

THE GENERAL BOARD REPORT
Department of
Christian Education



Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel
Atlanta, GA

June 28-29, 2022

Rev. Garland F. Pierce
Executive Director

Bishop Adam J. Richardson
Senior Bishop

Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford, Sr.
President of the Council of Bishops

Bishop Paul J.M. Kawimbe
President, General Board

Bishop Frank Madison Reid III
Chair, Commission on Christian Education



Bishop Frank Madison Reid III
*Chair, Commission on
Christian Education*



Rev. Garland F. Pierce
Executive Director, Christian Education

Ms. Carlene L. Douglas
*Mission Volunteer in Christian Education
Office Administrator*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

- | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| First | Mr. Keith Coston |
| Second | Mrs. Glen White |
| Third | Rev. Dr. Gerald A. Cooper |
| Fourth | Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount, Vice Chair |
| Fifth | Rev. Sherielyn Curry |
| Sixth | Mr. Gabriel Cloud (YA) |

Seventh	Rev. Rosalyn Coleman	
Eighth	Rev. Dr. Demetrese D. Phillips	
Ninth	Ms. Chantal Alford (YA)	
Tenth	Ms. Shantel Sims (YA)	
Eleventh	Rev. Michael K. Bouie	
Twelfth	Rev. Larry Banks	
Thirteenth	Rev. Troy Thomas	
Fourteenth	Mrs. Belinda S. Yahwon	
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Sixteenth	Rev. Efraim Alejandro Mateo Vasquez	
Seventeenth	Rev. Margaret Nkana Mwanza	
Eighteenth	Mr. Thato Mogami	
Nineteenth	Rev. Thabo Matsaseng	
Twentieth	Mr. Hannock Msokera	
At-Large		
Ms. LaDonna Liggins	Rev. Marcellus Fields	Rev. David W. Green, Sr.

MINISTRIES IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HEADS

Mr. Clarence Crayton and Mrs. Vivianne Frye-Perry
Directors, Association of AME Scouts (AAMES)

Mrs. Lyndajo Jones Watson
Administrator, Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)

Ms. Robin Porter Smith
Chair, Fellowship of Church Educators (FCE)

Rev. Maurice Wright
Director, Music and Christian Arts Ministry (MCAM)

Ms. Martinique Mix
President, Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)

Mr. Monroe Miller
President, Sons of Allen

Ms. Carlene L. Douglas
Coordinator, Writers Guild

EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTORS

- 1st Rev. Jay Broadnax
- 2nd Ms. Robin Porter Smith and Dr. B. Joyce Bonner
- 3rd Dr. Karen Schaeffer
- 4th Rev. Christal L. Bell

5th Dr. Timothy Tyler
6th Rev. Jai D. Haithco, Sr.
7th Rev. Samuel L. Green, Jr.
8th Dr. Glenell Lee Pruitt
9th Ms. Hattie Nathan
10th Dr. C. Dennis Williams
11th Dr. Paula Lake
12th Rev. Kevin L. Clayton, Sr.
13th Dr. Roberta Hill
14th Rev. Emmanuel Seh
15th Rev. Keith Links
16th Rev. Gail Meridin
17th Rev. Royd Mwandu
18th Rev. Albert B. Thwala
19th Rev. Lukubelwa Moobi
20th Rev. Rosetta Swinton

*The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Isaiah 50:4*

To: Bishop Paul J.M. Kawimbe, President of the General Board, Bishop Frank Madison Reid III, Chair of the Commission on Christian Education, members of the Commission on Christian Education, and members of the General Board of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, I greet you in the name of the Master Teacher, Jesus Christ.

I am appreciative of this opportunity to make this report of the Department of Christian Education (CED) and its constitutive ministries for this period since the 2021 General Conference. I thank the Chair of the Commission on Christian Education, Bishop Frank Madison Reid III, for his enthusiastic support of the work of the Commission and Department. His forward thinking and accessibility are but two of the many gifts, which he has shared during this period.

I have benefitted from the wisdom and support of my predecessors, Dr. Kenneth H. Hill and Dr. Daryl B. Ingram, the fourth and fifth Executive Directors of the Department, respectively. As I express my gratitude to them, I also must thank Ms. Carlene L. Douglas for her strong support and organizational skills related to the day-to-day work of the CED office.

