

TWELFTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The 155th Session

Arkansas
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 5-7, 2023

BETHEL AME CHURCH

600 N CEDAR STREET | NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR 72114

Celebrating God's Faithfulness:

FROM MEMBERSHIP TO DISCIPLESHIP



THE RIGHT REVEREND MICHAEL L. MITCHELL, *Presiding Bishop*
MRS. CORDELIA D. MITCHELL, *Episcopal Supervisor*
THE REVEREND DR. TYRONE A. BROOMFIELD, *HOST PASTOR*
THE REVEREND DR. TYRONE A. BROOMFIELD, *HOST PRESIDING ELDER*
THE REVEREND DR. TRUMAN TOLEFREE, *ASSOCIATE PRESIDING ELDER*
THE REVEREND DR. REGINALD CLÉAVER, *ASSOCIATE PRESIDING ELDER*



CALLED TO SERVE

Lifting Christ, Loving the People and Leading the Church Through Evangelism

An Extraordinary Legacy - An Incredible Future

FROM MEMBERSHIP TO DISCIPLESHIP

Commitment to Active Stewardship

CHANGING THE ATMOSPHERE

You Are Essential

REACHING FOR THE GOLD

Celebrating God's Faithfulness

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SERIES: 2016 - 2022

THE BISHOP'S WORD

Celebrating God's Faithfulness

I give thanksgiving and praise to God for all He has done and is doing in the life of the Twelfth Episcopal District. It has been a spiritually enlightening and rather adventurous seven years since we took the helm as your Episcopal Leaders, and we are all the more blessed because of it. In spite of, or because of, the events and circumstances of our time together, there is a greater awareness and understanding and focus in the membership like never before.

As we begin the last Annual Conference Series of our tenure as Bishop and Supervisor of the 12th District, we are met with a myriad of emotions. It is a bittersweet time, as we look back over all that God has done, while we are looking forward to the things He yet has in store. It is our prayer that we have wholly pleased the Lord through the services and teachings and endeavors we have spear-headed. We're not tired yet, and we certainly are not done. We are anticipating a major move of God in all that we do in this coming 2023-2024 Conference year.

Words cannot express how excited we are to have the privilege to serve the African Methodist Episcopal Church through the 12th Episcopal District. During the last seven years we have gotten to know the wonderful members, and we are yet grateful for their request to the 2016 Episcopal Committee and for their Godly judgement in assigning us to serve as Episcopal Leaders of the 12th Episcopal District.

I often refer to the theme of the first District meeting after our arrival in 2016, **READY-SET-GO**, and how that truly set the pace for all that we've done since that gathering. It has been the guiding spirit and attitude of the members of the 12th, and we have witnessed a people with a genuine love for Christ and a heart for serving the Church of God. You are most assuredly **CALLED TO SERVE**, and have proven with every Conference, Convocation, District or Local meeting, and worship service, every aspect of our District Motto.

For this upcoming Conference year, we will come full circle, still ***Celebrating God's Faithfulness***, while emphasizing our journey ***From Membership to Discipleship***. God has blessed our endeavors, increased our resources and enlarged our territory, but the true measure of our effectiveness in the upbuilding of His Kingdom, is evidenced by our becoming more and more like Christ everyday and leading others to Him by letting our light shine. This is our never ending assignment and our goal is for every member of the 12th - from the youngest to the oldest - to be fully equipped Disciples of Christ. No more "pew members!" Everybody working, everybody serving, everybody participating, everybody involved in the life of the church and its mission.

Supervisor Cordelia and I are so grateful for each of you... the Presiding Elders, officers, pastors and members, for the commitment and the sacrifices you have made to keep this District running and help increase God's Kingdom. We appreciate you. We love you. We thank God for you. And we look forward to working with you in our final year together. Let us continue to love, pray for, encourage and support one another as a true family in Christ.

