50th Quadrennial Session
General Conference
African Methodist Episcopal Church

THE FIRST REPORT OF THE VOTING COMMISSION

TO: **Senior Bishop John R. Bryant, Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr. – General Conference Commission Chair, Bishop Julius McAllister – President of the Council of Bishops, Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram – Bicentennial Chair and Host Bishop, Bishop Richard F. Norris – General Board Chair, and to the Bishops of the Church, Supervisors, former Supervisors, General and Connectional Officers, College Presidents and Deans, Chaplains, Delegates, Alternates, Observers, and all of you my sisters and brothers in Christ.**

PART A

DIRECTIONS FOR VOTING PROCESS

I.   INTRODUCTION

During the 50th Quadrennial Session of the AME General Conference we will use electronic handsets to register our votes quickly and accurately. This system has been selected to expedite the voting process, which involves electing candidates, and voting on motions and amendments. By voting electronically, we will be able to reduce the amount of time involved in making these important selections and increase the accuracy of the balloting process.

These voting handsets look a bit like a TV remote control, but instead of pushing buttons to change channels, we'll be pushing buttons to enter yes, no, and abstain, as well as to elect Bishops and other leaders. For the election of Bishops you will enter two sets of three digit numbers using your keypad. You will enter the number for each of your two selections one candidate position at a time. Each candidate number can be found in the packet list that was sent out with the worksheets for the election of the Episcopal Committee Chairperson, Bishops, General Officers, and Judicial Council Members. When you enter a candidate number, for example "101" for the number for candidate Jane Doe, the number you enter will be displayed on your handset's screen. When you press the "Send" button your selection will be wirelessly transmitted to a computer that will record all votes and tabulate the final results of each ballot. These results will be checked by the Chair of the Election/Voting Commission after each ballot and then announced by the Presiding Officer. All of your votes will remain private.

We will use Exhibit Hall A & B for our general sessions, which include electronic voting. The leader of your delegation will provide you with your assigned electronic voting handset on the first day of conference voting. The ID number of the keypad will be assigned to you; however, your personal information will only be kept with **Option Technologies** and not shared with the conference. This is done to verify your vote, and you will be responsible for returning the unit at the end of each day of the conference.

Since electronic voting is new to some delegates, we'll start the meeting off with "test votes" to get everyone comfortable with the procedure. The Election/Voting Commission Chair will pose a question and give you 30 seconds to vote. During this interval, you'll be able to change your vote should you wish to do so. The system counts only the last button you pushed: the 1 button for *Yes*, and the 2 button for *No.* When the 30-second interval is over, the Chairman will announce that the vote is complete, and shortly thereafter announce the results.

Every vote taken throughout each session of conference will be conducted using electronic voting. Each time, you'll have 30 seconds to convey your vote. If you don't want to participate in a particular vote, don't push any buttons during the 30 second voting interval; if you make a mistake in voting, simply vote again. The system will tabulate the last vote that you enter. If you input an incorrect number during the voting and you see it on the keypad screen before you press send, and would like to change it press the DEL button on the upper-left to remove one number at a time.

If you inadvertently turn your handset off by pushing the power button in its lower-**right** corner; push this button again to turn your handset back on. During non-voting portions of the session pressing any other button on you keypad will have no effect on the system. During the voting process any buttons that don't correspond with the number(s) of selections onscreen will be invalid.

When you leave the conference general session each day please return your handset to the leader of your delegation. If you forget to turn in your handset, your delegation leader will follow-up with you after the conference and ask you to return it.

Every handset will be tested before the conference, so the probability of a handset failing is very low. That said, if pushing your handset's 1 button or 2 button during a vote does not produce the word "Received" on its display to confirm that your vote has been tabulated, please let your Episcopal District Election Commission Member know and they will go to the Electronic Voting Help Desk in the rear of the hall; you'll be issued a new handset. We don't expect this to happen, but be prepared for this eventuality.