Much appreciation goes to the leaders and members of the Ministries of Christian Education for their devoted and tireless efforts to the work of faith formation and leadership development. We thank the many Christian educators, youth ministry workers, and Church School superintendents and teachers who have dedicated time, energy, resources, and prayers to further the teaching ministry of our Zion.

This period since General Conference continues to be a time of visioning, exploring, establishing, and expanding for the Department. As we continue to meet with leaders and volunteers in the various teaching ministries of the Church, we have entered into conversations, which allowed them to express their hopes and visions for this shared ministry. We have spent time exploring our Zion's rich educational legacy, harvesting those resources that can still serve us well, while exploring new methods, platforms, and areas of work. We continue to put into place some partnerships, processes, and platforms that will serve as a foundation for the expansion of the breadth of the Department's work so that we can better resource our global Church's mission. The work of this period should be read and evaluated in light of the Department's mandate, as expressed in *The Book of Discipline*. *The Book of Discipline* charges the Department of Christian Education with responsibility for:

**"developing" a comprehensive and unified program of Christian Education which shall lead to a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, the Christian Religion, and the Christian Church, and an implementation of these values in daily living.*

**“providing” source materials for all the educational work of the church and “providing” developing standards and preparing programs and offering techniques of Christian Education in the local and general Church in accordance with the provisions set forth in The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Garland F. Pierce".

Garland F. Pierce
Executive Director

The Christian Education Department undergirds all ministries of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It supports the evangelistic mission of the Church through discipleship formation throughout the lifespan, equipping leaders and servants. It supports worship through sound biblical teaching as well as the honing of liturgical, musical, and Christian artistic knowledge and skills. It supports Christian maturity through nurturing people toward spiritual perfection through daily practices and disciplines. The Department has sought to do this in various ways:

Resource Development

One of the core activities of the Department is the development and promotion of resources to aid in faith formation and leadership development.

Church School and Bible Study Resources

In strong partnership with the AMEC Sunday School Union and the Department's Writers Guild, we have continued working to enhance the Church School curriculum products. We have lengthened the production timeline to allow for sufficient time for thorough development of content and editing for quality control. We have added new writers to the Writers Guild and would certainly welcome others who may be interested in writing Church School and other curricula. We have listened to feedback from the end users of the Adult Church School curriculum. In consultation with consultants, the Department has worked with the Sunday School Union to develop a new format for the Adult Church School curriculum, one that emphasizes story and reads the texts through a justice lens and particularly the experiences of people who are part of the African Diaspora. This new format began in the Fall 2018 *Improved Adult Teacher Sunday School Quarterly* with the new name *Liberating Faith Studies*. Again, in partnership with the Sunday School Union, adult and youth curriculum manuscripts are provided to Episcopal Districts 14-20 for distribution and any necessary translation in those respective episcopal districts.

In response to the faith formation need during the pandemic, the department developed weekly lectionary-based resources to be used on an individual basis or in a family or group setting. These resources were designed to be intergenerational and to be "low-tech" so that a broad cross-section of the church might be able to utilize them.

Daily Spiritual Vitamins

The Department has continued the Daily Spiritual Vitamins (DSVs) series. The DSVs are daily focal scripture for meditation and reflection based on the Home Daily Bible Readings, designed as preparation for the upcoming Church School lesson theme and content. We have received mostly positive feedback to the addition of prompts for prayer and/or reflection, which are designed to strengthen focus. Likewise, positive feedback has been received in response to the incorporation of the connectional

quadrennium themes and other significant denominational and global themes and observances as part of this daily discipline. The DSVs are offered on multiple platforms—email, website, Twitter, and Facebook.

People of the Anvil

For some years, the Department has produced this small pamphlet resource, which gives a basic introduction of the structure, polity, and beliefs of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The translation of resources in various languages spoken by AMEs is a commitment of the Department. This long-term commitment necessitates a process that comes at a cost of financial, time, and human resource. Yet, this period, we continue our efforts to make good on this commitment to be global in our resource development mandate. This past period, we translated this resource into Swahili. It is another downloadable free resource on the Department's website. The English version remains for sale through the Department at a nominal price to assist in its translation into other languages spoken by AMEs. The Department is thankful to those partners who have assisted with the current translations and welcomes partners who are willing to assist with translations into other languages. This resource can be used as an evangelistic tract, with new members, or as a refresher for seasoned members.

