PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
FIFTH SESSION
Western New York Annual Conference
African Methodist Episcopal Church

May 24-27, 2001

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
1525 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209

Bishop Donald George Kenneth Ming
Presiding Prelate

Rev. Dr. Ernestine Miriam Ward
Presiding Elder

Rev. Richard Allen Stenhouse
Host Pastor

Rev. Dr. Micah D. Chandler
Chief Secretary

Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley
Assistant Secretary
The Fifth Session of the Western New York Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, convening at Bethel AME Church, Buffalo, New York, assembled in the sanctuary for the purpose of organization on Thursday, May 24, 2001 at 9:00 A.M. Bishop Richard Allen Hildebrand, the 88th elected Bishop of our Zion (retired) is serving as our resident Bishop due to the illness of our Presiding Bishop, The Right Reverend Donald George Kenneth Ming. The entire Annual Conference family as well as the First Episcopal District and the Connectional Church prays for the healing of Bishop Ming. The Right Reverend Richard Franklin Norris, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the 14th Episcopal District of our Zion, assists Bishop Hildebrand in the work of this annual conference. After greeting the Annual Conference Bishop Hildebrand called for the reading of the Annual Conference Roll.

The Chief Secretary, The Reverend Wayne Arthur Johnson, Sr. was presented to read the Annual Conference Roll Call. Bishop Hildebrand thanked Reverend Johnson for the work that he had done as the Annual Conference Secretary since the inception of the Annual Conference. This will be Reverend Johnson’s last session to serve as the Chief Secretary due to his impending transfer to the New York Annual Conference and pastoral appointment to People's Institutional AME Church, Brooklyn, New York.

**Western New York Annual Conference Roll Call May 2001**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Itinerant Elders</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Absent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Donald George Kenneth Ming</td>
<td>Excused</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Richard Allen Hildebrand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, Sr.</td>
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**The Reverends:**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Present</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ernestine M. Ward</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natalie Alford</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lorraine Fields-Bradley</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ella Brandon</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pedro A. Castro, Jr.</td>
<td>X</td>
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The following changes were made to the Annual Conference Roll:

- The name of The Reverend Thomas Davis (Itinerant Elder) was referred to the Memoirs Committee.
- Transfers: Reverend Jocelyn K. Hart from Philadelphia AC to Western NYAC; Reverend John C. Justice from New Jersey AC to Western NYAC

The Secretariat extends its apology to The Reverend Delores V. Wynn for omitting her name during the reading of the Local Elders of the Western New York Annual Conference Roll Call. Presiding Elder Ward was then called upon to read the organization of the Annual Conference.

Bishop Hildebrand asked that Presiding Elder Ward proceed with the organization of the Annual Conference and the organization is as follows.

**Western New York Annual Conference Organization**

Presiding Prelate .................................................. Bishop Donald George Kenneth Ming

Episcopal Supervisor ........................................... Sister Edith White Ming

(In Memoriam)

Chief Accountant .................................................. Dr. Joseph D. Tull

Treasurer ............................................................. The Reverend Norvel Goff, Sr.
A motion was made by The Reverend Richard A. Stenhouse and seconded by The Reverend Norvel Goff, Sr. that the organization of the Conference be adopted. Motion carried.
Presiding Elder Ward then presented the organization of the Finance Committee.

*The Finance Committee*
The Reverend Richard Allen Stenhouse, Chairman
The Reverend Dr. Ernestine M. Ward
The Reverend Robert L. Reynolds
The Reverend Dr. Micah D. Chandler
The Reverend Lorraine Fields Bradley
The Reverend Dr. George L. Larkins, III
The Reverend Norvel Goff, Sr., Treasurer

*Lay Members*
Sister Lucretia Bowie - Bro. Thomas Davis
Sister Elizabeth Ruth - Bro. Celes Tisdale

A motion was made by The Reverend Richard A. Stenhouse and seconded by The Reverend Norvel Goff, Sr. to receive the organization of the Finance Committee. Motion carried.

The organization of the Conference Trustee Board was then presented by Presiding Elder Ward.

*THE TRUSTEE BOARD*
_The Reverend Richard Allen Stenhouse, Vice Chairman_
The Rev. Dr. Ernestine M. Ward
The Rev. Dr. Micah D. Chandler
The Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart
The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr.
The Rev. Robert L. Reynolds
The Rev. Lorraine Fields Bradley
The Rev. Ella M. Brandon

*Lay Members*
Dr. Elmer Green
Bro. Thomas Davis
Sister Rebecca Lowery
Sister Caroline Hoffman
Sister Lenora Johnson
Sister Amaza G. Savage

A motion was made by The Rev. Richard Allen Stenhouse and seconded by The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley to receive the organization of the Trustee Board. Motion carried.