Blessings to each of you,

Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell and Supervisor Cordelia Mitchell



Agenda and Daily Schedule

THURSDAY

07:30 a.m.	WMS MEMBERS SIGN-IN AND ENTER THE MEETING
08:00 a.m.	WMS ANNUAL CONVENTION
09:00 a.m.	Women In Ministry
10:00 a.m.	Bishop's Meeting with the Presiding Elders
10:30 a.m.	M-SWAWO+PKs Meeting
11:00 a.m.	Bishop's Meeting with the Board of Examiners
12:30 p.m.	CONFERENCE MEMBERS SIGN-IN AND ENTER MEETING
01:00 p.m.	OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
	Business Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expressions from Bishop Michael L. Mitchell• Roll Call• Presentation of Transfers• Organization of Conference• Presiding Elders' Summary Reports• Board of Examiners Report• Mission, Circuit & Stations Report• Conference Trustees Report• Presiding Elders' Salaries & Upkeep Report• Pastors' Annual Reports• Receiving of Guests
04:30 p.m.	Component Meetings/Break
06:00 p.m.	OPENING WORSHIP (Annual Sermon)

FRIDAY

07:30 am	Breakfast
08:30 a.m.	MORNING GLORY SERVICE / SONS OF ALLEN
09:30- 11:45 a.m.	BUSINESS SESSION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Election of General Conference Delegates• Pastors' Annual Reports
12:00 p.m.	NOON-DAY WITNESS SERVICE / LAY
1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
2:15 p.m.	BUSINESS SESSION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pastors' Annual Reports• Ministerial Efficiency Report• Literary Reports• Disciplinary Questions• Memorial Service• Retirement Service
4:30 p.m.	Dinner Break
6:00 p.m.	COMMISSIONING WORSHIP SERVICE & APPOINTMENTS

SATURDAY

08:30 a.m.	YPD MEMBERS SIGN-IN AND ENTER THE MEETING
09:00 a.m.	YPD BUSINESS SESSION
11:00 a.m.	YOUTH EXPLOSION WORSHIP SERVICE

ARKANSAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE



BUSINESS SESSIONS ON ZOOM

(Same link for all sessions):

OCTOBER 5, 2023—1:00 PM | OCTOBER 6, 2023—9:30 AM | OCTOBER 6, 2023—2:15 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82676234419?pwd=bld3M09yajJ0TDI5RHZFWk5lUjJqQT09>

(Dial in-audio only)

Meeting ID: 826 7623 4419

Passcode: 752614

WORSHIP SERVICES

(All worship services are available via Facebook)

LIVESTREAM:

12th Episcopal District Facebook Page

WAYS TO GIVE

Text "Giving" to 501-588-3329

Cash App:

\$12thdistrictamec520

Givelify:

12th Episcopal District of the AME Church

US Mail:

P.O. Box 147

Little Rock, AR 72203

Bishop Michael L. Mitchell



PRESIDING PRELATE OF THE TWELFTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT African Methodist Episcopal Church

The hand of God has been evident on the life of **Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell** since he was a young child. Born August 4, 1960, in Perry, Florida to the late Reverend Arthur L. Mitchell, Sr. and the late Mrs. Mary L. Mitchell, Michael is the ninth of their fifteen children.

Bishop Mitchell, a life-long member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was raised in Jacksonville, Florida, and is a product of Duval County Public Schools. While in high school, he answered the call to the ministry and preached his trial sermon at age 17, on August 28, 1977 at New Saint James AME Church. Determined to achieve God's purpose for his life, Bishop Mitchell began his ministerial training, studying under the African Methodist Episcopal Church and was ordained an Itinerant Deacon in 1979 and an Itinerant Elder in 1981. His first pastoral assignment came in 1985 at the A.M.E. Church of the Master (Jacksonville, FL). He also pastored Mount Zion (Arcadia, FL), Saint Luke (Tampa, FL), Martin Memorial (Miami, FL), and 24 years at Saint Stephen (Jacksonville, FL).

Bishop Mitchell graduated from Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio in 1982 and received a Master of Divinity Degree from Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Georgia in 1986. He received a Doctor of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio in 2012.

Bishop Mitchell is married to Supervisor Cordelia D. Mitchell and they have two daughters, Courtney and Channing. Upon his election and consecration as the 134th Bishop of the AME Church in 2016, they were blessed to be assigned as the Episcopal Leaders of the 12th Episcopal District of the AME Church, comprising the states of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Among many other accomplishments since his arrival, Bishop Mitchell rendered direction to the leadership of the District to complete projects begun by his predecessors. The mortgage of the Episcopal Residence was liquidated, and construction of the 12th Episcopal District Headquarters (which also houses Jackson Theological Seminary) was completed within two years of his arrival, and that mortgage liquidated in 2022.

