at the beginning of each quadrennial and shall apportion fairly to each local church an amount to support the Annual Conference Budget. The Board shall also apportion in an equitable and fair manner additional assessments levied on the Annual Conference by the General Conference.”*



B. Annual 2020 Cost of Living by State

Cost Index	State	Cost Rank
86.1	Mississippi	1
86.9	Arkansas	2
87	Oklahoma	3
87.1	Missouri	4
87.5	New Mexico	5
88.7	Tennessee	6
88.9	Michigan	7
89	Kansas	8
89.2	Georgia	9
89.3	Alabama	11
89.3	Wyoming	10
90	Indiana	12
90.1	Iowa	13
90.8	Nebraska	14
90.8	Ohio	15
90.9	Kentucky	16
91.1	West Virginia	17
91.5	Texas	18
92.3	Idaho	19
93.9	Louisiana	20
94.5	Illinois	21
94.9	North Carolina	22
95.9	South Carolina	23
97	Arizona	24

97.3	Wisconsin	25
97.9	Florida	26
98.8	North Dakota	28
99.8	South Dakota	29
100.7	Virginia	30
101.6	Minnesota	31
101.7	Pennsylvania	32
105.6	Colorado	33
106.9	Montana	34
108.1	Delaware	35
108.5	Nevada	36
109.7	New Hampshire	37
110.7	Washington	38
114.5	Vermont	39
117.5	Maine	40
119.4	Rhode Island	41
125.1	New Jersey	42
127.7	Connecticut	43
129.7	Maryland	44
129.9	Alaska	45
131.6	Massachusetts	46
134.2	Oregon	47
139.1	New York	48
151.7	California	49
158.4	District of Columbia	50
192.9	Hawaii	51
FOUNDED 1796		

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R50-2020

Name of Resolution: Financial Reporting

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, executive power resides in the Connectional Council and the Board of Bishops, and

WHEREAS, the Church Discipline directs the respective Bishops to provide a disseminated, proposed budget to be adopted annually by the pastors, traveling ministers and lay delegates from local churches; and

WHEREAS, the Connectional Church Budget is the primary administrative tool that should project program planning and management; and

WHEREAS, the Fiftieth Quadrennial Session of the AME Zion Church General Conference adopted legislation that the Restructuring Commission conduct a study and report to the 2018 Connectional Council for discussion on the budget process with recommendations for Financial reforms and fiscal accountability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the aforementioned stated legislation be fully implemented;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to provide transparency and facilitate audit purposes, funds received from all sources, including Connectional meetings and Board of Bishop meetings, should be identified by purpose and reported to the Chief Financial Officer. Any funds received for which purpose is not specified should be reported to the Chief Financial Officer as general offering.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____

Adrian V. Nelson, II

FOUNDED 1796

A.M.E ZION 2020- RESOLUTION

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R51-2020

Name of Resolution: 501(c)(3) Memorandum of Understanding Trustees

RESOLUTION:

PREAMBLE: As alternative streams of income impact the church; we must ensure that there is both fiscal and temporal management of these particularly as it relates to the acquisition of 501(c)3 entity's either in the name of the church or an extension of the church. This resolution would propose that if there are three (3) or more members of the Board of Directors who are members in good standing of the local church connected to an established 501(c)3 by the church or any of its representatives it must adhere to a memorandum of Understanding from both the local church Trustees and the Steward Board to ensure accountability and the safeguarding of all property fiscal and temporal.

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Board of Trustees to "take charge of and protect the church property with all of its appurtenances in trust for the membership"; and to ensure that all property is properly insured and report the same to the Quarterly Conference; (para.391)

WHEREAS, the trust clause for all properties acquired in the name of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church or any entity operating under its name and authority, shall be held, kept and maintained as for the use of the ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in American is subject to the provision of the discipline and usage of said church (church facilities);

WHEREAS, Religious Corporations as outlined in the 2016 Book of Discipline directs - Applicability of part - which applies to every religious corporation formed in any state by an African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church that is subject to the jurisdiction of the AME Zion denomination; and

WHEREAS, the members of a religious corporation formed by a church under this part are members of and amenable to the Quarterly Conference of said church.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that if there is a majority of the Board of Directors who are members of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (in good standing), and deemed members of the Board of Directors of a 501(c)3 connected in any way to a local congregation or its representatives; the 501(c)3 must adhere to a memorandum of Understanding from the local church Board of Trustees to ensure accountability and the safeguarding of all temporal and fiscal property;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the utilization of any church property by a 501(c)3 either directly formed

by a local congregation of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church or its representatives be properly insured on its own accord and meet the standards/ requirements of the local church Trustees to occupy or use any of its facilities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the originator or Executive Board of an established non-profit or 501(c)3 shall not acquire or obtain physical property through the use of its exemption status while connected in any way to a local church or its representatives and claim rights and ownership thereof;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all equipment, property or other resources acquired and owned by a Federally exempt program in the name of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church or its representatives be non-transferrable by any member of the Corporation unless mutually agreed upon by the Board of Trustees of the local congregation wherein its program is located; and it follows all of the guidelines established in the Book of Discipline for the transfer or sale of church property; and

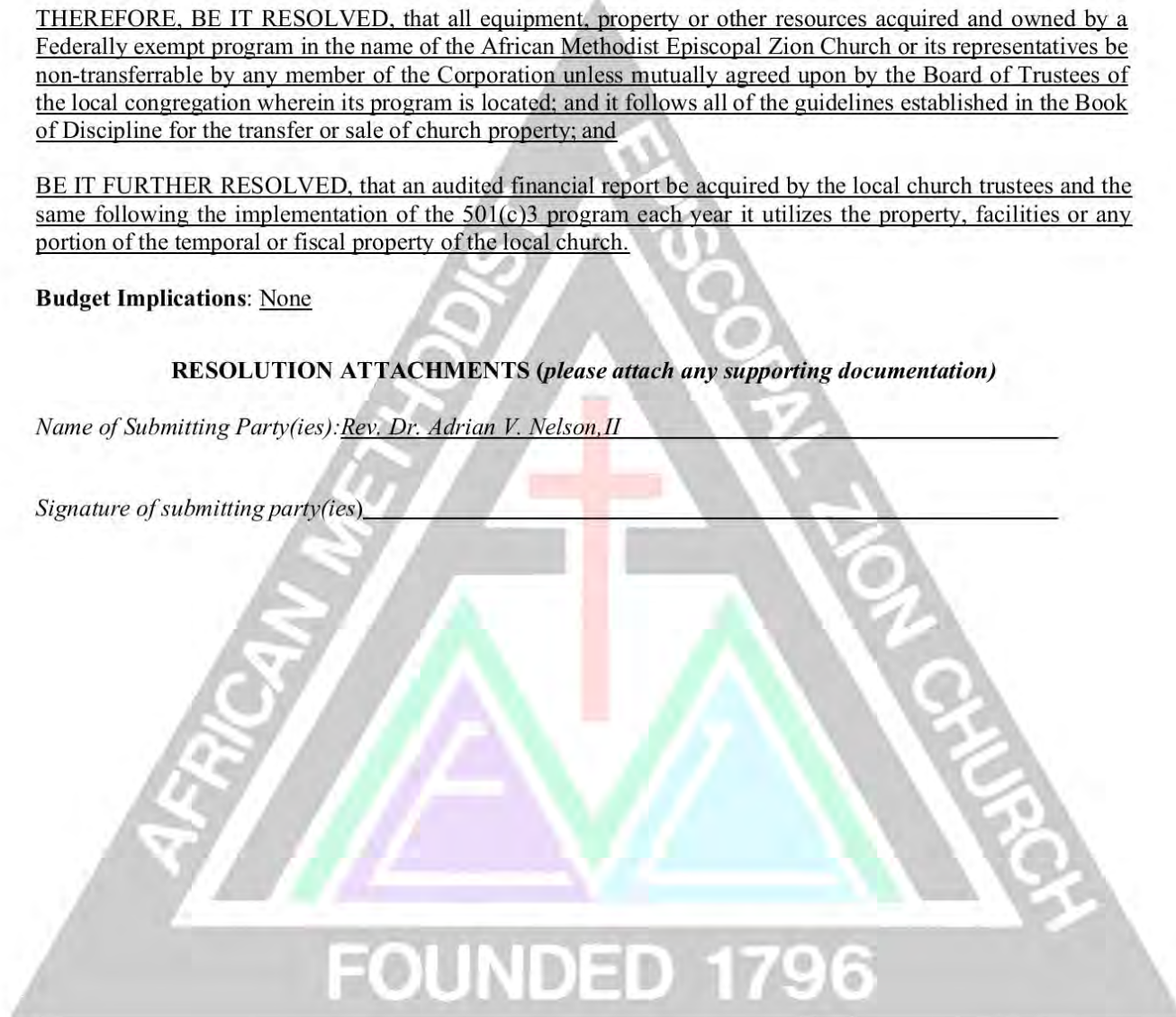
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an audited financial report be acquired by the local church trustees and the same following the implementation of the 501(c)3 program each year it utilizes the property, facilities or any portion of the temporal or fiscal property of the local church.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____



General Conference Resolutions Form GC51-R52-2020

Name of Resolution: 501(c)(3) Memorandum of Understanding Stewards

Delegate Name: Rev. Dr. Evalina Huggins

Annual Conference, Board or Committee: Philadelphia & Baltimore

RESOLUTION:

PREAMBLE: As alternative streams of income impact the church; we must ensure that there is both fiscal and temporal management of these particularly as it relates to the acquisition of 501(c)3 entity's either in the name of the church or an extension of the church. This resolution would propose that if there are three (3) or more members of the Board of Directors who are members in good standing of the local church connected to an established 501(c)3 by the church or any of its representatives it must adhere to a memorandum of Understanding from both the local church Trustees and Board of Stewards to ensure accountability and the safeguarding of all property fiscal and temporal.

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Board of Stewards "to raise and take charge of the money collected for the ministry"; (para.359)

WHEREAS, "Stewards are accountable for the faithful discharge of their duties to the Quarterly Conference, which has power to dismiss or change them at pleasure. They shall make an accurate report of the collections and application of money passing through their hands at each Quarterly Conference"; (para. 362) and

WHEREAS, "where there is no Board of Stewards, the duties herein before stated shall be performed by the Board of Trustees, except such as become the duties of the Preacher's Steward", (para. 365)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that if there is a majority of the Board of Directors who are members of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (in good standing), and deemed members of the Board of Directors of a 501(c)3 connected in any way to a local congregation or its representatives; the 501(c)3 must adhere to a memorandum of Understanding from the local church Board of Stewards to ensure accountability and reporting of all finances received for the support of the ministry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all revenues, receipts and instruments of transfer related to financial

transactions between a 501(c)3 either directly formed by a local congregation of the African **Methodist Episcopal Zion Church** or its representatives be properly recorded and reported through the Quarterly Conference as outlined in the Book of Discipline;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the sale of equipment, property or other resources acquired and owned by a Federally exempt program in the name of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church or its representatives be non-transferrable by any member of the Corporation unless mutually agreed upon by the Board of Trustees of the local congregation wherein its program is located; and it follows all of the guidelines established in the Book of Discipline for the transfer or sale of church property; and, said funds received in part or the whole shall be received, recorded and disbursed by the Board of Stewards.