If you're wondering how much radio energy is used by a handset to convey your vote wirelessly, it uses half the power of a typical cell phone, and transmits for only a brief instant after you vote by pushing the 1 button or the 2 button, using the same frequencies as Wi-Fi wireless internet access.

If you have any questions regarding the electronic voting systems or procedures, please contact a Election Commission Member or visit the Electronic Voting Help Desk in the rear of the conference hall.   Those individuals will be identified in their company uniform.

II.   DISTRIBUTION OF KEYPADS

A.   the voting apparatus (keypad) is stored in a secure container. Each pad has its own cubicle.

B.   The keypads will be distributed and collected in each district by the voting commission persons from each district with the assistance of the General Conference marshals.

C.   The District marshals will be responsible for the distribution and collection of the keypads from the other voting members, i.e. Bishops, General Officers, etc.

D.   The pads will be distributed prior to voting and collected immediately after the close of the voting or election(s)/Business session.

NOTE: The loss and/or damage of a keypad will cost the individual involved a minimum of $280.00

PART B

ELECTIONS

We, the Voting Commission of the General Conference wish to make this our report to the 50th Session of the General Conference. Our report today will explain our voting procedures and recommend several items which would aid in the implementation of the process.

Following the directive of the General Conference Commission, led on by Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., we respectfully present to the General Conference the concept of "Electronic voting"; the capacity to simultaneously take a vote of more the 1,800 persons and obtain the result/tabulation of the vote in less than two minutes. This process will not require members of the General Conference to leave their respective seats.

I. RULES

A. The voting process will be explained and demonstrated to the membership of the General Conference. The election processes are explained and demonstrated to the candidates or his/her designee prior to it being explained to the assembly.

B. Those individuals and/or Episcopal Districts requiring additional demonstrations and instructions in the voting process and use of the equipment will be given additional instructions at a designated time and place.

C. The instructions will include but not be limited to (a) an explanation of the process (b) how to use the equipment (c) care of and accounting for the "equipment".

D. Please refrain from using any personal wireless hot-spots during the voting process as this will help eliminate/control possible electronic interference.

E. The General Conference Marshals and Election/Voting Commission will be responsible for the distribution and collection of the voting apparatus in the voting area.

II. PROCEDURES

A. The candidate's name, number and categories for the various positions will be shown on the video screen. Each person voting will also have a personal "hard copy" of the information.

B. The voting assembly will be given an appropriate length of time to make his or her choice of candidate in each of the individual categories.

C. The assembly will vote on one and only one category during the appropriate interval.

D. The allocating of appropriate uniform time intervals/breaks between ballots/votes, to allow for "negotiations" will be built into the voting process. (A MAXIMUM OF 30 MINUTES)

E. Only the Candidate, the Candidates Sponsor/Bishop and one representative will be allowed to enter the area of negotiations, other campaign workers and supporters will be required to stay in their seats. The candidates will be required to submit in writing the person designated to accompany them in the designated negotiation area prior to the election.

F. The Candidate, the Candidates Sponsor/Bishop and one representative will be allowed to have one cellphone each on the stage during the election for the ability to communicate with the assembly.

G. It will be the responsibility of the each candidate to make sure that their campaign workers and supporters understand fully that only the designated person will be allowed to walk with them and that anyone who violates this procedure will be removed from the general assembly hall.

H. The Chair of the Episcopal Committee will be elected during the First Day, Business Session 1. The order of election for others will be as follows: (1) General Officers, (2) Judicial Council, and (3) Bishops.

I. The voting process will proceed uniformly down the ballot until all categories have been voted upon. As results are declared the voting will proceed to the next category. Those categories wherein no one is elected will be held in abeyance until the next "round" of voting.

J. A ballot will consist of a listing of all categories being shown on the screen once. The exception of this rule will be in the category of Judicial Council and Bishop wherein more than one person is to be elected to those positions. Example: If four persons are to be selected to the Judicial Council, that screen must be shown four times with each voter selecting one person from each screen.