The organization of the Judiciary Committee and Tiers of Appeals was given by the Presiding Elder.

*THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE*
_The Reverend Norvel Goff, Sr._
The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley
The Rev. Richard Allen Stenhouse
The Rev. Robert L. Reynolds
The Rev. Ella M. Brandon

*THE TRIERS OF APPEALS*
_The Reverend Richard Allen Stenhouse_
The Rev. Dr. Micah D. Chandler
The Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart
The Rev. Robert L. Reynolds
The Rev. Dr. George L. Larkins, III

A motion was made by The Rev. Richard Stenhouse and seconded by The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr. to receive the organization of the Judiciary Committee and the Tiers of Appeals. Motion carried. Bishop Hildebrand then asked for the Presiding Elder to read for informational purposes only the members of the Ministerial Efficiency Committee.

*MINISTERIAL EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE*
_The Reverend Richard A. Stenhouse_
The Rev. Robert L. Reynolds
The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr.
The Rev. Ella M. Brandon
The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley
The Rev. William C. Cobb, Jr.

A motion was made by The Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse and seconded by The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr. that the boundary of the Annual Conference would be identified as the first seven rows across the church. Motion carried.
The names of the Lay Delegates to the Annual Conference were then ni
by the Presiding Elder.

**Delegates to the Annual Conference**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHURCH</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bethel, Buffalo</td>
<td>Bro. Celes Tisdale</td>
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<td>Baber, Rochester</td>
<td>Sis. Gayle Gayton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint John, Niagara Falls</td>
<td>Bro. Woody Bass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israel, Albany</td>
<td>Sis. Lillian Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agape, Buffalo</td>
<td>Sis. Amaza G. Savage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delaine-Waring, Buffalo</td>
<td>Sis. Lenora Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bethel, Schenectady</td>
<td>Sis. Lucille Givens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bethel, Lackawanna</td>
<td>Sis. Laura Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Mark, Kingston</td>
<td>Sis. Rebecca Lowery</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Church, Lockport</td>
<td>Bro. Charles Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bethel, Olean</td>
<td>The Rev. Rosalind Baugh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel, Coxsackie</td>
<td>Sis. Lucretia P. Bowie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint James, Utica</td>
<td>Bro. John Robinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bright Chapel, Syracuse</td>
<td>Sis. Angela P. McDowell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Zion, Buffalo</td>
<td>Sis. Margie Tisdale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payne, Chatham</td>
<td>Bro. Curtis Johnson</td>
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**Information given to the Conference**

Bishop Hildebrand inquired of the membership whether nor not the Western New York Annual Conference desired to remain the same or return to the New York Annual Conference? While the General Conference has the sole authority to establish Annual Conference within our Zion, if it is the pleasure of the Annual Conference, Western New York could meet with the New York Annual Conference. The Conference responded in the negative expressing a desire to Bishop that it remain as one of the seven Annual Conferences composing the First Episcopal District. The Annual Conference membership was then asked to prepare for the morning worship service.

**Opening Day Worship Service**

**The Rev. Dr. Ernestine Ward, Worship Leader**

The Western New York Annual Conference Department of Evangelism held a brief devotional service. The Conference rose and reverently sang the Processional Hymn, "The Church’s One Foundation." Following the Doxology, the host pastor, The Rev. Richard Allen Stenhouse gave the Call to Worship. The conference sang the Hymn of Praise, "And Are We Yet Alive!" which was lined by The Rev. Dr. Micah D. Chandler.

The Invocation was given by The Rev. Robert L. Reynolds and the choirs of Bethel Church led in the singing of the Choral Response: "Spirit of the Living God."

**Musical Selections:** The music for the 5th Session of the Western New York Annual Conference has been under the direction of Minister Melvin Bryant, whose musical expertise has provided exceptional music for the opening worship service. Musicians assisting Minister Bryant are: Sister Jacqueline Hemphill-Peoples, Sister Monique McKissick, Minister Warren Curtis, Bro. James Gaines, Sister Juliet Jones, Bro. Brandon Felder and Bro. James Livingston.

Musical selections rendered were: "Sing to the Lord," "Still Pressing" (written by Minister Melvin Bryant in memory of our former Episcopal Supervisor, Sister Edith White Ming in recognition of her motto: "Press On!") and "Jesus Be A Fence." The scripture lessons for the worship service were: Samuel 30:1-6, read by The Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart, and Ephesians 1:3-7 by the Rev. Dr. George L. Larkins, III. The Conference was lead in the final Decalogue by The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr.