Bishop Mitchell presently serves as the Chair of the Global Witness and Ministry Commission of the AME Church, Chair of the Boards of Trustees of Shorter College and Jackson Theological Seminary, and First Vice Chair of the Turner Theological Seminary Board of Trustees.

A true servant leader, Bishop Mitchell possesses a heart for the parish and the people, a mind for productivity and progression of God's plan, and the spirit to powerfully proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Reverend Marcia Burns

Reverend Marcia Burns is the proud pastor of Lee Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas where she administers Spiritual Growth, Biblical Studies, and the Word of God.

Rev. Burns accepted her calling to the ministry in January 2004. She was ordained an Itinerant Elder in October 2008 in the former Central Arkansas Conference of the 12th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

She is a native of Helena, Arkansas and . She matriculated at United Theology Seminary for one semester. She is currently attending Colorado Theological Seminary seeking a Master of Arts in Clinical Pastoral Counseling with a completion date of September 2024.

Rev. Burns participates in the community, advocating by marching in the Black Lives Matter and Families Belong Together campaigns. She volunteers her services with the Lupus Foundation of Arkansas and Centers for Youth and Families. She has participated in walks for the American Cancer Society, American Hecurrently resides in Jacksonville, Arkansas. Rev. Burns has served as pastor at St. Paul AME Church in El Dorado, Arkansas; Olive Light AME Church in Smackover, Arkansas; and St. Andrew AME Church in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Rev. Burns has served as Treasurer of Conference Women In Ministry (WIM), Herstorigrapher of the 12th Episcopal District WIM, Conference Secretary, and currently serves as Dean of the North Little Rock/Ft. Smith District, 12th Episcopal District Coordinator of Conference Secretaries, and a Shorter College Trustee.

Rev. Burns holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and graduated from Jackson Theological Seminary *summa cum laude* with a Master of Divinity Degreeart Association, Out of the Darkness for Suicide Prevention, and Race for the Cure. She also started and participated in a community feeding program for at risk children in the community, as well as canvassing for Voter Registration. Rev. Burns was asked to speak at the State Capitol for National Day of Prayer in April 2022 on Defeating the Violence in our state and for the Center for Black Health & Equity Against Menthol in May 2022.

Rev. Burns retired from the Veterans Benefits Administration in North Little Rock, Arkansas where she served as Training Manager for many years. She is a member of the American Federation of Government Employees, Federally Employed Women, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), The National Society of Leadership and Success, and Order of Eastern Star. She is a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Rev. Burns' favorite Scripture is "But, with God, all things are possible," Matthew 19:26b.



The Reverend Kevin L. Clark, Sr.

Reverend Kevin L. Clark, Sr. was born in Little Rock, Arkansas to the late Reverend James H Clark, Sr. and Reverend Alverniece Clark. He is a 4th generation African Methodist Episcopal Church pastor.

After years of being active in the church through the YPD and music ministry at St Paul AME Church in Jonesboro, Reverend Clark accepted his call into ministry. He is an ordained Itinerant Elder in the AME Church and has had the wonderful privilege of serving the following churches: St Paul, Newport, St Paul, Tuckerman, and St Paul, Jonesboro.



Reverend Clark is passionate about church growth and working to meet the spiritual needs of God's people. Reverend Clark utilizes gifts given by God to enhance worship services and encourages others to gain an understanding of the power and influence of word and worship on the spiritual, emotional, and physical Christian life.

Reverend Clark was raised in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He graduated from Jonesboro High School in 1995. He went on to obtain a bachelors degree in Criminology, a bachelors degree in Sociology, and a Masters degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Arkansas State University. He is licensed in the state of Arkansas as a Licensed Professional Counselor with the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling and has offered mentorship and counseling services to youth and adults for over 26 years. During that time, Reverend Clark has work with a diverse demographic throughout the field of mental health. He organized and facilitated adolescent male groups as well as adult male. He is currently employed at Life Strategies of Arkansas.

Reverend Clark is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated where he served as the director of educational activities. Through the work of the fraternity, Reverend Clark has encouraged and motivated others to reach the full potential of themselves. He has organized and participated in voter registrations and educating others of the right to vote and the power of voting.

Reverend Clark has been and is still very active in the community. He has spent time with various organizations in the city of Jonesboro. He was recognized as Volunteer of the Year with city of Jonesboro. Reverend Clark received Basketball's Coach of the Year from Jonesboro Parks & Recreation. He also received Coach of the Year from the Northeast Arkansas Football League.