Resources for Special Observances

The Department developed resources for the month of September, Christian Education Month in the AME Church. We were encouraged by receiving photos and feedback, highlighting how the resources were used in creative ways for this important observance in the church programming calendar. The Department also curated free resources for the 2022 Founder's Day Observance. All of these resources are available in the free resources section of the Department's website: <https://ameced.com/free-resources/>.

Website and Social Media

During this period, we have continued to give attention, energy, and resources to the Department's website: www.ameced.com, increasing the offerings that can be found there so that it is an inviting and engaging space for information and resource sharing for those engaged in teaching ministries.

We also maintain the Twitter (@ame_ced) and Facebook presence of the Department. The goal is for these to work seamlessly with features of the website.

The Journal of Christian Education

The Journal continues as a resource for sharing ideas, information, and resources for the teaching ministry of the Church. During this quadrennium, we seek to incorporate the connective themes related to justice throughout the issues even as we explore

other relevant themes of interest and import to pastors, ministers, and Christian educators. The Department welcomes article submissions for inclusion in future issues. The Department is thankful to the subscribers of this unique periodical, with special gratitude to the Bishops who give leadership in the subscription process. The current circulation base is:

Episcopal District	2021- 2022
1	509
2	503
3	150
4	281
5	281
6	436
7	664
8	256
9	195
10	246
11	551
12	229
13	155
Subtotal from Districts	4,456
Individual Subscribers	180
Total Subscriptions	4,636

We must acknowledge the delay in the publication of the JCE, which is a result of several factors converging at the same time. We fell further behind by the plethora of effects of the global pandemic. We have been working with a publishing consultant and put into place several measures that should facilitate the reestablishment of a regular schedule of publishing. Among those measures was the hiring of an experienced professional to assist in the editing process. We have had to put some additional measures in place; and, we fully expect to systematize our production schedule in the next year so we will be able to catch up and thereafter ensure timely delivery of the publication. We appreciate the loyal support of the contributors and

subscribers and are working diligently to get current with the editions. At the time of this reporting, two editions are in production to be ready late summer.

Teaching Gatherings

The Department seeks to provide opportunities for persons to come together in worship, fellowship, networking and shared learning.

29th Connectional Christian Education and Youth Congress

Much of the Department's time, energy, and resources has been devoted to the planning of the quadrennial gathering of the Ministries in Christian Education which immediately will follow this 2022 Council of Bishops and General Board meetings here in Atlanta, hosted by Bishop Reginald T. Jackson and the 6th Episcopal District.

The Congress theme is *H.O.P.E.*: Harvesting, Observing, Pivoting, and Enlivening. Christian Education is an ongoing process of learning, growing, and even changing. This is true for congregations and communities and especially true of individual disciples. The Department is embarking on a program of H.O.P.E. and this congress marks the official start of this process for congregations, ministry components, and individual disciples. The Department is initiating congregational learning labs that will help congregations harvest from their tradition, observe their ministry context and reflect on their gifts and challenges, pivot in order to respond to the ministry call before them, and enliven their witness and service in the world. Christian Education or faith formation in its discipleship-making calls the individual throughout their Christian life to harvest from past experiences and faith practices that have helped to shape them, observe their present state and the state of family and community around them, pivot to make necessary changes, and work and pray for the Holy Spirit to enliven transformation. Throughout the biblical witness and Christian faith, hope has been a central theme. For Congress 2022, hope will be our method, our call, our watchword, and our aim. Come, share, and give an account of the hope which lies within you for Christ is our peace, joy, and HOPE.

This time, we will have plenaries that help us go deeper into God's word, leading us to a stronger witness for liberation, justice, and peace. There will be learning labs for youth and adults regarding gift discernment and the diversity of ministries, helping them to answer such questions as: What are my God-given gifts? What is God calling me to be and do? How can I make a difference in the world? How can I sharpen my skills and develop my gifts for ministry? All content is designed to help us individually and collectively H.O.P.E.: Harvest from the past, Observe our present state and situations, Pivot to make positive change, and work and pray that our ministry and our personal formation is Enlivened by the Holy Spirit. There will be Christian Education Certification as well as learning labs sponsored by various ministries of Christian Education and partner commissions: the AMEC Commission on Health,

Commission on Social Action, and the Commission on Ministry and Recruitment. The Ministries of Christian Education will hold their elections of connectional officers at the Congress as well.