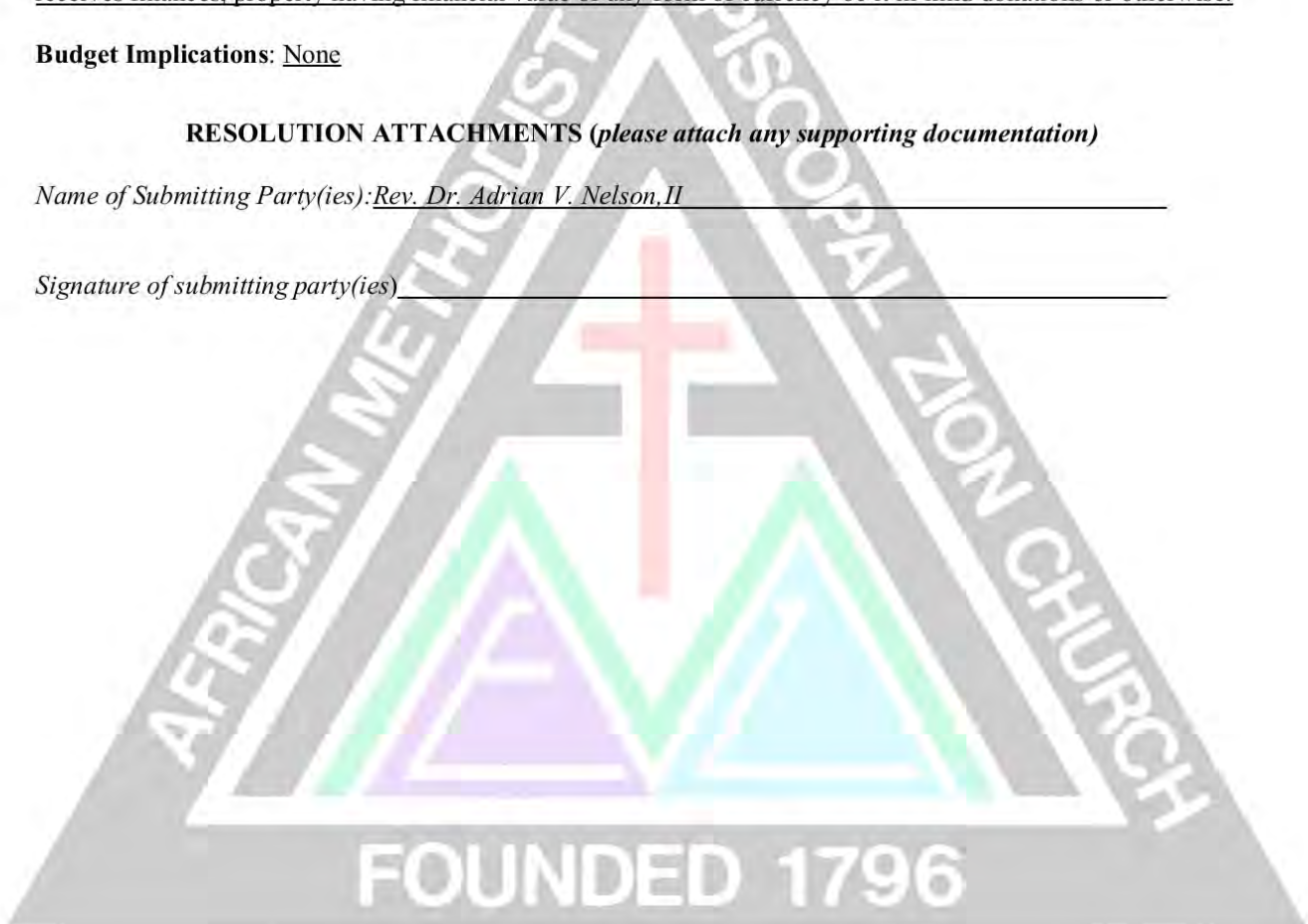
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an audited financial report be acquired by the local church Stewards and the same following the implementation of the 501(c)3 program each subsequent year wherein the local church receives finances, property having financial value or any form of currency be it in-kind donations or otherwise.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R53-2020

Name of Resolution: Pastors' Death Benefits

RESOLUTION:

Whereas: the AME Zion Denomination provides death benefits for “Pastors in Charge” who receive appointments and have served a minimum of ten (10) years; and

Whereas: the Denomination’s current Group Life Insurance policy, underwritten by the Unum Insurance Company of America, provides death benefits based upon the age of the “Pastors in Charge”; and

Whereas: many “Pastors in Charge” devote their entire lives to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, and the AME Zion Denomination; and

Whereas: the death benefits as outlined in the 2016 Book of Discipline, page 202, paragraph 499, Section 2, states that claims to beneficiary(ies) are paid at the benefit rate of \$10,000 for those eligible “Pastors in Charge”, ages 69 and under and \$3,000 for those ages 70 and above; and

Whereas: the death benefit paid to the designated beneficiary(ies) that is currently in force, subsequent to the section referenced in the 2016 Book of Discipline, is \$10,000 for eligible “Pastors in Charge”, ages 69 and under; \$6,500 for those ages 70-75; and \$5,000 for those over 75; and

Whereas: younger “Pastors in Charge” have less incentive to enter into full time ministry in the AME Zion Denomination;

Be it therefore resolved: the minimum death benefit provided shall be \$10,000, regardless of the ages of the eligible “Pastors in Charge”.

Budget Implications: The premium will be priced based on the number of determined by the number of “Pastors in Charge” enrolled and their respective ages; however, the premium is likely to increase by approximately \$80,000 above the current allocation, subject to the best proposal offered by the insurance carriers.

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Missouri Conference Resolutions Committee

Signature of submitting party(ies) Presiding Elder Carrol A. Johnson



General Conference Resolutions GC51-R54-2020

Name of Resolution: Proposed Methodology for Equitable Apportionment

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, Previous budgets have been apportioned based upon historical data; and

Whereas, Equitable apportionment is a goal of the budget process. 1. To provide a means for pertinent information that will impact and strengthen the budget process. 2. To provide additional resources for objective financial data.

Therefore, be it resolved, That the General Conference Connectional Budget Committee be provided with Episcopal District data from the General Secretary Auditor and Chief Financial Officer for consideration as it relates to Episcopal Apportionments including total reported memberships, total amount raised, and total indebtedness.

Budget Implications: N/A

-RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS: *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Connectional Lay Council

Signature of Submitting Party(ies): Dr. Mary J. Matthews
Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey

Dr. Mary J. Matthews
Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey
Rev. Dr. Sondra Coleman
Rev. O. Lacy Evans
Ms. Debra Payne
Ms. Jacqueline Anthony
Mrs. Connie Bell Wright
Dr. Timothy Freeman Dr.
Adrian Nelson

Judicial Administration



AMEZ 2020 - Resolutions

General Conference Resolutions GC51-R55-2020

Name of Resolution: Implementation of The Book of Resolutions for The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

RESOLUTION:

Whereas: The Book of Resolutions, will be published by The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Publishing House, collecting in one volume all current and official social policies and other resolutions adopted by the General Conference of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; and

Whereas these resolutions are:

- Official policy statements for guiding all the work and ministry of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church on approximately 200 subjects;
- Educational resources for The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church on important issues affecting the lives of people and all God's creation;
- Guides and models for helping African Methodist Episcopal Zion members and groups relate a lively biblical faith to action in daily life;
- Resource materials for persons preparing public statements about African Methodist Episcopal Zion concerns on current social issues; and

Whereas: The Book of Resolutions is primarily a reference tool for church members and leaders. It is not a book that you will sit down to read from cover to cover.

You might not get acquainted with these resolutions until you are in the midst of some controversy in your congregation, or something happens regarding a particular subject in your community (or state, or nation). You may find that your denomination's policies give you more "food for thought." Maybe you will agree with the denomination's position. On the other hand, you may disagree. Individuals or groups in the congregation can seek to change policy with which they disagree by petitioning the General Conference to amend, replace, or delete resolutions.

Furthermore, you may look to some of the statements in this book for spiritual guidance as you make an important decision in your life about work, home, family life, or use of money and other resources.

Whereas: The Book of Resolutions may address some of the following questions:

Why do we have all these social policies and resolutions?

The resolutions say, "We care!" Delegates to the General Conference of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church believe that we each need and deserve the guidance of the whole denomination as we face daily hopes, struggles, joy, or pain. The resolutions and Social Principles express our Church community's beliefs and give us evidence that the Church means for God's love to reach into situations faced each day, not just on Sunday mornings. Not all of us are intimately involved with each issue, but someone, somewhere, is.

Isn't The Book of Discipline enough?

The Book of Discipline establishes a framework for each part of Zion Methodism. The General Conference decided in 2016 that for reasons of length, these resolutions should be published in a volume separate from the Discipline. While The Book of Resolutions is not legally binding, it is an official guide from our denomination to be used responsibly for reference, encouragement, study, and support.

Why do the Social Principles appear in both The Discipline and in The Book of Resolutions?

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church puts the Social Principles in The Discipline as one of our denominational foundation statements suggesting how faith is translated into action. Its broad principles (guides, not rules) are declarations to help us be in dialogue with one another about how faith motivates us to “get off the fence” and act.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church will put the Social Principles in The Book of Resolutions to help us relate the broad strokes of the Social Principles to more specific exploration and applications in resolutions.

Where do these policies and resolutions come from? How do they get adopted by the General Conference?

They will be sent in as petitions to the General Conference every four years by general agencies, annual conferences, local churches, delegates to the General Conference, and groups. Once submitted as petitions, most of them will be worked on by delegates in a legislative committee. The legislative committees accept, reject, or amend the petitions, then report their recommendations to the General Conference plenary; all delegates then vote on their recommendations.

Can I trust the statistics and data in these resolutions?

General source references are usually given when statistics are used in a resolution. Because such data may change during the years the resolution is valid, sometimes the resolution will provide more general descriptions of social conditions that make it urgent for the church to speak on a particular topic.

Resolutions will take on more meaning when you secure local statistics and data on relevant topics.

Why do church social policies and US government policies or positions seem so far apart on some of these issues?

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church membership extends beyond the US boundaries; it is global. So, in many cases we are speaking to, from, or with more than one national government. Further, the Christian church must never be a mirror image of any government, whether Democrat or Republican, totalitarian or democratic. We know that Christians are obligated to be responsible and participating citizens under any governmental system, but that response and participation is to be interpreted in light of our faith.

“Our allegiance to God takes precedence over our allegiance to any state”. And our church's public witness is first and foremost to be judged by God by whether it supports justice, love, and mercy, particularly for the poor and powerless.

Why can't the church just let us make up our own minds on these matters after it presents us neutral information on both sides of an issue?

Most importantly, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. We cannot just be observers. So we care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex. The church helps us think and act out of a faith perspective, not just respond to all the other “mind-makers-up” that exist in our society.

No information is truly neutral. This is true even of the most “hard scientific” data secured from the most advanced technology. These resolutions do strive for objectivity, not neutrality. There are usually more than “two sides” in important social controversies. Dialogue between different sides is critical in taking a stand. Faithfulness requires favoring what best demonstrates God's love and being willing to change when new perspectives or data emerge.

Is this something new in Zion Methodism?

Taking an active stance in society is nothing new for followers of John Wesley, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman. Wesley set the example for us to combine personal and social piety. Ever since predecessor churches to Wesley's Methodism flourished in the United States, we have been known as a denomination involved with people's lives, with political and social struggles, having local to international mission implications. Such involvement is an expression of the personal change we experience in our baptism and conversion.

Is there a difference between a social policy and a resolution?

The terms are used almost interchangeably in The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Most social issue resolutions refer to public policy matters, such as local, state, and federal government programs and legislation. Other statements focus on conditions affecting the church and the church's programs or funding.

How will people use this Book of Resolutions?