Reverend Clark is married to his beautiful wife of 26 years, First Lady Tomeika Clark. He credits her with encouraging him to pursue and achieve educational goals and with providing partnership and support throughout the ministry. Together they have proudly served God's people through ministry and in the professional realm. They wed in 1997 at the age of 20. They are proud parents of 6 children (Shantanique, Kevin Jr, Kierra, Tamia, Talia, and Zion) and 7 grandchildren (Jeremy Jr, Emmarie, Immanuel Jr, Korbyn, Kayden, Kamden, and Kyndall)

The Reverend Bettie A. Tolefree

Bettie Ann Davis Tolefree was born October 24, 1950, the fourth of five children of the late Velzie and Montiel Davis. Bettie is a daughter of the solid south, born in Warren, Arkansas, her hometown. Bettie was raised by her grandmother, Mother Elizabeth (Lizzie) Allen-Thomas, and grew up in St. John A.M.E. Church where she learned and served until her leaving Warren after graduating from Bradley County High School in 1968. Bettie credits her speaking gifts to the training she received from the AME Church. Bettie left Warren to continue her studies at Draughon Business College, Little Rock, AR. In the fall of 1968 and received an associate degree in business in 1970 and was immediately hired by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company as a Service Order Writer (Typist). Bettie pursued additional studies at The University of Arkansas at Little Rock, but was short lived because of her traveling employment, until that never-dying drive returned, and in the fall of 2018 she re-enrolled as a full-time student at UALR, pursuing a degree in Applied Communications, with a minor in creative writing.



Bettie married her childhood sweetheart, Rev. Truman Tolefree, June 23, 1973, and they are the proud parents of 2 children; Shannon Dionne Tolefree (47), Truman Nicholas Tolefree (44), and the proud grandparents of 4 grandsons; Jordan (24), Chase (19), Eric (11), Alex (9), and their pride and joy, their little princess, Claire Marie (4).

For more than three decades, Bettie worked extensively in the telecommunications industry, and is retired from LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES following a very successful career of 33 years, 23 years spent in Little Rock, AR., and her last 10 years spent in Atlanta, GA.. At the time of her retirement, she served as The Customer's System Administrator and End-User Trainer for both the Georgia, and Carolina Branch.

Bettie accepted the call to preach on Sunday, February 17, 2003 while a member at New Hope AME Church in Atlanta, Georgia, under the Pastoral leadership of Rev. David R. Bishop, IV., and preached her first sermon, April 27, 2003. She was ordained as a Local Deacon on May 17, 2006 during the 137th session of The Atlanta/North Georgia Annual Conference by Bishop William Phillip DeVeaux. Ordained Itinerant Deacon during The Arkansas Annual Conference in November 2007 by Bishop Richard Allen Chappelle, and Ordained Itinerant Elder October 3, 2009 by Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr..

Bettie has a passion for Preaching, Teaching, Serving, and currently serves (2nd year) as the Pastor of Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, while continuing to assist her husband (whenever needed). The Reverend Truman Tolefree is the Senior Pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church-Little Rock, and The Presiding Elder of The Little Rock District (Arkansas Conference).

Bettie authored her first book titled "MY AFFAIR WITH THE OTHER MAN," and its Publication officially launched on March 9, 2021 by ZULON PRESS. You can obtain a personal copy from anywhere your favorite Books are sold, or an autographed copy from her, on today.

Bettie considers it not only an Honor, but a Divine Privilege to be used by God to share His Message. Her favorite verse of scripture changes annually, this year it remains the same as last conference year. "O taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who trust in Him." Psalm 34:8

Opening **WORSHIP SERVICE**

OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Thursday, October 5, 2023 | 6:00 p.m.

Presiding Elder Truman Tolefree, Worship Leader

THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP

THE PROCESSIONAL

Clergy, Presiding Elders, Bishop

#5 ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME

*All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall, Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him, crown Him crown Him,
And crown Him Lord of all.*

*Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, Ye ransomed from the fall, Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him
And Crown Him Lord of all.*

*Let every kindred, every tribe, On this terrestrial ball, On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him, crown Him crown Him,
And crown Him Lord of all.*

*O that with yonder sacred throng, We at His feet may fall, We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting son, And crown Him, crown Him crown Him,
And crown Him Lord of all.*

THE DOXOLOGY

Choir & Congregation

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye
heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Presiding Elder Tyrone A. Broomfield

Minister: I was glad when they said to me, "let us go to the house of the Lord!"
Our feet have been standing within Your gates, O Jerusalem!