Partnership with the Council of Bishops' Initiative: This We Believe

The department was invited by Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield (Council of Bishop President, 2021-2022) to partner in this initiative.

The Council of Bishops in collaboration with the Department of Christian Education has begun the production of six installments of a digital discussion starter series to engage AMEs in reflection and discussions on some central doctrinal positions from our Methodist faith. This is only a beginning effort and does not represent an exhaustive list of key or essential matters that should be a part of our study and discussion. It is hoped that this series will spark further reflection and exploration of what we have inherited in belief and practice and how that inheritance benefits the AME family today as well as what requires new readings and understanding given the current day traumas and signs of hope. These reflections are rooted firstly in the word of God as well as the stories of our past and present as we imagine our future together. The final part of the church's motto is "Humankind Our Family." We are family! This hopefully engenders honest and prayerful family talk across the church.

We have used the metaphor of family throughout the installments. Each installment will include a short video presentation from one of our episcopal leaders introducing and framing the doctrinal position and posing some questions for further reflection. A short discussion guide will accompany each presentation.

Installments:

- We Belong to God's Family: Baptism
- Family Dinner Time: Communion
- The Family's Embrace: Connectionalism
- Different BUT Family: Unity and Diversity
- The Family That Prays Together Stays Together: The Means of Grace, Works of Piety
- Humankind Our Family: The Means of Grace, Works of Mercy

This will be an important resource to be used in the Harvesting phase of the H.O.P.E. Congregational Labs initiative.

Ecumenical Faith Formation and Collaboration

In consultation with the Chair on Christian Education and the Ecumenical & Urban Affairs Officer, the Department continued significant participation in the faith, ecumenical, and mission formation work of the ecumenical community in the USA and globally.

Continuing the long history of Pan Methodist cooperation, the Department in partnership with the Christian Education Departments of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, produced the *2021 Prophecy and Expectation: A Guide for Meditation and Action* (Advent Devotional) and the *2022 Liberation and Unity: A Guide for Meditation and Action* (Lenten Devotional). Over a dozen of the contributing writers to each booklet were AMEs.

The Department continues its participation and support of the ecumenical development of the Church School curriculum outline under the National Council of Churches, USA Committee on the Uniform Series (CUS). The Director along with Rev. Faith Waters (1st District), Dr. Monica Jones (6th District), Dr. Catherine Powell (11th District) and Ms. Carlene L. Douglas (13th District) represented the AME Church during the recent meeting and working session of the CUS in March in Memphis, TN and virtually. The Director serves as the Chair of the CUS as it celebrates 150 years of existence this year.

The Director also serves on the Personnel Committee of the World Methodist Council. He is also an AME representative to the World Methodist Council and its Education Committee.

Finally, the Director was recently elected to serve as the Chair of the Ecumenical Trust, a collective endowment for the ongoing work of the World Council of Churches, National Council of Churches, USA, and Church World Service.

Teach, Inc.

The Department operated a non-profit corporation entitled, TEACH, Inc. as an avenue to secure additional funding for faith formation, leadership development, and resource development. TEACH, Inc.'s purpose is to develop and conduct training programs that stimulate character development, ethics, and vocation; to develop and manage an endowment fund for educational resource development; and to develop and operate a scholarship fund for future Christian Education leader development. TEACH, Inc. will participate in partnerships with agencies that have similar interests including but not limited to youth serving agencies and will utilize governmental and foundation funding as appropriate to its purposes.

Vincent F. Foster Trust Fund

The Department has maintained the established Vincent F. Foster Trust Fund formed with the proceeds from the Foster Gift. The Trust will continually provide supplementary funds to enhance the work of the Department. The balance of the Fund at the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year (ending March 31, 2022) was \$233,365.58. Additional contributions to this Fund are welcomed.