• An ordained minister went to console neighbor parents after their son committed suicide. At home later that evening, the pastor and his own family struggled in their grief to apply their faith to this troubling situation. What did the church say about suicide? How should a Christian act? The pastor found the United Methodist 1980 Book of Resolutions absolutely silent on this topic. During the six years after that first personal encounter with ministry after a suicide, the pastor wrote letters and articles and talked with seminary faculty and national church staff. As a result, the 1988 General Conference of the United Methodist Church adopted its first resolution on suicide. Instead of merely wishing for guidance from our church on this most difficult subject, this pastor gave constructive leadership in the church, and we now can find helpful perspectives in The United Methodist 2012 Book of Resolutions.

• Clergy writing their sermons, Sunday school teachers planning lessons, and church leaders preparing presentations for any purpose can use the new scripture index to the resolutions to find and add informative and persuasive language to their work. The mission of the church can be extended by presenting its social vision to make disciples for Jesus Christ in the world.

- A bishop and an annual conference board of church and society might want to share an African Methodist Episcopal Zion position against the death penalty with their governor, who may consider clemency for a death row inmate. They would visit the governor and deliver a letter stating their own views of this particular situation and describing why The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church opposes the death penalty. They could use a resolution on capital punishment in The Book of Resolutions as the official policy of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church to support their plea for clemency.
- A nurse who is an active church member might find resolutions on "Health Care for All in the United States" and "Ministries in Mental Illness" to be helpful as she reflects on the strains in her job. She could find it more possible to connect her faith to her discussions with coworkers about some of the major issues facing her profession in a big city hospital.
- A local church's outreach work area might ask its church council to approve a congregational statement to the county zoning board favoring the construction of several low-income housing units. As part of their homework, the work area members could review a "Housing in the USA" resolution in The Book of Resolutions. That resolution then would serve as a basis for their initiative; even as they quote from it when they testify at the zoning board.

How do I use The Book of Resolutions?

Example: If you want to know whether our denomination has spoken about AIDS or HIV, you would look for those entries in the index. These subjects may be referred to in a number of resolutions. Find the text of the Social Principles.

- The Social Principles include broad, fundamental statements grouped in a number of topical sections. The Resolutions are placed after the Social Principles to which they relate.

How can I understand the Social Principles?

The Book of Resolutions will organize almost all resolutions into the areas of concern that form the major sections of the Social Principles. You may find it helpful to consider these areas of concern as you explore specific resolutions.

How can I better understand the Resolutions?

Each resolution shows:

- the rationale or reasons for the resolution;
- the Social Principles paragraph to which that resolution relates (found at the conclusion of any resolution);
- the biblical references and/or theological concerns identified in that resolution;
- the major actions called for in that resolution for churches; individuals; church agencies; local, state, or national governments;
- the date the resolution was passed or amended and readopted by General Conference.

- the resolution number from preceding volumes.

What do I do next?

Consider these questions for study and response to any of the resolutions:

- How familiar am I with the situation(s) described in this resolution?
- What are my reactions to this call for action by our church?
- How might reactions be different if we lived in another part of this country? lived in another country? were of a different economic class? attended a different church? if members of my family were present (or not present)?
- How could our local congregation creatively respond to the calls for action in the resolution?
- Are there groups in my area or state at work on this issue where I could join in action or learn more?
- What have I communicated to our congressional members or state legislators about our church's position on an issue of great importance?

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Implementation of the Book of Resolutions take place as follows:

• Resolutions to be considered for The Book of Resolutions rather than The Book of Discipline will be submitted to the General Secretary-Auditor of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church with the same formatting and deadlines as those resolutions that are submitted to be included in The Book of Discipline.

• At the General Conference, a committee will be established to create and maintain The Book of Resolutions. The Book of Resolutions will be issued at the same time The Book of Discipline following the General Conference is issued. On the Resolutions Compilation Committee, there will be a Bishop who serves as chair, along with a Bishop who serves as vice chair, and a lay person who serves as the second vice chair. A member of the clergy and a lay person from each Episcopal District will also serve on the committee.

• The cost of the Book of Resolutions will be absorbed by selling the hard copy books or by selling access to PDF versions of the book. The cost of the Book of Resolutions will not exceed the cost of the Book of Discipline. The Book of Resolutions will be sold and distributed by the Department of Communications of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

• In addition to the Book of Resolutions generated by the General Conference, there may be established Annual Conference Books of Resolutions by the various conferences with issues that apply to the local churches, districts and Annual Conference that may or may not apply to other Conferences, districts or local churches. These Annual Conference Books of Resolutions may be revised annually with resolutions that need to be considered by the General Conference submitted for consideration in the year of the General Conference.

Budget Implications: May have possible budget implication due to the need for staffing.

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies):

Signature of submitting party(ies)

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R56-2020

Name of Resolution: Appointees on Administrative Boards

RESOLUTION:

Whereas: Administrative boards of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church are “the sanctioned bodies of the General Conference, whose responsibility is to provide oversight for the general officer departments, connectional organizations, commissions and societies of the denomination.” (Glossary, 2016 Book of Discipline). The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference adopted the report of the Restructuring Commission to restructure the (#7) administrative boards and (#9) committees, and

Whereas: The General Conference appoints elected and alternate (equal clergy & lay) General Conference delegates to serve on administrative boards, and

Whereas: An assessment of the labor of administrative boards revealed a high level of ineffectiveness primarily due to the lack of board members employing specialized knowledge, skills, and competencies on the boards appointed to serve. Effective and impactful administrative boards require its members to possess specific expertise in the area of the administrative work, and

Whereas: Board members with skills, talents, and experience specific to its administrative oversight can provide advice on strategic planning and guide the general officer through issues and obstacles that may hinder its effectiveness. Insightful board members can also offer resources that otherwise may have been inaccessible;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the 51st session of The A.M.E. Zion Church General Conference direct the Central Management Team (CMT) and the General Officers Team (G.O.T.) to prepare an *A.M.E. Zion Talent/Skills Inventory Database* to match unique qualities of administrative boards with appointments, and

Therefore, be it further resolved, that elected delegates and alternates will be give an access code, unique to District & Episcopal Area, to enter the information requested in the *A.M.E. Zion Talent/Skills Inventory Portal*. The database will be used when appointing persons to serve on the various administrative boards and committees.

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Therefore, be it finally resolved, that at the first Annual Conference checkup meeting after the General Conference, appointees will be apprised of the administrative board, position, and duties assigned.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): The Kentucky Conference Resolutions Committee

Signature of submitting party(ies) Lula Howard



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R57-2020

Name of Resolution: Eligibility for General Conference Lay Delegate

RESOLUTION:

WHERE AS, The General Conference is the supreme rule making body for the A.M. E. Zion Church and delegates are charged with the responsibility of conducting important business for the general interest of the Connection, which has immediate and long- range impact

WHERE AS, the discipline requires that the General Conference be composed of an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates and they be elected from the Annual Conference of which they are members

WHERE AS, no lay members shall be elected a delegate to the General Conference who has not been a member of our church in full connection for four consecutive years preceding election (Part IV Chapter 1 General Conference)

WHERE AS, the discipline does not provide criteria for lay persons who want to offer themselves to be delegates to the General Conference other than to be a member in full connection

WHERE AS, there is no explicit definition of the term member full connection other than the glossary of the discipline

WHERE AS, A credible Delegate to the General Conference must be knowledgeable about AME Zion rules, polity and General Conference procedures in order to effectively carry out their responsibilities

BE IT RESOLVED, that Part IV Chapter 1 General Conference page 35 Section 107-3 of the 2016 discipline be revised as follows-

Delete: No lay member shall be elected a delegate to the General Conference who has not been a member of our Church in Full Connection for four consecutive years preceding election

Replace: A lay member desiring to be a delegate to the General Conference shall be vetted in the following manner:

1. Be a member in full connection of our Church for four consecutive years preceding election
2. Be a committed, dedicated, working, and active member with demonstrated leadership experience in the local church and active in the district, annual conference and/or connectional levels
3. Have attended or registered for a minimum of four (4) district, conference, or connectional

meetings during the quadrennial

4. Be familiar with AME Zion church government (polity)
5. Be familiar with the hierarchy of the church
6. Be familiar with General Conference procedures
7. Be familiar with Robert's Rules of Order/Parliamentary Procedures

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the process for lay delegate be standardized throughout the church by the submission of a written statement of interest to be developed by the General Secretary Auditor that address all of the criteria outlined in items 1-7 accompanied by a written statement of support from the layperson's pastor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the presiding prelate of the Episcopal Area from which the lay delegate is being elected retain the responsibility of certifying the lay member's eligibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a lay member is eligible to offer him or her self to be a lay delegate without regard to age as long as they are an adult in the jurisdiction (state) where they reside.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that so there is no financial hardship imposed upon our fellow lay members in our overseas or mission conferences this change will only apply to lay members in the domestic conferences.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that so there is no financial hardship imposed upon our fellow lay members in our overseas or mission conferences this change will only apply to lay members in the domestic conferences.

Additional Information:

The United Methodist church already has language in their discipline regarding eligibility without regard to age. This change would put us on par with one of our sister denominations and elevate the electoral college process to a higher standard of excellence.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____

Laity



AMEZ 2020 - Resolutions

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R58-2020

Name of Resolution: Maintaining the Connectional Lay Council Bylaws in the A.M.E. Zion Church's Book of Discipline

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline is the instrument for setting forth the laws, plans, polity, and process by which The African Methodist Episcopal Zion governs itself, and

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline is the single legal binding document of the structure of the A.M.E. Zion Church, and

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline is the essential tool for educating, enriching, training, evangelizing, and

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline is the single most recognized legal resource used by both clergy and laity that promotes polity direction in unity for the membership for the A.M.E. Zion Church.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in order to promote perpetuity of the Connectional Lay Council which includes consistency, accountability, and transparency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CLC Bylaws in its entirety indefinitely remain in the A.M.E. Zion Church's Book of Discipline.

Budget Implications: N/A

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Connectional Lay Council

Signature of Submitting Party(ies): Dr. Mary J. Matthews
Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey

Dr. Mary J. Matthews
Rev. Eldren Morrison
Ms. Sandra Williams
Ms. Shelley Henry Ms.
Beverly Workman
Mrs. Verta W. Looper
Mrs. Wanda L. Lax
Mrs. Angela DeShields
Mrs. Loris Parker
Mrs. Maggie Stinson
Dr. Mary S. Ponds
Ms. Leondras Davis
Mrs. Carolyn Humphrey
Mrs. Mary Aiken
Mrs. Jessie Glenn
Mrs. Doris Edwards
Ms. Frances J. Glenn
Dr. Janet J. Evelyn
Mrs. Vanessa Watt



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R59-2020

Name of Resolution: Lay Officers for Appointment Outside of The Local Church

RESOLUTION: Lay Officers for Appointment Outside of The Local Church

Whereas: many appointments of lay members have been made without the knowledge of and consent of the church's pastor, and

Whereas: many lay appointments were made by Presiding Elder and /or Bishops when the lay members were not faithful in their respective local churches, and

Whereas: the pastor and class leaders are responsible in the local church for declaring the Full Connection and Probationary Status of the local church, and

Whereas: only the pastor and class leaders of their respective church know whether a member is in "good standing".

Be it therefore resolved: that no appointment of a lay member be made without the written consent of the lay member's pastor/church.

Be it therefore resolved: that a written consent can be made by letter, email, text, twitter, Facebook, etc.

Be it resolved: that any appointment made without the written consent nullifies the appointment.