K. The results of the vote in each category will be shown on the screen immediately after the votes are tabulated.

The Voting Commission humbly requests that the 50th Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal, Inc., approve this First Report.

Your Commission,

Bishop James L. Davis, Chair
Committee Members

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
50th Quadrennial Session
GENERAL CONFERENCE

(2016)
ELECTION BALLOT

OFFICIAL LIST OF 2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE CANDIDATES
AS CERTIFIED BY THE OFFICE OF THE
GENERAL SECRETARY/CIO

100 CHAIR OF EPISCOPAL COMMITTEE

101 MAYBERRY, HAROLD R. (Rev. Dr.)

102 THOMPSON, TAYLOR T. (Rev. Dr.)

200 GENERAL OFFICERS

210 Treasurer/CFO

211   LEWIS, RICHARD ALLEN (Dr.)

220 General Secretary/CIO

221   COOPER, JEFFERY BERNARD (Rev. Dr.)

230 AMEC Department of Retirement Services

231   HARRIS, JEROME V. (Rev. Dr.)

240 Global Witness and Ministry

241   FLOWERS, GEORGE F. (Rev. Dr.)

250 Historiographer/Director of Research & Scholarship, Editor of AME Review

251   FRY BROWN, TERESA L. (Rev. Dr.)

260 President/Publisher, Sunday School Union

261   BELIN, RODERICK DWAYNE (Rev.)

262   GREEN, HENRY E. JR. (Rev.)

263   PARKER, JOSEPH (Rev.)

270 Editor of The Christian Recorder

271   GLENN, V. GORDON III (Rev.)

272   GRANT, VELMA E. (Rev.)

273   THOMAS, JOHN III (Mr.)

280 Department of Christian Education

281   BASS, KABRINA W. (Ms.)

282   GALLMON, JOY L. (Rev.)

283   GREEN, VIVIAN (Rev.)

284   JOHNSON, AMANDA L. (Ms.)

285   JONES, ROY P. JR. (Rev. Dr.)

286   PIERCE, GARLAND F. (Rev. Dr.)

287   SMITH, ROBIN PORTER (Mrs.)

290 Church Growth and Development

291   HAMPTON, DENNIS J. (Rev.)

292   McLAMORE, CHARLES CARNELL (Rev. Dr.)

293   MAYES, TERENCE L. SR. (Rev. Dr.)

294   WADE, JAMES C (Rev. Dr.)

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313   GOLDEN, JAMES T., Esq. (Rev.)

314   GREEN, O. JEROME, Esq. (Rev. Dr.)

315   HOWARD, DELMAN (Rev.)

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332   DAWSON, WARREN H., Esq.

333   MAYBERRY, PATRICIA M., Esq.

334   RHODES, BRIAN MATTHEW. Esq.

335   WRIGHT, TANIA E., Esq.

340 Lay Alternate

341 BATTLE, STARR L., Esq.

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405	BROOKINS, FRANCINE A., (Rev. Dr.).
406	CALLOWAY, KELVIN T. SR., (Rev. Dr.)
407	COOPER, KATURAH YORK (Rev. Dr.)
408	EASON, GREGORY VAUGHN SR. (Rev. Dr.)
409	GOFF, NORVEL SR. (Rev. Dr.)
410	GRAY I, TERENCE RENARD (Rev.)
411	GREENEBARR, CECELIA (Rev. Dr.)
412	HENDRICKS, UKLYN AUGUSTUS (Rev.)
413	HENNING-BYFIELD, E. ANNE (Rev. Dr.)
414	INGRAM, DARYL B. (Rev. Dr.)
415	MITCHELL, MICHAEL LEON (Rev. Dr.)
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426	WICKER, STAFFORD J. N. (Rev. Dr.)
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428	WILLIAMS, DARRYL R. (Rev.)
429	WRIGHT, FREDERICK A. (Dr.)
430	YATES, ELIZABETH E. (Rev.)
431	ZANDERS, MARVIN CLYDE II (Rev.)