Our New Offices

In the midst of Congress preparations, we have been busy moving into our office suite in the new AMEC Publishing House. We are excited about what this move means for our future work. Our new visiting address is:

900 13th Avenue, South, Suite 320
Nashville, TN 37212

Thanks to a generous gift in honor of Rev. Andrew N. White, Jr. (2nd General Secretary of the AMECED) and Mrs. Edith M. White by their family, we were able to furnish the office of the office administrator. We had a short naming ceremony for the office during the recent building dedication.

Director's Travel and Work

The Executive Director has been privileged to serve as preacher, presenter, teacher, and/or participant a number of services, conferences, meetings, and gatherings nearly exclusively through virtual means, given the need to limit travel during the pandemic. The first in-person sharing was the Montgomery-Selma District Church School Convention in the Ninth Episcopal District, when the director had the opportunity to preach in the closing service, which was held at St. John AME Church, Montgomery, AL.

Commission on Ministry Recruitment and Development

The Director also serves as consultant to the Commission on Ministry Recruitment and Development. The Director with the Chairs of the Commission on Christian Education and the Commission on Ministry Recruitment and Development will continue an exploration of processes, policy, and procedures related to discernment for Christian vocations and ministry as well as professional development and continuing education, leading to resourcing and implementation for the Connectional Church.

We have ensured that some of the learning lab offerings at the Connectional Christian Education and Youth Congress focus on gift discovery and vocational discernment and other themes taken up by the commission. We have partnered with the Forum for Theological Exploration, its president will serve as one of our keynote speakers at Congress this year.

Equipping for the Work

Certification Program

For some decades now the Department has given oversight to the Church's Christian Education Certification Program. While the Word of God does not change nor does the powerful Christian story, technologies and teaching methodologies for sharing the Word and story do. The Department has had conversations with leading Christian educators as well as Episcopal District Christian Education Directors so that we can review and adjust the Certification program in helpful and relevant ways so that there is consistency of standards and transparency across the Connection. This research and revision work is nearly completion. We are offering certification classes under the current program at Congress. While there have been some delays partially due to the pandemic, we are working to launch the revised Certification program this year.

The Specific Work of the Ministries

Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)

Starting at the 2021 General conference, RAYAC once again rose to the challenge of creating opportunities for young adults to meet and fellowship. Because of the hybrid structure of the meeting, we decided to also hold a hybrid meeting of just not the RAYAC committee but any young adult delegates/ observers under the age of 45. In that meeting young adults talked about the upcoming changes to the RAYAC constitution and by-laws and the legislation on LGBTQIA+ inclusiveness, as well as the importance of young adults learning the process of writing and submitting legislation. There was also a Friday night fellowship at TopGolf. This was not just an opportunity for the young adults to connect; it also allowed candidates to speak to young adults in an informal setting. Following the attendance of GC 21 and the CLO Biennial, RAYAC once again got back to work. We confirmed to have monthly meetings and attend various episcopal district, conference, and local church events. President Mix was able to visit several districts in person and virtually, including the 19th, 16th, 15th, 11th, 9th, 2nd, and 5th. They have partnered with other components including the Connectional Lay. In the last Episcopal visit, President Mix attended the LSS in East London, Eastern Cape South Africa, hosted by the 15th District under the leadership of President Sabata Mo. There President Mix and President Kumalo(19th district) presented workshops. For the last few months, RAYAC has been planning events for the Christian Education Congress, which include learning labs presented by RAYAC board members, the last business session of this CE Quadrennium, a Friday night fellowship and a celebration journal of the 25th years under the name RAYAC.

This is my final report as president; it has truly been an honor to serve. I am grateful for the opportunities give, friendships made, and work we have been able to do together. --Ms. Martinique Mix

Music and Christian Arts Ministry (MCAM)

Over the past two years, MCAM has been busy meeting the needs of many congregations across the connection. There have been several virtual choir offerings that have been produced with the assistance of Rev. Anthony Radcliff, Director of Choirs and Bro. Scooter Booker, Director of Youth and Young Adults. Weekly rehearsals were presented over electronic platforms and with the assistance of Rev. Anthony B. Vinson, Dr. Barbara Bouie, and Dr. Ethel Wellington Trawick, the choir sang with joy. In addition to utilizing members of the connectional mass choir, each video was engineered by our Director of Media Arts, Bro. Jarrell Pridgen and Rev. Margaret Tyson provided artistic renderings to accompany each virtual selection.