Be it finally resolved: that the failure to comply with the aforementioned process constitutes maladministration.

Budget Implications: _____

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Claud Shuford

Signature of submitting party(ies)



General Conference Resolutions GC51-R60-2020

Name of Resolution: Revision of The Connectional Lay Council (CLC) Bylaws, 11th

Quadrennial Convention

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the 11th Quadrennial Convention of the Connectional Lay Council was held in Knoxville Tennessee, July 22-27, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the attached legislation revisions were adopted by the 11th Quadrennial Convention, attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, attachment 2 is the Connectional Lay Council Bylaws with adopted changes incorporated.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 51st General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church ratify the legislation adopted by the 11th Quadrennial Convention of the Connectional Lay Council for inclusion in the 2020 Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, as submitted in attachment 2.

Budget Implications: N/A

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Connectional Lay Council

Signature of Submitting Party(ies): Dr. Mary J. Matthews

Dr. Sheila Quintana

The Executive Board of the Connectional Lay Council

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R60a-2020

ATTACHMENT 2

CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH, hereinafter referred to as the Connectional Lay Council (CLC) or the Council.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to organize the laity of The A.M.E. Zion Church in each Annual and District Conference and local church in the Connection to the end that the following objectives may be achieved:

- 1) Deepen the spiritual life of the laity
- 2) Disseminate information
- 3) Cultivate the denominational loyalty
- 4) Expand the denomination through education and evangelism
- 5) Promote any other interest of the Kingdom of God.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility. All lay persons who are members of The A.M.E. Zion Church and who are in good standing in their respective churches are eligible and encouraged to become members of the Connectional Lay Council.

Section 2. Categories. The Connectional Lay Council shall have the following membership categories, Life, Four-Year, Regular, and Honorary (clergy and youth members under the age of 18).

A. Dues. Membership dues are payable in the following categories:

MEMBERSHIPS	CONNECTIONAL	REGIONAL	CONFERENCE	DISTRICT	LOCAL
Life \$125.00	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$25.00	\$50.00
Four-Year \$20.00	\$8.00	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$4.00

Regular	\$5.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$1.00
Sustaining Life	\$10.00	\$2.50	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.50	\$5.00

B. Dues Payment Dates. Memberships will be accepted from the local church only. Honorary memberships, with no voting privileges (clergy and those under 18 years of age) are accepted in any category. Renewal payment is due on or before the expiration date of membership category.

Section 3. Voting. The voting privilege in the Connectional Lay Council shall be contingent upon the paying of dues with the exception of honorary (clergy and those under 18 years of age) members. In the year of the quadrennial convention all memberships must be paid 30 days prior to the opening date in order to be eligible to vote. All must also have registered with the convention. The minimum age for voting in the Lay Council shall be 18 which is consistent with that of the legal voting age.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1. Elected Officers. The elected officers of the CLC shall be an International President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Financial Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Chaplain.

Section 2. Eligibility for Elected Office. All candidates for elected office must have been a member of the Connectional Lay Council for a minimum of four (4) consecutive years and must provide evidence of their involvement in the local, Presiding Elder District, and Annual Conference Lay Councils. Each must submit a letter of recommendation to the Election Committee from each of the following: Local Pastor, Presiding Elder, and Bishop of the Episcopal District. The deadline for submission of candidate information/package will be established by the election committee.

Section 3. Election, Term of Office and Tenure. The elective officers of the Connectional Lay Council shall be elected at the Quadrennial Convention to serve for one (1) quadrennium. The elected officers shall assume office at the close of the convention at which they were elected. One may seek re-election for another term. However, no officer having served eight (8) consecutive years will be permitted to serve in any elected office until he/she has been out of office for one (1) quadrennium.

Section 4. Honorary. The office of President Emeritus honors a past president in recognition of significant contributions to the Connectional Lay Council while in office; and shall be without the privilege of voting in executive board meetings.

Section 5. Appointed Officers. The International President has the authority to appoint the following officers whose appointments and terminations or removals shall be made valid by formal approval through confirmation by the Executive Board.

A. Regional Directors. The office of Regional Director organizes and develops the work in an assigned Episcopal District and serves as liaison between the Region and Executive Board.

B. Other Appointed Officers.

1) Executive Assistant. Individual in this position acts under the direction of the International President and is in charge of the Central Office (headquarters) of the Connectional Lay Council.

- 2) **Marshal.** Under the direction of the International President, one or more marshals may be appointed at Quadrennial Conventions or whenever necessary at Connectional Lay Council sessions to assist in maintaining order in the assembly and distributing reports and other handout materials. Marshal(s) perform other duties as assigned by the International President.
- 3) **Parliamentarian.** The Parliamentarian is a consultant who advises the International President and other officers, committees, and members on matters of parliamentary procedure. The Parliamentarian performs other duties assigned by the International President.

ARTICLE V

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The officers shall perform the duties provided in this Article and such other duties as are prescribed for the office in these bylaws, by the Executive Board, by the executive committee, by the International President, or in the adopted parliamentary authority.

- A. Duties of the International President.** In addition to the duties defined below, the International President shall possess leadership qualities that include skills in planning, organizing, coordinating, and delegating; and shall:
- 1) preside at all meetings of the Connectional Lay Council and the Executive Board;
 - 2) perform such other duties for the good of the Connectional Lay Council and The A.M.E. Zion Church;
 - 3) be the official representative of the Connectional Lay Council;
 - 4) appoint any member of the Executive Board to represent the Council in the event he/she is unable to attend. On occasion when it is deemed appropriate for the Connectional Lay Council to be represented at funerals and/or memorial services related to the death of a current or past elected officer or regional directors, the International President may appoint an official representative living nearest to the deceased;
 - 5) carry out the duties assigned in the bylaws and report semi-annually to the Board of Bishops' Winter Meeting and the Connectional Council;
 - 6) prepare a quadrennial report for the ensuing General Conference. This report shall include the report of the Second Vice-President (Membership Chairperson) and the financial report of the Treasurer;
 - 7) submit a quadrennial budget item for International President's Travel. Travel that is outside of budgeted allocation must be approved by the Executive Board, except in emergency cases, the executive committee;
 - 8) countersign all checks except in cases of emergency, when the Treasurer and Financial secretary shall be authorized;
 - 9) transition within thirty (30) days following the Quadrennial Convention, the newly elected International President shall call a meeting of all incoming and outgoing elected officers for the purpose of a smooth transition. At that time, all records, equipment/property will be turned over to the new administration;
 - 10) the non-incumbent immediate past president shall serve on the Executive Board for one year of the new Quadrennium in an advisory role; and shall be without the privilege of making motions or voting in meetings of the Executive Board.
 - 11) The International President shall have the authority to appoint the following officers: Regional Directors (12); an Executive Assistant, a Parliamentarian; Marshals, Editor of "Laity Speaks" column in *The Star of Zion*/Editor of "The Connection" newsletter; and a Historian; all appointments, except a parliamentarian and marshals, will be affirmed by a two-third vote of

the Executive Board sustaining his/her appointment(s). Removal of appointed officer(s) for cause by the International President will be affirmed by the Executive Board and the Executive Board shall make valid by formal approval through confirmation.

B. Duties of the First Vice-President. In addition to the duties defined below, the First Vice-President shall possess leadership qualities that include skills in planning, organizing, coordinating, and delegating; and shall:

- 1) perform all the duties of the International President in his/her absence or incapacity;
- 2) be program chairperson of the Quadrennial Evangelistic Retreat, Lay Convocation and the Lay Convention;
- 3) work closely with the Education Committee and standing/special committees to develop, disseminate information, training programs and materials for the denomination's Lay Ministries that are consistent with the Connectional Lay Council Objectives and Executive Board mandates, to Local, District, and Conference presidents, through the Regional Directors; and
- 4) perform any other duties assigned by the International President.

C. Duties of the Second Vice-President. The Second Vice-President shall:

- 1) perform the duties of the International President in the absence of the International President and First Vice President;
- 2) be Chairperson of the Membership Committee and be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the membership campaign functions of the Council. He/she is expected to:
 - a. promote and supervise an effective on-going membership campaign;
 - b. develop innovative, creative, and cost-effective solutions that result in highly efficient standards for management and maintenance of the Council's membership database;
 - c. supervise the Membership Committee; establish membership goals of the Council; work with Regional Directors in providing support to membership chairpersons on all levels;
 - d. ensure that membership cards, Life Membership certificates and pins are issued in a timely manner; and initiate follow-up procedures on all expired and delinquent memberships;
- 3) demonstrate ability to be proficient in the following areas:
 - a. Computer Knowledge – must utilize and understand computer management which includes Microsoft Office Suite, and other database materials;
 - b. manage the database with 40,000 plus names and pertinent statistics;
 - c. respond to the members within 15 business days with membership cards, Life Membership certificates and pins;
 - d. prepare membership statistical reports, including graphs;
 - e. manage day-to-day administrative operations;
 - f. present and respond to questions from regional directors, annual conferences, presiding elder districts and local church presidents;
 - g. perform all duties required by the Bylaws and as mandated by the Executive Board.
- 4) The Second Vice-President shall:
 - a. be bonded;
 - b. maintain accurate records of all membership dues received by the Council;
 - c. ensure that they are turned over to the Financial Secretary after being recorded in a bound book or an electronic log sheet and/or in other electronic media;
 - d. perform any other duties assigned by the International President.

D. Duties of the Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary shall:

- 1) be responsible for maintaining accurate records of the proceedings of all meetings of the Connectional Lay Council, including minutes and all other official documents from the Executive Board meetings, the Quadrennial Convention, the Lay Convocation, and all other meetings as called by the International President;

- 2) be responsible for securing competent persons to serve in the Secretariat of the Quadrennial Convention. The number should not exceed four (4). The Minutes of the Quadrennial Convention shall be compiled within 45 days and forwarded to the International President who will appoint a Minutes Review Committee;
- 3) maintain all records, including minutes, committee, financial and membership reports in a bound book/electronic media and archived in the corporate office of the Connectional Lay Council and must be surrendered at the end of the tenure in office;
- 4) ensure all minutes must have been approved by proper motion made, seconded and carried at all meetings, or by unanimous consent;
- 5) be knowledgeable of procedural rules of meetings and of computer applications to assist with grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation to transcribe notes promptly and neatly into minutes;
- 6) perform any other duties assigned by the International President.

E. Duties of the Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary shall:

- 1) receive all funds for the Connectional Lay Council (except Membership dues), issue receipts when required, and turn proceeds over to the Treasurer after they are recorded in a bound book and/or electronic media;
- 2) write or review and approve all vouchers against funds of the Council, countersigned by the International President before any checks are written by the Treasurer with numbers on vouchers corresponding with the numbers on related checks:
 - must ensure that all vouchers submitted for reimbursement of business expenses are processed in accordance with guidelines in the "Executive Board's Handbook of Administrative Practices";
- 3) be the third signature on the checking account and shall sign checks only in cases of extreme emergencies;
- 4) be bonded and surrender the records of this office at the end of his/her tenure;
- 5) serve as a member of the Budget Committee;
- 6) be able to demonstrate proficiency in the following areas:
 - a. Experience in managing the day-to-day financial operations;
 - b. ability to write reports and prepare and present exhibits of receipts for money forwarded to the Treasurer;
 - c. ability to effectively present information and respond to common inquiries or complaints;
 - d. ability to calculate figures and verify amounts needed to successfully accomplish the essential duties of this position;
 - e. ability to utilize and understand computer management and record keeping from the Excel program, Power Church Software and/or other database materials.
- 7) shall perform any other duties assigned by the International President.

