

**SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER IN LOVE and DOING JUSTICE
DURING THE 27th ANNUAL SEMINAR ON CHURCH GROWTH AND EVANGELISM
and CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**

Always remembering that the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was birthed out of the pain and suffering of racial injustice, and remembering that our legacy has been one of reaching out to those who are oppressed and marginalized, the Department of Church Growth and Development AME Church, is poised to speak to the current issues of racial and gender injustice wafting in the United States. The series of transformationally bold and challenging dialogues will happen at the 27th Annual Seminar on Church Growth and Evangelism and Certification Programs, January 7-9, 2015, at the Marriott Hotel, 3 Statehouse Plaza, Little Rock AR.

On **Thursday, January 8th**, Mr. Dred Scott Madison II, will address attendees on, “*What Shall We Say to These Things?: The Dred Scott Decision and Justice for People of Color in 21st Century North America.*” Mr. Madison is the great-great grandson of Mr. Dred Scott and Mrs. Harriett Scott. By way of history, in 1846, Dred Scott was helped by Abolitionist lawyers to sue for his freedom in court, claiming he should be free since he had lived on free soil (Missouri) for a long time. The case went all the way to the United States Supreme Court. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Roger B. Taney, was a former slave owner from Maryland. In March of 1857, Mr. Scott lost the decision as seven out of nine Justices on the Supreme Court declared no slave or descendant of a slave could be a U.S. citizen, or ever had been a U.S. citizen. *As a non-citizen, the court stated, Scott had no rights and could not sue in a Federal Court and must remain a slave.*

Moreover, on **Friday, January 9th**, Dr. Dwight Hopkins, Professor of Theology, University of Chicago Divinity School will offer the response, “*Where Do We Go From Here?: Obtaining Justice for People of Color in 21st Century North America.*” Dr. Hopkins is a constructive theologian working in the areas of contemporary models of theology, various forms of liberation theologies (especially black and other third-world manifestations), and East-West cross-cultural comparisons. Persuaded by the question "what does it mean to be human," Professor Hopkins is interested in multidisciplinary approaches to the academic study of religious thought, especially cultural, political, economic, and interpretive methods.

In addition, The Rev. Dr. James Noel, Chair of African American Christianity and Professor of American Religion at San Francisco Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union, will serve as a panelist providing insight and thought to the conversations. Dr. Noel’s foci of research are the History of African American Christianity, Black Religion in African and the Americas, and African American Social, Cultural and Intellectual History.

Futhermore, The Rev Dr. Sharon Grant, Pastor of Greater Ball Tabernacle AME Church, San Antonio TX and Adjunct Professor at University of the Incarnate Word, will also provide thought to these powerful interactive discussions. Dr. Grant’s foci of teaching are Black Church History, Methodist History, Polity and Doctrine.

Additional persons who will be prepared to bring remarks include but are not limited to: *The Rt. Rev. John R. Bryant*, Senior Bishop and Presiding Prelate 4th Episcopal District, *The Rt. Rev. McKinley Young*, Commission Chair and Presiding Prelate, 3rd Episcopal District, *The Rt. Rev. Vashti M. McKenzie*, Presiding Prelate, 10th Episcopal District, *The Rt. Rev. Reginald Jackson*, Commission Chair on Social Action and Ecumenical Officer and Endorsing Agent, *The Rt. Rev. Samuel L. Green Sr.*, Presiding Prelate, 12th Episcopal District AME Church and Chairman, Shorter College Trustee Board, *Mr. O. Jerome Green, Esq.*, President, Shorter College, *Dr. Leah Gaskins Fitchue*, President, Payne Theological Seminary, *Dr. John Green*, President, Turner Theological Seminary, *Rev. Michael Brown PhD*, Academic Dean, Payne Theological Seminary, *Dr. Shirley Cason-Reed*, President WMS, *Dr. Dorothy Owens*, *Ms. Felecia Commodore*, Young Adult Representative, Connectional Lay Organization, *Ms. Martinique Mix*, President, Connectional Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC), *Ms. Erica Austin*, Member At Large, YWI, WMS-AMEC, *Mr. John Ingraham*, President, Connectional Young People's Division, *Mr. Ritney Castine*, 8th Episcopal District, *Rev. Samuel L. Green Jr.*, 4th Episcopal District and *Rev. Stephen Green*, 11th Episcopal District.

It is the prayer of the leadership and members of the the Department of Church Growth and Development, that persons throughout the Connectional AME Church, along with all who are seriously interested in doing justice, will join us in Little Rock, AR., to hear from the Lord in order to strategically plan what is required and what we as His people need to do, in order to eradicate the pervasive poison of injustice in the United States.

For Seminar and Certification Program information contact the Department of Church Growth and Development AME Church at: (901) 523-2702 or (901) 523-2777 or ameharvest@aol.com. Visit us at: www.departmentofchurchgrowth.com and on Facebook.

The Rt. Rev. McKinley Young, Commission Chair
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