*Congregation: For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would
rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of
wickedness.*

Minister: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable
in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Congregation: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, sing praises!

THE OPENING HYMN #304 “AND ARE WE YET ALIVE” The Reverend Dr. Michael Chism

*And are we yet alive, and see each other’s face?
Glory and praise to Jesus give for His redeeming grace.*

*Preserved by power divine To Full salvation here,
Again in Jesus’ praise we join, and in His sight appear.*

*What troubles have we seen, what conflicts have we passed.
Fighting without, and fears within, Since we assembled last.*

*Let us take up the cross Till we the crown obtain;
And gladly reckon all things loss, so we may Jesus gain. Amen*

THE INVOCATION The Reverend Larry Banks

THE CHORAL RESPONSE “Hear Our Prayer O Lord”

THE WELCOME Bethel AME Church, NLR

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC The Conference Choir

THE SCRIPTURE The Reverend Sandra Eldridge

THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE Choir & Congregation

*From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung, Through every land, by every tongue.*

THE SUMMARY OF THE DECALOGUE The Reverend Jerome Bridgers

Hear what Christ our savior saith: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great Commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two Commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

THE GLORIA PATRI Choir & Congregation

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; World without end. Amen.*

THE GIFTS FOR MISSION The Reverend Michael Scroggins

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

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

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

The Conference Choir

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP

Presiding Elder Reginald Cleaver

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER

**The Right Reverend Michael L. Mitchell
Presiding Bishop**

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

The Conference Choir

THE MESSAGE

The Reverend Marcia Burns

THE INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

The Reverend Clarence Guy

THE MINISTRY OF GIVING

The Stewardship Committee

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The General Confession

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

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

THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

THE BENEDICTION

The Reverend Marcia Burns

Morning Glory WORSHIP SERVICE

SONS OF ALLEN WITNESS/WOMEN IN MINISTRY

OCTOBER 6, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.

The Reverend Torre Kindle, Worship Leader

THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP

THE DOXOLOGY

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Dr. Verlie Horton

LEADER: Oh Magnify the Lord with me!

PEOPLE: Let us exalt His name together!

LEADER: I will bless the Lord at all time!

PEOPLE: His praise shall continually be in my mouth!

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #559 "RISE UP, O MEN OF GOD" The Reverend Mary Hull-Lovett

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

*Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where His feet
have trod; As brothers of the Son of man, Rise up, O men of God!*

The Invocation

Brother Maynard Kittrell

The Scripture

The Reverend Amelia Roy

The Introduction of the Preacher

Bishop Michael L. Mitchell

Ministry of Music

The Sons of Allen Choir

The Message

The Reverend Kevin Clark

The Invitation

The Reverend Jerome Bridgers

The Sons of Allen Presentation

The Reverend Dr. John T. Grissom

The Remarks

The Benediction

The Reverend Kevin Clark

Noon Day WORSHIP SERVICE

LAY ORGANIZATION WITNESS

October 6, 2023 | 12:00 noon

Brother Herman Ellis, Worship Leader

THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP

THE DOXOLOGY

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Sister Peggy Pilgrim

Leader: Let us worship the Lord.

People: For we are a repentant people.

Leader: Let us make joyful sounds to the rock of our salvation.

People: For God comes to forgive us.

Leader: Let us join together with eager anticipation to receive our salvation.

People: God has delivered us from the pit and has called us His own.

Leader: We give thanks for a clear heart and a new spirit.

People: Bless God. Thank God. Worship God.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

#582 "THE LAYMEN'S SONG"

Sister Kaye B. Person

*Laymen now have thus assembled, in Thy blessed name, O God,
Guide us in our true endeavor, light the pathway that we trod;
Give us strength to ever labor for thy cause, give us strength to ever labor for thy cause.*

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

THE INVOCATION

THE SCRIPTURE

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

THE MESSAGE

THE INVITATION

THE MINISTRY OF GIVING

THE REMARKS

Sister Phyllis Johnson

Sister Mary Pittman

Bishop Michael L. Mitchell

The Conference Choir

The Reverend Bettie A. Tolefree

The Reverend Michael Scroggins

The Stewardship Committee

Sister LaTorria Boykins

Conference Lay President

Sister Natalie Horton

Episcopal Lay President

Bishop Michael Mitchell

THE LAY BENEDICTION

"May God bless us with the true spirit of Christianity.