F. Duties of the Treasurer. In addition to the duties defined below, the Treasurer should; take pride in accuracy; have a knowledge of how to keep or supervise the maintenance of financial accounts; report the financial status of the Connectional Lay Council as may be defined in these bylaws, standing rules, or other policies; make the financial records available for audit, as required and shall:

- 1) be the Chief Fiscal Officer of the Connectional Lay Council and the custodian of all monies and other valuables;
- 2) be bonded and receive all funds from the Financial Secretary and Membership dues from the Second Vice-President/Membership Chairperson and keep accurate records in a bound book and/or electronic media;

- 3) have such special duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the Bylaws or delegated by the Executive Board including, but not limited to:
 - a. reviewing and reporting to the Board of Lay Activities and the Executive Board on all audits;
 - b. reviewing and reporting to the Executive Board on all regular financial reports and whenever required, an account of all transactions and/or the financial condition of the Connectional Lay Council, including the operation and fiscal controls;
- 4) be a member of the Budget Committee;
- 5) he/she shall promptly deposit all monies of the Council in a bank approved/designated by the Executive Board.
- 6) be the second signature on all checks and the keeper of all financial records, including the checkbook. No check shall be written without a duly signed voucher by the Financial Secretary and the International President.
- 7) The Treasurer's records shall be audited annually by a Certified Public Accountant and a copy of the report must be sent to the International President annually.
- 8) perform any other duties assigned by the International President.

G. Duties of the Chaplain. The Chaplain shall:

1. be Chairperson of the Worship Committee, the Evangelism Committee and WeCare Committee. Responsibilities of committees shall be as follows:

A. Worship Committee shall:

- 1) arrange, supervise and/or preside over devotions for the opening of all Executive Board meetings and plenary sessions at Conventions, Lay Convocations and Evangelistic Retreats;
- 2) arrange, supervise and/or preside over Morning Watch sessions.
- 3) develop worship programs and materials to be used at Lay Convocations, Conventions and Evangelistic Retreats.

B. Evangelism Committee shall:

Work closely with The A.M.E. Zion Church's Department of Church Growth & Development to develop the Evangelistic Retreat: disseminate training materials and planned activities for an evangelistic focus among Lay Councils at all levels, which must be approved by the Executive Board.

C. We Care Committee shall:

- 1) Perform functions of the committee as outlined in the "Executive Board's Handbook of Administrative Practices."
- 2) shall perform any other duties that may be required of him/her by the International President or Executive Board

H. Duties of the Regional Directors. The Regional Directors shall:

- 1) be the contact persons between the Region (Episcopal Districts) and the Executive Board;
- 2) develop programs, projects, etc. within the region that will enhance the work of the Local, District and Annual Conference Lay Councils in keeping with the Objectives and Purposes of the Connectional Lay Council;
- 3) develop and keep current a file containing the names and addresses of members, Local, District and Annual Conferences presidents' names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses, if available;

- 4) assist the Connectional Second Vice President/Membership Chairperson in securing memberships within the region;
- 5) be responsible for reporting a minimum number of memberships as set by the membership chairperson annually;
- 6) encourage the local churches to solicit Life Memberships and set a goal for each year;
- 7) present one regional Lay Academy per year. If the Episcopal District has annual leadership training, retreats, institutes, he/she must ask the Presiding Bishop to include the regional director in the planning;
- 8) encourage Councils on all levels to support and attend Connectional meetings;
- 9) disseminate all information received from the International President and/or Executive Board within 30 days of receipt to ensure local Councils have the information in time to plan adequately for all events;
- 10) attend other Connectional Lay Council events such as regional meetings, Evangelist Retreat, Quadrennial Convocation, and Quadrennial Convention;
- 11) be encouraged to use the "*The Laity Speaks*," "*The Connection*" and the CLC website to promote and/or report activities in their respective regions;
- 12) encourage the Lay Councils within their regions to purchase materials and other articles from the Special Projects Committee;
- 13) show quantitative evidence of growth numerically and programs during each quadrennium;
- 14) and surrender all records to the incoming Regional Director at the end of his/her tenure.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1. Convention. A Quadrennial Convention shall be held every four years in the odd-numbered year at the time and place of the Connectional Council for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports, adopting legislation, provide training and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 2. Call to Convention. The call to convention, giving notice of the place, date, and time of the convention, shall be published in *The Star of Zion*, *The Connection* newsletter, and/or the Connectional Lay Council web site.

Section 3. Voting Body. In the year of the quadrennial convention, all memberships must be paid 30 days prior to the opening date in order to be eligible to vote at the convention. The voting body of the convention shall consist of current members who shall have registered with the convention.

Section 4. Quorum. A quorum at any convention shall be a majority of the voting members who have registered with the convention.

Section 5. Voting. No member shall vote in more than one capacity. There shall be no absentee voting or voting by proxy.

Section 6. Other Meetings.

- A. **Lay Convocation.** There shall be a Lay Convocation during the quadrennium in March of the year of the General Conference. The purpose shall be to present a forum whereby interested lay persons can meet for discussion of matters to come before the General Conference; develop pending General Conference legislation; invite interested candidates seeking election to the Episcopacy and General Offices; and present workshops that will concentrate on the Purposes and Objectives of the Connectional Lay Council. The First Vice-President shall serve as Chair for the Convocation.
- B. **Evangelistic Retreat.** There shall be an Evangelistic Retreat during the quadrennium in coordination with the Department of Church Growth and Development.

ARTICLE VII EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. Authority. Notwithstanding the fact that the Board of Lay Activities of The A.M.E. Zion Church is responsible for giving directions to the Connectional Lay Council Executive Board; and prior approval to all of its functions, the Executive Board shall have authority over the affairs of the Connectional Lay Council between conventions in accordance with its bylaws except as otherwise provided in the current edition of the *Book of Discipline of The A.M.E. Zion Church* or the ratified bylaws amendments/ revision by the next ensuing General Conference.

The Executive Board may adopt special rules of order and standing rules or policies to govern its proceedings and the affairs of the Connectional Lay Council. The Executive Board will affirm by a two-thirds vote all officer appointments by the International President, except a parliamentarian, marshals and staff. Removal of appointed officer(s) for cause by the International President will be affirmed by the Executive Board, and the Executive Board shall make valid by formal approval through confirmation. Removal of staff persons will be at the discretion of the International President.

Section 2. Composition. The members of the Executive Board shall be the International President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, the regional directors, the chairpersons of all standing committees, the parliamentarian, the editor of *Laity Speaks/The Connection* newsletter, president emeritus, and the non-incumbent immediate past president, who shall serve on the Executive Board for one year of the new quadrennium.

The International President shall have the authority to appoint the following officers: 12 Regional Directors; an Executive Assistant, a Parliamentarian; Marshals, Editor of "Laity Speaks" column in *The Star of Zion*/Editor of "The Connection" newsletter; and a Historian; and the Executive Board shall make valid by formal approval through confirmation.

Section 3. Meetings. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held annually at the time of the Connectional Council; except in the year of the Lay Convocation (in March of the year of the General Conference), and the CLC Quadrennial Convention (at the time and place of the Connectional Council). The International President may call other meetings as deemed necessary. Meetings may also be held by telephone conference or other electronic media so long as all the members may simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting.

Section 4. Quorum. A quorum shall be a majority of the voting members of the Executive Board to transact business between quadrennial conventions.

Section 5. Electronic Meetings. The CLC Executive Board, Executive Committees, and all committees and subcommittees shall be authorized to meet by telephone conference or through other electronic communications media so long as all the members can simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Composition. The members of the Executive Committee shall be the International President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and Chaplain.

Section 2. Duties. The Executive Committee is authorized to meet and exercise the authority of the Executive Board between meetings of the Executive Board, but only to the extent:

- a. necessary to take action on unanticipated business that requires action between Executive Board meetings; and
- b. action taken is not contrary to the instructions of the Executive Board.

Section 3. Meetings. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called by the International President with at least 24 hours' oral notice. The Executive Committee shall report its actions to the Executive Board. Meetings may be held by telephone conference or other electronic media so long as all the members may simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting.

Section 4. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees:



- A. **Bishop George J. Leake, III Scholarship Fund.** Develops, promotes and executes ways and means for providing continuous financial support for A.M.E. Zion students who are attending Hood Theological Seminary and committed to entering into the ordained ministry.
- B. **Budget.** The Budget Committee prepares, submits and manages a four-year budget for the Connectional Lay Council that is approved in sessions of the Quadrennial Convention/Constitution Revision/Legislation. Compiles, coordinates, reviews, distributes and presents resolutions and/or other motions that affect operations and activities of the Connectional Lay Council and are brought before the Executive Board, and legislative sessions of the Quadrennial Convention and General Conference.
- C. **Bylaws/Legislation.** Compiles, coordinates, reviews, distributes and presents resolutions and/or other motions that affect operations and activities of the Connectional Lay Council and are brought before the Executive Board, and legislative sessions of the Quadrennial Convention and General Conference.
- D. **Editor, *Laity Speaks* column and *The Connection*.** Serve as Director of Communications. Disseminate productive information through various media, including the CLC Website, Star of Zion, and The Connection, the official newsletter of the Connectional Lay Council. The Director of Communications shall communicate regularly with the International President, members of the CLC Executive Board, and Regional reporters, as to newsworthy articles to be published. He/she shall keep the denomination informed regarding domestic and overseas ministries, ecumenical outreach, and Social and Political Actions.
- E. **Education.** Develops training and educational opportunities aimed at preparing and equipping laity for life discipleship in the Kingdom of God and maintaining effective ministries that evangelize, encourage and edify laity.
- F. **Social/Political Action.** Regularly keeps the Executive Board informed about matters of society that challenge the social wellness, courage and response of Christians.
- G. **Special Projects.** In charge of purchasing, selling and collections of Connectional Lay Council merchandise and items that compliment and promote lay ministry while providing financial support to offset operating expenses.

Section 2. Special Committees.

Election Committee. Establishes the election process by:

- 1) announcing and promoting the elected officers' positions open for election;
- 2) establishing the deadline for submission of the candidate information/package;
- 3) determining the eligibility and qualification of candidates;
- 4) planning the "Meet the Candidates Forum" at the seat of the Quadrennial Lay Convention.
- 5) certifying of candidates during the election process
- 6) working in conjunction with the General Secretary-Auditor to plan and conduct the voting process of the election process.
- 7) planning the installation service, with the assistance of the Board of Lay Activities Chairman, for newly elected officers at the seat of the Quadrennial Lay Convention.

ARTICLE X**ANNUAL LAY DAY**

The third Sunday in October, the anniversary of the denomination, shall be known as Connectional Lay Sunday. The laity will be given special privilege to develop the Connectional interest. The Connectional Lay Council Chairperson of the Education Committee will be responsible for developing an appropriate worship program (to be included in the fall issue of "TheConnection"). It should include an order of service; Connectional interests including interest through evangelism and the several causes of the day and week to be fostered by the local Council.

ARTICLE XI**HANDBOOK**

The Handbook was adopted by the 2nd Quadrennial Convention to be the official operating tool of the Connectional Lay Council and is to be revised each quadrennium by the International President who has the sole responsibility. The revised Handbook shall be published following the General Conference and must be presented to the Board of Lay Activities and the Executive Board before distribution.

ARTICLE XII**EQUIPMENT**

There shall be an annual inventory of all equipment owned by the Connectional Lay Council with said inventory being performed by the Executive Assistant. Officers using any equipment during their tenure of office must surrender it to the newly elected officer. A list of all equipment will be kept with the records of the Recording Secretary. This list must include the condition of each piece of equipment at the end of each year and at the time it is transferred to another officer.