The Fall Executive Board Meeting was held in the Seventh Episcopal District under the Episcopal leadership of Bishop Samuel L. Green. All roads led to the historic city of Charleston, South Carolina. We were hosted by the members of Ebenezer AME Church in a grand style. This was MCAM's first gathering under the leadership of our new Commission Chair, Bishop Frank Madison Reid III. During this session, MCAM was both energized and charged by our Commission Chair and our Executive Director, the Reverend Garland F. Pierce, to continue the work of providing the global church with education and resources. The guest clinician for our time together was Dr. Leo Davis, Director of Music and Fine Arts at the Mississippi Boulevard Church of Memphis, Tennessee.

MCAM was blessed to participate at the General Board Meeting and Investiture Service of Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield which was held in Nashville, Tennessee.

Rev. Stephanie Butler Adams continues to present the ministry of liturgical dance across ecumenical lines, ministering to a wide variety of ages and encouraging the ministry of movement.

Brother David Mitchell's *Nothin' but the Blues* presented shows in both Atlanta and Stone Mountain, Georgia. This production included a cast of singers and actors from over the Southeast. Original music was scored by Rev. Dr. Chuck Beattie.

The Connectional Director, Rev. Maurice Wright, II and the Associate Director, Rev. Myron D. Hill were invited to participate in workshops from the local church, presiding elder district, and the episcopal district level. In May, both Rev. Wright and Rev. Hill were joined by Dr. Roberta Hill to share on an advisory committee for a new degree in African American Worship Studies at Trevecca University.

The Music and Christian Arts Ministry continues to share educational resources for the global church and looks forward to the continued support and involvement of our Zion.

Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators (CFCE)

The following is a summary of the work of the Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators (CFCE) – a ministry in the Department of Christian Education.

- Chair served as keynote speaker for the Pacific Northwest Conference (Fifth District) Church School Convention – June 2021
- Provided administrative support for Connectional Certification program – Ongoing
- Implemented CFCE Educational Project in the Eighteenth District – October 2021
- Facilitated CFCE AME Jeopardy, with representation from 10 Episcopal Districts, in celebration of AME Church School Weekend – October 2021
- Completed amendments to CFCE by-laws, with input from 13 Episcopal Districts, in preparation for Connectional Congress – February 2022
- Attended General Board meetings – Virtual and In-Person
- Chair served as presenter for Bible Study: Daniel, Revelation, and The Epistles of Paul – 2021-2022

Association of AME Scouts (AAMES)

We praise God for how he has kept us over the past year. Like the rest of the world, the scouting program has not fared well under the COVID-19 and the national attack of people of color. There is no way to tell the total level of stress our Girl and Boy Scouts have had to endure; but, we are blessed to receive God's favor. We are pleased to say that most Scouts BSA and Girl Scouts USA units met either virtually or in person. Our younger Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts were not able to meet as frequently under the stresses of COVID for most of 2021. While our older Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts were able to meet via zoom and in person under CDC guidelines, socially distancing

We are pleased to announce that from 2016 to the present, AAMES Boy Scouts were able to earn 28 eagle merit badges while our Girl Scouts were able to earn 36 gold awards, even under the stresses of COVID and other factors going on in the country. We were able to continue to move forward with scouting. We also are pleased to announce our AME Adult Scout Leaders from 2016-2022 were awarded the following 1- Silver Buffalo Award; 2 – Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award; 1 Duty to God Award; 2 Silver Beaver Awards; 4- God & Service Awards; 2- Bishop Awards of Excellence; Girl Scout Awards include Special Appreciation Award; Advisor Gold & Silver Award; Girl Scouts New Mentors; GS Volunteer of Excellence Award; Years of Service Awards.