That we may live together not as man over man, but as Laypersons working with God."

Closing WORSHIP SERVICE

CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE

October 6, 2023 | 6:00 p.m.

Presiding Elder Tyrone A. Broomfield, Worship Leader

THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP

THE PROCESSIONAL “WE PRAISE THEE, O GOD” #97 Clergy, Presiding Elders, and Bishop

*We praise Thee, O God! For the Son of Thy love,
For Jesus who died, and is now gone above.*

Refrain:

*Hallelujah! Thine the glory, Hallelujah! Amen;
Hallelujah! Thine the glory, Revive us again.*

*All glory and praise to the Lamb that was slain,
Who hath borne all our sins, and has cleansed every stain.*

*Revive us again; fill each heart with Thy love;
May our souls be rekindled with fire from above.*

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Monte Royster

Minister: I was glad when they said to me, “let us go to the house of the Lord!”
Our feet have been standing within Your gates, O Jerusalem!

Congregation: For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Minister: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Congregation: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, sing praises!

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #83 O THOU, IN WHOSE PRESENCE **The Reverend Angela Finney**

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

*Where dost Thou, dear Shepherd, resort with Thy sheep,
To feed them in pastures of love?
Say, why in the valley of death should I weep,
Or alone in this wilderness rove?*

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

THE INVOCATION **The Reverend Mary Hull Lovett**

THE CHORAL RESPONSE ***"Hear our Prayer O Lord"***

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC **The Conference Choir**

THE SCRIPTURE **The Reverend Dr. Verlie Horton**

THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE **Choir & Congregation**

*From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung, Through every land, by every tongue.*

THE SUMMARY OF THE DECALOGUE **The Reverend Bettie A. Tolefree**

Hear what Christ our savior saith: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great Commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two Commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

THE GLORIA PATRI **Choir & Congregation**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; World without end. Amen.*

THE GIFTS FOR MISSION **The Reverend Dr. O. Jerome Green**

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

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

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

The Conference Choir

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP

Presiding Elder Truman Tolefree

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The Conference Choir

THE SERMON

**The Right Reverend Michael Leon Mitchell
Presiding Bishop**

THE INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

The Reverend Larry Banks

THE MINISTRY OF GIVING

The Stewardship Committee

THE RESOLUTION

The Reverend Marcia Burns and Resolution Committee

THE COMMISSIONING HYMN

#220 "GO PREACH MY GOSPEL"

THE COMMISSIONING PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE

THE READING OF THE APPOINTMENTS

THE CLOSING HYMN

THE BENEDICTION

Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE

For all the saints who, from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Leader:

Since the close of our last Annual Conference, seats have become vacant, family circles have been broken, and congregations have diminished in number by the visitation of the angel of death. Hearts have been made sad, tears have been shed, homes have been draped in crepe, and grief has been the daily companion of loved ones left behind. Yet, by faith, we have learned “not to sorrow as those who have no hope.” Today we pause to remember colleagues and loved ones who have run ahead of us to the great Coronation in the heavenly city beyond the celestial shore.

The Song of Hope

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' Name.*

Refrain

*On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground us sinking sand.*

*When He shall come with trumpet sound
O may I then in Him be found!
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before His throne.*

(Words by Edward Mote; music by William Bradbury)

The Prayer:

Holy God, Gracious and Eternal, we honor and adore You as Lord, Sovereign and Mighty. We are grateful for the time You have permitted us to spend with loved ones, friends and colleagues. We are grateful and glad for the lessons we learned, for the memories shared and the encouragement received. By Your mercy, we are also thankful for the blessed hope of immortality through your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Responsive Reading

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Leader: *But we would not have you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, concerning them that fall asleep; that you sorrow not as those who have no hope.*

People: For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that are fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Leader: For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we that are alive, that are left unto the coming of the Lord, shall in no wise precede them that are fallen asleep.