ARTICLE XIII**LIFE MEMBER STOLE**

Section 1. Enactment. The 7th Quadrennial Convention of the Connectional Lay Council adopted a stole that represents the purpose and commitment of the laity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. The colors shall be BLACK (representing pride of race) and GOLD (representing commitment to excellence).

Section 2. Wearing Occasions and Apparel. The stole is to be worn on Annual Lay Sunday celebrated the third Sunday in October or other designated dates; District, Annual, and Regional meetings; Evangelistic Retreat; Quadrennial Convocation, Quadrennial Convention, and Lay Council celebrations. The stole should be worn by women over black dresses or dress suits and men over black suits. Children (age 12 and under) may wear dark or white attire. Only the Life Member pin can be worn on the left side of the stole above the emblem. Optional. The stole may be worn at funerals of deceased life members.

Section 3. Life Members. The Connectional Lay Council stole is to be worn by Life Members only.

ARTICLE XIV

THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OFFICE AND HEADQUARTERS

Section 1. Headquarters. The Connectional Lay Council Office shall be housed in The A.M.E. Zion Corporate Headquarters in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

Section 2. Office. The office shall be maintained for the official and permanent records and day-to-day operations of the work of the Connectional Lay Council and its Executive Board of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Section 3. Executive Assistant. The Executive Assistant, a presidential appointee, shall manage the day-to-day operations at the Connectional Lay Council Office.

Section 4. Duties of the Executive Assistant. The Executive Assistant shall:

- A. maintain the official records of the Connectional Lay Council;
- B. conduct the annual inventory of all equipment for keeping by the Recording Secretary;
- C. perform such other duties as stated in these Bylaws and such other mandates from the Executive Board; and as directed by the Executive Board, or the International President.
- D. provide oversight of the Office Manager/Member Services Staff; and
- E. provide support for Chairpersons of Standing and Special Committees

Section 5. Accountability. The Executive Assistant shall report to the Executive Board. He/she shall consult with and be responsible to the International President between meetings of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XV

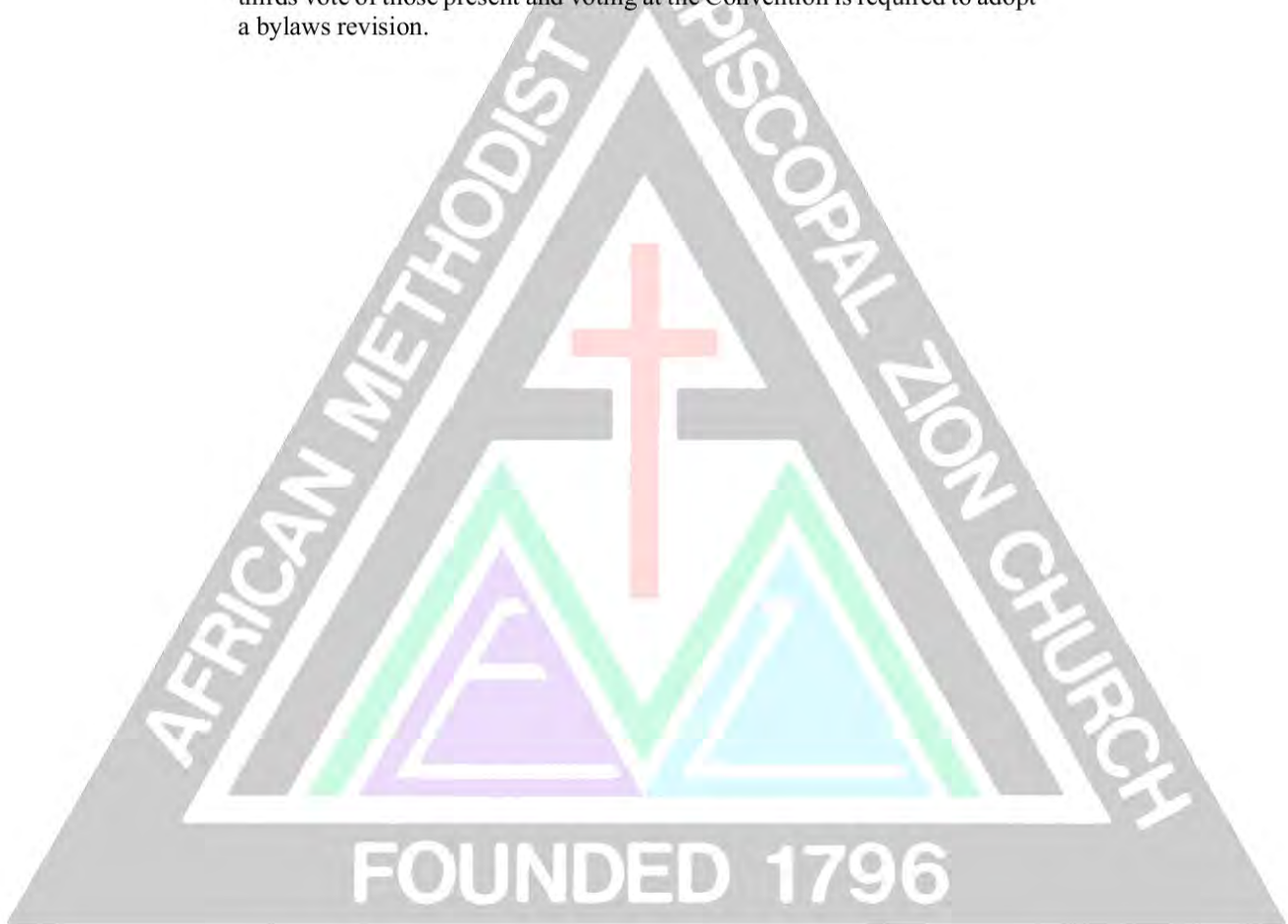
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the proceedings of the Connectional Lay Council in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the current Book of Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; the ratified amendments/revision to these bylaws authorized by the next ensuing General Conference; and special and/or standing rules of the Connectional Lay Council, including applicable standing rules of a Connectional Lay Council Convention.

ARTICLE XVI AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

Section 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended at any Quadrennial Convention by a two-thirds vote. Any proposed amendments must be sent to the Bylaws Revision/Legislation Committee at least 90 days prior to the opening date of the convention.

Section 2. Revision. These bylaws may be revised only upon authorization by the quadrennial convention. Preparing and presenting a revision shall be the duty of the Bylaws/Legislation Committee. If a revision is authorized there shall be no other amendments proposed to the existing bylaws. A two-thirds vote of those present and voting at the Convention is required to adopt a bylaws revision.



General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R60b-2020

ATTACHMENT 1

Connectional Lay Council, The A.M.E. Zion Church

11th Quadrennial Lay Convention

Adopted Legislation

Article IV – Officers

Section 1. Elected Officers.

The elected officers of the CLC shall be an International President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, a Financial Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Chaplain.

Article V – B. 1, 2

B. Duties of the First Vice-President. In addition to the duties defined below, the First Vice-President shall possess leadership qualities that include skills in planning, organizing, coordinating, and delegating; and shall:

- 1) perform all the duties of the International President in his/her absence or incapacity;
- 2) be program chairperson of the Quadrennial Evangelistic Retreat, Lay Convocation and the Lay Convention;

Article V – C. 3a

C. Duties of the Second Vice-President.

3. Demonstrate ability to be proficient in the following areas:
 - a. Computer Knowledge – must utilize and understand computer management which includes Microsoft Office Suite, and other database materials;

Article V – C. 3f

C. Duties of the Second Vice-President.

3. Demonstrate ability to be proficient in the following areas:
 - f. present and respond to questions from regional directors, annual conferences, presiding elder districts and local church presidents;

Article V – C. 4c

C. Duties of the Second Vice-President.

4. The Second Vice-President shall:
 - c. ensure that they are turned over to the Financial Secretary after being recorded in a bound book or an electronic log sheet and/or in other electronic media;

Article V – G. 1 A. (3)

G. Duties of the Chaplain.

A. Worship Committee shall:

3. develop worship programs and materials to be used at Lay Convocations, Conventions and Evangelistic Retreats.

Article V – G. B

B. Evangelism Committee shall:

Work closely with The A.M.E. Zion Church's Department of Church Growth & Development to

develop the Evangelistic Retreat: disseminate training materials and planned activities for an evangelistic focus among Lay Councils at all levels, which must be approved by the Executive Board.

Article V – H. 7

H. Duties of the Regional Directors. The Regional Directors shall:

7. present one regional Lay Academy per year. If the Episcopal District has annual leadership training, retreats, institutes, he/she must ask the Presiding Bishop to include the regional director in the planning;

Article V – H. 10

H. Duties of the Regional Directors. The Regional Directors shall:

10. attend other Connectional Lay Council events such as regional meetings, Evangelist Retreat, Quadrennial Convocation, and Quadrennial Convention;

Article VI

MEETINGS

Section 1. Convention. A Quadrennial Convention shall be held every four years in the odd-numbered year at the time and place of the Connectional Council for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports, adopting legislation, provide training and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Article VI – A.

Section 6. Other Meetings.

A. Lay Convocation. There shall be a Lay Convocation during the quadrennium in March of the year of the General Conference. The purpose shall be to present a forum whereby interested lay persons can meet for discussion of matters to come before the General Conference; develop pending General Conference legislation; invite interested candidates seeking election to the Episcopacy and General Offices; and present workshops that will concentrate on the Purposes and Objectives of the Connectional Lay Council. The First Vice-President shall serve as Chair for the Convocation.

Article VI – B.

Section 6. Other Meetings.

B. Evangelistic Retreat. There shall be an Evangelistic Retreat during the quadrennium in coordination with the Department of Church Growth and Development.

Article VII Executive

Board Section 1.

Authority.

The Executive Board will affirm by a two-thirds vote all officer appointments by the President, except a parliamentarian, marshals and staff. Removal of appointed officer(s) for cause by the International President will be affirmed by the Executive Board, and the Executive Board shall make valid by formal approval through confirmation. Removal of staff persons will be at the discretion of the President.

Article VII

Executive Board

Section 5. Electronic Meetings. The CLC Executive Board, Executive Committees, and all committees and subcommittees shall be authorized to meet by telephone conference or through

other electronic communications media so long as all the members can simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting.

Article IX

Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees.

D. Editor, *Laity Speaks* column and *The Connection*. Serve as Director of Communications. Disseminate productive information through various media, including the CLC Website, Star of Zion, and The Connection, the official newsletter of the Connectional Lay Council. The Director of Communications shall communicate regularly with the CLC President, members of the CLC Executive Board, and Regional reporters, as to newsworthy articles to be published. He/she shall keep the denomination informed regarding domestic and overseas ministries, ecumenical outreach, and Social and Political Actions.

Section 2. Special Committees.

Elections Committee. Establishes the election process by:

- 5) certifying of candidates during the election process
- 6) working in conjunction with the General Secretary-Auditor to plan and conduct the voting process of the election process.
- 7) planning the installation service, with the assistance of the Board of Lay Activities Chairman, for newly elected officers at the seat of the Quadrennial Lay Convention.

Article XIII

Life Member Stole

Section 2. Wearing Occasions and Apparel. The stole is to be worn on Annual Lay Sunday celebrated the third Sunday in October or other designated dates; District, Annual, and Regional meetings; Evangelistic Retreat; Quadrennial Convocation, Quadrennial Convention, and Lay Council celebrations. The stole should be worn by women over black dresses or dress suits and men over black suits. Children (age 12 and under) may wear dark or white attire. Only the Life Member pin can be worn on the left side of the stole above the emblem. Optional. The stole may be worn at funerals of deceased life members.