In the past 12 months, AAMES conducted 3 Garden Contests, Spring of 2021, Fall of 2021, and Spring of 2022; we will be awarding a number of scholarships in June 2022. In January of 2021, AAMES launched its Inaugural Episcopal Patch Series, recognizing Reverend Daniel Coker, Bishop Richard Allen, Bishop Francis H Gow, Bishop John

Hurst Adams, Bishop Frank C. Cummings, Bishop Adam J Richardson, Jr., Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie, Bishop David R. Daniel, Jr. AAMES attended scheduled General Board meetings, Summer, Winter, and homegoing services in 2021 and 2022.

AAMES has national BSA and GSUSA committee members serving both organizations. AAMES posted six articles in *The Christian Recorder* over the past 12 months. AAMES took 60 AME Scouts to the May 14th GRM Grand Prix Race Day, Indy Race at the Indianapolis Speedway. AAMES is creating its own website. We expect this page to go live in July of 2022. AAMES is making plans to attend the BSA National Jamboree in 2023; the GSA USA 2023 National Council Session of the 56th Convention of Girl Scouts in July of 2023 and starting to prepare for the AAMES 2024 Quadrennial Camporee and the 52nd Quadrennial Session of the AME General Conference in 2024 in Cincinnati Ohio.

Finally, AAMES is planning a 5K Run fundraiser that will take place on October 8th of 2022.

Although the past 12 months have been challenging, we're pleased to say that scouting is moving forward and making strives to improve every day.

Sons of Allen (SoA)

“Trust the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

The Connectional Sons of Allen is grateful to God for the opportunity to complete another year of work in this great Zion, the African Methodist Episcopal Church. This year's work can only be attributed to God. We thank God for the participation and prayers from the brotherhood of the Sons of Allen. We experienced the awesomeness of God as we worked and was given opportunities to connect across the Episcopal Districts. COVID-19 had its restrictions in regards to travel and in-person meetings, technology, however, has allowed us to continue our work, thus enabling us to connect via Zoom and Teleconference. It is with a grateful heart that we present the report of the Connectional Sons of Allen Men's Ministry. We solicit your prayers as we continue to follow God's calling.

GOALS

1. To encourage men to share in ecumenical relations.
2. To organize men into units and empower them to meet men's needs in areas of Evangelism and Stewardship.
3. To encourage men to engage in outreach and service as a part of Christian servanthood.
4. To teach the men of our denomination the history, doctrine, and polity of our denomination with focus on the life, mission, and ministry of our ancestral father, Richard Allen.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES COMPLETED 2021 – 2022:

- Held two virtual training labs showing the Organizational Structure of the Sons of Allen
- Partnered with the Men’s Ministry of the CME, UMC, AMEZ denominations emphasizing Youth Ministry
- Held first virtual Advent Worship Service
- Held Learning Labs: How to Respond to Traffic Stops, Table Etiquette, and Respect
- Repaired and built handicap ramps
- Walked communities protesting gun violence, gang and domestic violence
- Involved actively in voter registration
- Planted community garden
- Chaperoned youth to sporting events
- Volunteered at food distribution sites

Thank God for the opportunity to serve.

Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)

As we continue in this virtual setting, so does the CDMC. The 2021 virtual ceremony was very tasteful and inclusive. The total participants were 149, including 9 young people from the 19th Episcopal District under the leadership of Bishop and Supervisor Brailsford. We give thanks to Rev. Sam Green, Jr., his team and all the commissioners for a job well done. In addition to the virtual ceremony, a book of prayers, *Hey God, It’s Me*, was published. It is a book of prayers written by young people for young people; however, it does include a few prayers written by adults. Each Debutante and Master and registered commissioner received a copy as a part of their package. The prayer books are still available and make an excellent graduation gift.

As the commissioners headed back to their districts from the General Conference, many started making plans for their 2022 dedication ceremonies, virtual and in-person. COVID 19 has been a deterrent; but, the work of this ministry continues. Several districts have had in-person and virtual ceremonies; and, others are being planned. Commissioner Sandi Brown continues to lead the 6th district in their commitment to CDMC along with the support of Bishop and Supervisor Jackson. Since July 2021, participants in the CDMC ministry have provided an abundance of school supplies and hygiene products to those in need. Care packages and gift cards were sent to Debutantes and Masters away in college. Gift cards were also sent to disaster victims, a little Christmas cheer delivered to residents in personal care homes, and fruit baskets were distributed. Debs and Masters received training on how to register voters and worked in the voters’ registration drive. A dedication ceremony was held with 29 Debutantes and 13 Masters participating and \$61,875.00 was awarded in scholarships.