People: For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Leader: Then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

People: Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The Roll Call:

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

(The deceased ministers and spouses)

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

O God, we thank and praise You for the love, life and labor of our deceased colleagues and loved-ones. We thank You for their faithful witness in word and deed. Allow us to be inspired to emulate what was good in them that we too might see your face in the land of perfect day. We pray in the name of Him who took the sting from death and victory from the grave, even Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

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

*Let us then be true and faithful,
trusting, serving, every day,
Just one glimpse of Him in glory,
Will the toils of life repay.*

The Benediction:

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

THE CEREMONY OF APPRECIATION For Superannuating Preachers

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

The Statement of Purpose:

In the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, let us enter into this service of the retirement of preachers from active work in ministry of the church. Let us pray.

The Invocation:

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in You, we may glorify Your Holy Name, and finally by Your mercy obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Presentation of the Preacher(s):

Bishop Mitchell, the _____ Annual Conference desires to formally recognize at this session the completion of the Itinerant ministry of ____ of its ministers. As secretary of the Annual Conference, I present to you these faithful minister(s) for the service of recognition and honor, in appreciation of their untiring labors in the Christian ministry and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Response:

Those who go out weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. (Psalm 126:2)

The Statement of Achievement

The Presiding Elders

The Message of Tribute

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. (Hebrews 11:1-2)

Beloved, the record of your active ministry is written. It is written in the records of God.

Your Church is deeply grateful for your ministry and for the care which you have exercised in faithfully fulfilling your vows of ordination. May the precious memories of your years of sacrificial service and fruitful labor be blessed and hallowed.

And now, as you yield your official responsibilities in the active ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, be assured that the years that are yet to be, may be filled with good works and become the crown of your entire ministry, bringing glory and honor to you and to the Church. The congregation of which you will be a member will look to you for spiritual guidance and godly example. Your sisters and brothers in ministry will continue to seek and respect your counsel. We will annually listen for your answer to the Roll Call of the Annual Conference.

Schedule of Annual Conferences

OKLAHOMA STATE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

August 24, 2023

August 24-25, 2023

August 26, 2023

WMS

Annual Conference

Youth Meeting & Worship

Avery Chapel AME Church

1425 Kelham Blvd | Oklahoma City, OK 73117
(405) 424-3331 (Church) | (404) 323-3105 (Pastor)

The Reverend Elijah Shafah

Host Pastor

The Reverend Dr. Harvey Potts

Host Presiding Elder

The Reverend Dr. Ruth Holmes

Associate Presiding Elder

WEST ARKANSAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

September 7, 2023

September 7-8, 2023

September 9, 2023

WMS

Annual Conference

Youth Meeting & Worship

Saint Paul AME Church

1501 Caddo | Arkadelphia, AR 71923
(870) 246-2820 (Church) | (870) 794-5723 (Pastor)

The Reverend Tom W. Scott

Host Pastor

The Reverend Dr. James Giles

Host Presiding Elder

The Reverend Dr. Kent J. Broughton

Associate Presiding Elder



Schedule of Annual Conferences

EAST ARKANSAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

September 21, 2023 **WMS**
September 21-22, 2023 **Annual Conference**
September 23, 2023 **Youth Meeting & Worship**

Saint John AME Church
1117 West Pullen | Pine Bluff, AR 71601
(870) 535-3760 (Church) | (870) 692-7469 (Pastor)

The Reverend Chestine Sims
Host Pastor
The Reverend Dr. James Hooper
Host Presiding Elder
The Reverend Dr. Harriel White
Associate Presiding Elder
The Reverend Dr. Angela Brewster
Associate Presiding Elder

ARKANSAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

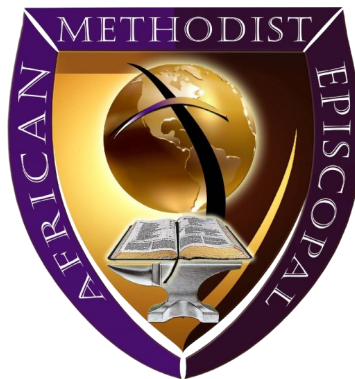
October 5, 2023 **WMS**
October 5-6, 2023 **Annual Conference**
October 7, 2023 **Youth Meeting & Worship**

Bethel AME Church
600 Cedar Street | North Little Rock, AR 72114
(501) 374-9948 (Church) | (870) 305-6520 (Pastor)

The Reverend Dr. Tyrone Broomfield
Host Pastor
The Reverend Dr. Tyrone Broomfield
Host Presiding Elder
The Reverend Dr. Truman Tolefree
Associate Presiding Elder
The Reverend Dr. Reginald Cleaver
Associate Presiding Elder



NOTES



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