Article XIV

The Connectional Lay Council Office and Headquarters

Section 4. Duties of the Executive Assistant. The Executive Assistant shall:

- A. maintain the official records of the Connectional Lay Council;
- B. conduct the annual inventory of all equipment for keeping by the Recording Secretary;
- C. perform such other duties as stated in these Bylaws and such other mandates from the Executive Board; and as directed by the Executive Board, or the International President.
- D. provide oversight of the Office Manager/Member Services Staff; and
- E. provide support for Chairpersons of Standing and Special Committees

General Conference Resolutions GC51-R61-2020

Name of Resolution: Chapter VIII, Book of Discipline, Revision

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the Board of Lay Activities has oversight of the Lay Council at the connectional, annual conference and the local church; and

WHEREAS, there is some inconsistency in Chapter VIII, Board of Lay Activities, 2016 Book of Discipline pages 287 and 288 as it relates to the Board of Lay Activities, and

WHEREAS, the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that the position of a Third Vice Chair on each Administrative Board or Committee shall be a layperson elected from and by the members of that Board or Committee.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Chapter VIII, The Board of Lay Activities, 2016 Book of Discipline, be replaced with the following revision (see resolution attachment) in the 2020 Book of Discipline.

Budget Implications: N/A

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Connectional Lay Council

Signature of Submitting Party(ies): Dr. Mary J. Matthews

Connectional Lay Council Executive Board

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R61a-2020

THE BOARD OF LAY ACTIVITIES

CHAPTER VIII

THE BOARD OF LAY ACTIVITIES

¶600. The General Conference of *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church* directs that there shall be a Lay Council for the purpose of deepening the spiritual life of the laity, to disseminate information, to cultivate denominational loyalty, to expand the denomination through education and evangelism, and to promote any other interest of the Kingdom of God. The Lay Council shall be under the direction of the Board of Lay Activities, which Board shall be appointed by the Board of Bishops.

The Board of Lay Activities shall have the power to authorize the Connectional Lay Council to convene a Quadrennial Convention every four years, immediately following the Connectional Council. The Connectional Lay Council shall have the power to adopt its own Constitution and By-Laws to be ratified by the next ensuing General Conference.

¶601. The Board of Lay Activities shall have the power to elect its own officers who shall be members in good standing of *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church* and of the Lay Council.

1. The Board of Lay Activities shall establish that a quorum, majority of the members, are present in order to conduct business during meetings.
2. The Board of Lay Activities shall receive the Annual Report of the Connectional Lay Council through the International President and approve same before it is presented to the Connectional Council. The said Board shall be responsible for giving directions to the Connectional Lay Council Executive Board and prior approval to all of its functions. It shall meet annually at the time and place of the Connectional Council. The Chairman, First Vice Chairman and Second Vice Chairman shall be bishops. The Third Vice Chair shall be a lay person.

¶602. The Connectional Lay Council shall be organized in regions equal to the number of and consistent with Episcopal Districts. Each region shall have a Director. The Directors shall be appointed by the International President and confirmed by the Executive Board.

¶603. There shall be organized in each Annual Conference a Lay Council which shall have the power to elect its own officers and shall meet as often as determined by said Council. The Council shall be amenable to the Conference Board of Lay Activities, which shall be appointed by the Bishop. The Council shall have the power to adopt its Constitution and By-laws in keeping with the AME Zion Church Book of Discipline and in conformity with the By-laws of the Connectional Lay Council. Its officers shall be members in good standing of the Local Lay Council and of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

¶604. There shall be organized in each Presiding Elder District a Lay Council which shall have the power to elect its own officers and shall meet as often as determined by said Council. The Council shall be amenable to the District Conference. Its officers shall be members in good standing of the Local Lay Council and of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

¶605. There shall be organized in each Local Church a Lay Council which shall have the power to elect its own officers and meet at least four times a year. The Local Council shall have the

authority to write its own By-Laws as long as they do not conflict with the denomination's By-Laws. It shall be amenable to and its officers confirmed by the Quarterly Conference.

1. If there is no Lay Council in the Local Church, the Pastor shall appoint a convener or organizer during the Church's organization meeting who shall proceed to organize a Local Council and report its progress to each Quarterly Conference.

¶606. In the program of Lay Activities, it shall be understood that the Pastor is, as elsewhere in all the work of the Pastoral charge, in charge, and is responsible for the local program of the church. Nothing in this plan shall interfere with this authority and responsibility.



Local Church



AMEZ 2020 - Resolutions

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R62-2020

Name of Resolution: To establish the Acolytes of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church within the authority of the Christian Education Department

RESOLUTION:

Preamble: The Acolyte Ministry is a vital aspect of Christian Education throughout the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. It is necessary that the office of Acolyte be acknowledged and defined in the Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

WHEREAS, the age of the Acolyte is preferred to be at 8 to 21, however will be at the discretion of the Acolyte Director and Pastor in Charge of the local church where they will be allowed to participate in the chancel ministry during corporate worship by carrying the cross during the processional and recessional, lighting the candles, carrying the bible, and other assignments where requested, and;

WHEREAS, The Acolyte Ministry is to be amenable to the Christian Education Department of each local station and its report should be included in the quarterly report of the Christian Education Department.

WHEREAS, The Acolyte Ministry is to have a Director of Acolytes as appointed by the Pastor in Charge;

WHEREAS, The Acolyte Ministry is to have a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentarian to transact business according to the Roberts Rules of Order and polity of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church establish the ministry of Acolyte as an office within the authority of the Christian Education Department.

Budget Implications: May increase Christian Education Department Budget

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies)

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R63-2020

Name of Resolution: The Stephen Gill Spottswood Order of the Chancel Ministry the Acolytes of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Sunday shall be observed annually, i.e. on any Sunday of a local church's choosing.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the local church, at the discretion of the Pastor in Charge will recognize the contribution and ministry of the Acolytes;

WHEREAS, the history of the late Bishop Stephen Gill Spottswood will be celebrated as the pioneer of the acolyte movement in Zion Methodism;

~~THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED~~ that the Stephen Gill Spottswood Order of the Chancel Ministry the Acolytes of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Sunday shall be observed annually, i.e. on any Sunday of a local church's choosing.

Budget Implications: None

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Dr. Adrian V. Nelson, II

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R64-2020

Name of Resolution: Benevolences and Support of Ministry Church Property Other

RESOLUTION:

Whereas: paragraph 355-357 page 131 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, in Sections I and II states: Relief of the Poor and Ministry of Kindness, and

Whereas paragraph 355 states the relief of the poor of our church, and otherwise

Whereas paragraph 357, #1 To receive the money collected for the poor at Love-Feast, Sacrament, or otherwise, and #3 states To meet the Leaders' and Stewards' meeting to receive what they have collected for the needy and distressed members of the church:

Be it therefore resolved: Therefore be it Resolved: that Section I and II merge with the heading, Relief of the Poor and Ministry of Kindness

And be it further resolved, that the Pastor shall see that an offering is received for the relief of the poor of the church and community

And be it further resolved, that the language in paragraph 355 would read the relief of the poor of the church and the community

Be it further resolved, paragraph 357, #1 states to receive the money collected for the poor at Love-Feast, Sacrament, Ministry of Kindness Offerings, or otherwise

Be it further resolved that paragraph 357, #3 states: To meet the Leaders' and Stewards' meeting to receive what they have collected for the needy and distressed members of the church and the community.

Budget Implications: No Budget Implications

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS (please attach any supporting documentation)

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Michigan Annual Conference Resolution Committee
Signature of submitting party(ies) Dwight L. Gutridge, Michigan Annual Conference Resolution Committee Chairperson

PART VIII - TEMPORAL ECONOMY, LOCAL

(Benevolences and Support of Ministry Church Property Other)

Whereas paragraph 355-357 page 131 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, in Sections I and II states: Relief of the Poor and Ministry of Kindness, and **Whereas** paragraph 355 states the relief of the poor of our church, and

Whereas paragraph 357, #1 To receive the money collected for the poor at Love-Feast, Sacrament, or otherwise, and #3 states To meet the Leaders' and Stewards' meeting to receive what they have collected for the needy and distressed members of the church:

Therefore be it Resolved: that Section I and II merge with the heading, Relief of the Poor and Ministry of Kindness

And be it further resolved, that the Pastor shall see that an offering is received for the relief of the poor of the church and community

And be it further resolved, that the language in paragraph 355 would read the relief of the poor of the church and the community

Be it further resolved, paragraph 357, #1 states to receive the money collected for the poor at Love-Feast, Sacrament, Ministry of Kindness Offerings, or otherwise

Be it further resolved that paragraph 357, #3 states: To meet the Leaders' and Stewards' meeting to receive what they have collected for the needy and distressed members of the church and the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Committee on Temporal Economy, Local Rev. Dr. Eric Leake – Submitter

Rev. Dr. Heath Cheek - Ministerial Co-Chair

Rev. Austin Young - Ministerial Co-Chair

Ms. Regina Barksdale - Lay Co-Chair

Mr. Allen Young

Mrs. Yolanda Johnson

Mr. William F. Manning

Ms. Linda Faye Starnes

Ms. Dorothy F. Dingle

Ms. Cheryl Barber

Rev. Dr. Margaret L. Blackmon - Assistant Secretary

Rev. Marcia J. Cole-Morton - Secretary



Missions



AMEZ 2020 - Resolutions

General Conference Resolutions

GC51-R65-2020

Name of Resolution: Pertaining To An Enhanced Global Mission Directive

RESOLUTION: Pertaining to an Enhanced Global Mission Directive

Whereas, we affirm a mandate given to the body of Christ to be a global church with a global mission; and

Whereas, we affirm that this mandate is established by Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19, when He declared “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; and

Whereas, we affirm that the A.M.E. Zion Church is already in operation in over 16 countries that represent 1,682,297,052 people in population; and

Whereas, we affirm that the harvest is plentiful for the A.M.E. Zion Church to increase our numbers in membership by millions; and

Whereas, we affirm that we have barely scratched the surface in terms of the possibility for growth and outreach in the area of global ministry; and

Whereas, we affirm, that we must therefore, increase our focus on evangelism, education, economics, and health in the locations beyond the borders of the United States;

Be it therefore resolved, that the A.M.E. Zion Church develop a more Comprehensive Approach to Global Missions; and

Be it further resolved, that to develop this Comprehensive Approach to Global Missions the following is proposed:

- a. That we provide adequate resources to expand and improve upon our indigenous leadership efforts;
- b. That we adopt a transatlantic outreach project;
- c. That we establish an International Business Entity that will collaborate and build alliances and partnerships between African American businesses in the diaspora and African based businesses on the continent of Africa;
- d. That at least once a Quadrennial the Board of Bishops Meeting would be held in a country in which the A.M.E. Zion Church operates other than the U.S.A.
- e. That a Commission to Enhance Global Missions be established and given the task to develop a strategy that leads us over the next ten years, to organize the denomination, with the vision, mission and resources to enroll 3 million disciples for the Kingdom of God worldwide.
- f. That A Global Prayer Network Circle be established with the express purpose of uniting the

denominational church in prayer to pray for leaders who are in positions of authority everywhere, all over the world

Budget Implications:

RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS *(please attach any supporting documentation)*

Name of Submitting Party(ies): Rev. Frank Asumadu

Signature of submitting party(ies) _____



GC51-R66-2020

Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society African Methodist
Episcopal Zion Church
29th Quadrennial Convention July 13-19, 2019
Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel, Orlando Florida

TITLE: RESOLUTION TO ALLOW FOR MEETINGS AND CONFERENCING VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS

Resolved, That Article IV – Executive Board, Section 3 – Meetings, of the Constitution and By-laws of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society, Revised, July 2016, be amended to allow for meetings to be conducted by electronic means by adding a new subsection to be titled "Electronic Meetings"- defined as any meeting that takes place over an electronic medium, as opposed to the traditional face-to-face form; and

Resolved, That the standing Committee on Policy establish the guidelines to govern such meeting method.

The Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society Executive Board

TITLE: SECTION 4, YOUTH MISSIONARY SOCIETY UPDATE

Resolved, That the Executive Board of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society be authorized to update Article II, Section 4, The Youth Missionary Society, Constitution and By-laws, Revised July 2016, to read as follows:

Pages 26-27

Section 4. The Youth Missionary Society

The General Secretary of the Youth Missionary Society

Paragraph 1

The General Secretary of the Youth Missionary Society shall conduct the program of the department; communicate regularly with the International President, Missionary Supervisors and the District Secretaries of Youth Missionary Societies. She shall cooperate with the International President, Executive Director and Superintendent of Buds of Promise in preparing all programs for the societies and conventions; and make a report to the Quadrennial Convention. She shall cooperate with the Mission Education Committee and recommend such studies that are suitable for the Society. She shall disseminate information through workshops, speaking engagements and projects in the interest of her department, which shall include the Dorothy S. Johnson General Y Retreat. She shall keep a statistical record for her successor. She shall, by virtue of her office, be a member of the Literature Committee.

Pages 28-29

Section 4. The Youth Missionary Society

F. Local Youth Missionary Society Structure

Membership

- a. Any girl or young woman between the ages of 13 and 21 and a member of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church may become a member of either of the two groups of the Youth Missionary Society (Y's). They are: Junior Y's, ages 13-16 and Senior Y's, ages 17-21. Each group has its own officers. Active members shall be those who show an interest in the purpose and program of the Society, contribute in some capacity to the ministry work and treasury and attend regular meetings.
- b. Any young woman may become a non-voting associate member by showing an interest in the program of the Society and contributing to the treasury, ministry and purpose of the Society and attending meetings at her convenience.
- c. Any young man may become a non-voting honorary member by showing an interest in the program of the Society and contributing to the treasury, ministry and purpose of the Society and attending meetings at his convenience.

Page 29

Section 4. The Youth Missionary Society

Local Youth Missionary Society Structure

5. Meetings

Meetings of the Society should be held monthly wherein dues may be collected.

6. Finance

The Local Society shall devise ways and means to raise and increase its funds.

All monies received and documented by the Local Youth Treasurer shall be turned over to the Y Coordinating Secretary for processing through the account set up for the Society through its local missionary society or church.

All monies collected by the Society for the General Budget shall be reported in the Mass Meeting. The District President shall report the funds to the Executive Director.

Pages 29-30

Section 4. The Youth Missionary Society

F. Local Youth Missionary Society Structure

7. Officers

- a. There shall be a Y Coordinating Secretary to organize the activities of the Junior and Senior Y's. This position may be held by a Senior Y.

- (1) The Y Coordinating Secretary shall set up guidelines for the Presiding Secretaries of the Y Societies who are under her supervision.

- (2) She shall hold meetings, assist event planning, affirm changes, conduct elections and supervise successful implementation of the program. She shall report all money collected for the General Budget to the Local President or as directed to the Mass Meeting.
- b. The Local Junior and Senior Y Societies may each have the following officers: Presiding Secretary, Assistant Presiding Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. They shall be members of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and shall be elected annually by the membership of the Society.
- c. The officers of the Local Y's shall be amenable to the Quarterly Conference and shall make reports of activities and monies collected and disbursed during the quarter.
- (1) The Presiding Secretary shall preside at all meetings and have general supervision of the Society.
 - (2) The Assistant Presiding Secretary shall preside in the absence of the Presiding Secretary and assist in all activities of the society.
 - (3) The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Society; and render reports as directed of the monthly meetings to the Quarterly Conference and to the Mass Meetings.
 - (4) The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the communication of the Society, give notices of all meetings and perform duties of the Recording Secretary in her absence.
 - (5) The Treasurer shall receive and document all money raised for and by the Society. She shall report and turn in monies to the Presiding Secretary. She shall report to the Society upon demand.

The Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society Executive Board

TITLE: DISTRICT CHAIRMAN OF THE LIFE MEMBERS COUNCIL (FORMERLY OBSOLETE REPORT)

Resolved, That the last sentence of Section 7.D (pg.39), "She shall send a copy of each quarterly report to the General Chairman of the Council", be deleted.

The Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society Executive Board

TITLE: LOCAL LIFE MEMBERS COUNCIL MEETING (FORMERLY COUNCIL MEETING)

Resolved, That the sentence, "Each Local Church Council shall meet at least once per Conference Year." Be added to Section 7.E. (pg. 39) after the sentence ending with the word "funds" and before the sentence beginning with the word "All".

The Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society Executive Board

TITLE: SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Resolved, That the first sentence be changed to “A scholarship award is available to selected A.M.E. Zion Church members who will study in one of our A.M.E. Zion colleges, universities or seminaries.”; further

Resolved, That qualifying language follow, “The number of awards will be based on available funds each year.”; finally

Resolved, That the words “up to” be added to the last sentence before the phrase, “three consecutive years”.

The Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society Executive Board

TITLE: CHANGING NAME FROM GENERAL OFFICERS TO CONNECTIONAL OFFICERS

Resolved, That the officers of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society be known as Connectional Officers to be consistent with the Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church;

Resolved, That all references to General Officers be changed to Connectional Officers in the Constitution and By-laws of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society, Revised July, 2016;

Resolved, that the title of Article V, Quadrennial Convention, Section 1, General Missionary Convention, (Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society, Constitution and By-laws, Revised, July, 2016), be “Missionary Convention” and all other references to “general missionary convention” or “general convention” in the Constitution and By-laws of the Society be modified to read the same.

The Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society Executive Board

TITLE: CONSTITUENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WOMEN'S HOME AND OVERSEAS MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Resolved, That the position of Executive Director is not a member of the Executive Board

Resolved, That the position of Executive Director be removed from Article IV, Section I, General Officers, of the Constitution and By-laws of the Society.

Resolved, That Article IV, Section 1, Paragraph A, be amended by adding a new subsection 5: If the Executive Director decides to run for a connectional office, she must resign the position of Executive Director.

The Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society Executive Board

TITLE: REMOVAL OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE OF THE WOMEN'S HOME AND OVERSEAS MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Resolved, That the Executive Director position of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society be removed from the Personnel Committee, as stated in Part I Organization section 3. J; and

Resolved, That the International President shall appoint an executive board member to fill this vacancy.

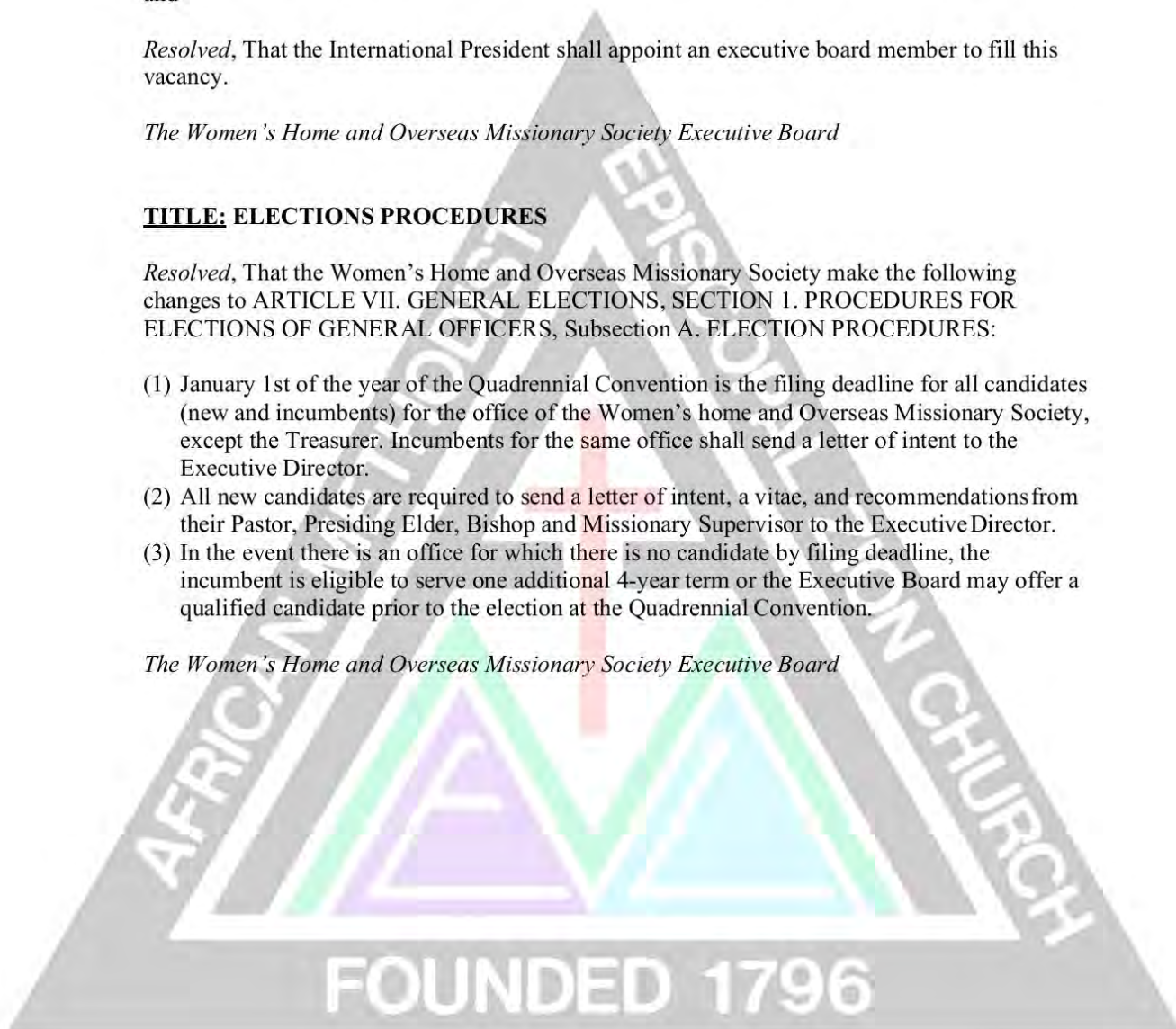
The Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society Executive Board

TITLE: ELECTIONS PROCEDURES

Resolved, That the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society make the following changes to ARTICLE VII. GENERAL ELECTIONS, SECTION 1. PROCEDURES FOR ELECTIONS OF GENERAL OFFICERS, Subsection A. ELECTION PROCEDURES:

- (1) January 1st of the year of the Quadrennial Convention is the filing deadline for all candidates (new and incumbents) for the office of the Women's home and Overseas Missionary Society, except the Treasurer. Incumbents for the same office shall send a letter of intent to the Executive Director.
- (2) All new candidates are required to send a letter of intent, a vitae, and recommendations from their Pastor, Presiding Elder, Bishop and Missionary Supervisor to the Executive Director.
- (3) In the event there is an office for which there is no candidate by filing deadline, the incumbent is eligible to serve one additional 4-year term or the Executive Board may offer a qualified candidate prior to the election at the Quadrennial Convention.

The Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society Executive Board





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