The 7th district hosted its second virtual ceremony; held virtual meetings on mental health, human trafficking, financial literacy/budgeting, preparing for college, and knowing the AME Church.

The 11th District, under the direction of its new district commissioner, Ms. Novella Jones and new leadership team, Bishop and Mrs. Frank Madison Reid III, restructured CDMC on all levels. The 11th District CDMC revised handbook was provided to all commissioners. The Debs and Masters participated in the Food Give Away at local churches and Christmas and Easter celebrations. They are scheduled to receive training on how to register new Florida voters and will be actively participating in the process. At the present time, new CDMC participants are attending workshops and getting ready for the dedication ceremony which will be held at each annual conference.

The 12th District, led by Commissioner C. Ann Smith and under the leadership of Bishop and Supervisor Mitchell, is making plans for their 2022 Dedication ceremony.

As we continue in this unprecedented time, it is our prayer that the districts will begin to open up and continue the work of this great ministry. Plans for the dedication ceremony to be held at the seat of the 52nd General Conference in Columbus, OH will begin in the fall of this year.

Thanks to my Bishop, Bishop Michael Mitchell, and Supervisor Cordelia Mitchell, my 12th district family and Rev. Garland Pierce for their continued support. I also pay homage to the great women whose shoulders I stand on, Mrs. Julma Crawford, Mrs. Loretta Hill, and Mrs. Gloria Massey Ward.

“To God Be the Glory”

Writers Guild

The *Writers Guild* continues to function as the primary source of writers for the A.M.E. Church’s Sunday/Church School curricula for adults, teens, and children. The broad aim of the guild is to evolve and produce resources comparable to or exceeding the quality of other curriculum outlets.

Principally, last quadrennium brought about the revision of the adult curriculum, which not only involved a name change to *Liberating Faith Studies*, but an updated format. This revision was a collaborative effort between the leadership of the A.M.E. Publishing House and the Christian Education Department. Notable in the revision was the introduction of *Sankofa*, a space which gives writers an opportunity to include cultural stories of Africans and people of African and other descents, and *Case Study*, where writers can collate current global events, the bible text and each lesson’s goals. The publication *Soul Stories: African American Christian Education* by Dr. Anne E. Streaty Wimberly was one of the guiding resources in this revision.

CURRICULUM WRITERS

Liberating Faith Studies

Rev. Dr. D. Melynda Clarke

Rev. Lionel Merritt

Rev. Dr. Linda E. Mouzon

Dr. Catherine Powell

Intermediate

Rev. Faith Waters

Dr. Kabrina Bass

Senior

Dr. Dennis C. Dickerson, Jr.

Junior

Rev. Christal Bell

Rev. Dr. Monica C. Jones

Rev. Rachel Williams-Glenn

Daily Spiritual Vitamins

Rev. William Miller

This report is written with immeasurable gratitude to these writers who use their gifts in service to God with excellence and with a cooperative spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Recommendations to the General Board

As points of reminder and reiteration, it is recommended that:

- AME members, particularly church leaders, pastors, clergy, and Christian educators at each level of the church, sign-up for the Daily Spiritual Vitamins (www.ameced.com)

It is further recommended that:

- persons with gifts and interest in writing (particularly curriculum development) be encouraged to join the Writers Guild. Online registration is available at www.ameced.com/writers-guild
- AME members on social media, particularly church leaders, pastors, clergy, and Christian educators at each level of the church, be encouraged to connect to the Department's Twitter (@ame_ced) and Facebook.
- AME members, particularly church leaders, pastors, clergy, and Christian educators at each level of the church, be encouraged to purchase the 2022 Advent/Christmas Devotional Meditation Guide and the 2023 Lenten Devotional Meditation Guide produced jointly by the Christian Education Departments of the AME, AMEZ, and CME Churches.
- the prayers and strong support of the Church through good attendance in-person and virtually of Church leadership, Christian educators, pastors, ministers, and most importantly youth and young adults be encouraged for the 29th Connectional Christian Education and Youth Congress, June 30-July 2, immediately following this General Board Meeting.