**Presentation by the Presiding Prelate:** After establishing protocol, the Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District of our Zion, Bishop Donal George Kenneth Ming, was presented by Presiding Elder Ward. In presenting Bishop Ming, the Presiding Elder spoke of the splendid pastoral record noting his service at Bethel, Beverly, New Jersey, the building of Mount Zion, Dover, Murphy, Chester and Allen, Jamaica. The phenomenal accomplishments of his episcopacy was also noted. Another characteristic of Bishop Ming is that he is a builder; not only of houses of worship, educational facilities and clinics; he is a builder of individuals as well.

Presentation of Bishop Richard Allen Hildebrand: While standing, Presiding Elder Ward also presented Bishop Richard Allen Hildebrand the resident Bishop. Bishop Hildebrand is credited with instituting the New York Annual Conference Ministerial Institute and served as the Chairman of the Board of Examiners. He is respected as a scholar, recognized as an outstanding and gifted preacher of the gospel of our Lord and theologian.
Bishop Hildebrand thanked Presiding Elder Ward for her gracious introduction and noted that there is something mystical about an AME Church Annual Conference. Bishops Richard Franklin Norris and Vernon Randolph Byrd were presented and introduced to the Annual Conference. Comments were extended to the choir and musical staff for the outstanding music being offered at the opening session of the Annual Conference. Bishop Hildebrand also stated that he and Bishop Norris are representing Bishop Ming, their brother in the Episcopacy. A moment of silence was held as the Conference paused to pray for our Presiding Prelate as well as to reflect upon the life and legacy of our former Episcopal Supervisor, Mother Edith White Ming. “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saint.”

The gifts for missionary outreach were then received and the offertory vs sung. The Rev. Dr. Wayne Arthur Johnson, Sr. led the conference in eulogy. The preacher for the Annual Sermon was presented by Bishop Hildebrand who stated he had known her since her membership at Beth AME Church, Copague, New York. Following the singing of the sermon hymn, “Break Thou the Bread of Life” which was lined by The Reverend Ella M. Brandon, Bro. John Bradley, the husband of the preacher of the morning and first man of St. Mark AME Church, Kingston, New York, sang “He That Dwelleth” and “O How I Love Jesus.”


The Invitation to Christian Discipleship was made by the preacher of the morning as the choir sang, “If It Had Not been For the Lord.” The Finance Committee was then called to receive the morning offering. Out of District Guests were presented: Bishop Vernon Randolph Byrd, First District Presiding Elders, Pastors and laity visiting the Annual Conference.

New York: The Reverends O’Neil Mackey, Sr., William Lee Freeman, Vern I.T.F. Lowe, Sr., Henry A. Belin, III, and Carrie C. Nobles; Sister F. Je Harris, First Episcopal District Lay President; Sister Mary Mootoo, New York Annual Conference Lay President; Sister Margaret Bell, President New York Conference WMS; and the Reverends Carlton C. Gibson and Christopher Gillins.


Bishop Hildebrand recognized the presence of the distinguished ladies of the Connection and First Episcopal District: Mother Mary Norris, Mother Zell Hildebrand, Sister Mildred Lofton, Ambassador to Bishop Ming, Sister Jeannette Cumberland, Sister Amelia Eddy, Sister Betty Jefferson, Sister Charlotte Tull, and Sister Sharon Stenhouse.

The presence of Rev. Dr. William Lee Freeman, retired Presiding Elder: the Manhattan District of the New York Annual Conference after 71 years in the Itinerant Ministry was acknowledged. Dr. Freeman greeted the Annual Conference and thanked the Bishops of the Church who are presiding in the absence of Bishop Ming.

The visitors to the Annual Conference were again thanked by Bishop Hildebrand for their presence. Announcements were then made by the host pastor, The Rev. Richard Allen Stenhouse. Bishop Hildebrand asks the Annual Conference to reassemble at 3:00 P.M.

Holy Communion Service: The sacrament of Holy Communion was administered with Bishop Richard Franklin Sr. serving as the chief celebrant and Bishop Vernon Randolph Byrd serving as the Co-Celebrant. The Presiding Elders of the First Episcopal District also assisted Presiding Elder Ward in the distribution of the communion. They were: The Reverend O’Neil Mackey, Sr., Vernon I.T.F. Lowe, Sr., Harold L. Rutherford, Herbert L. Eddy and Joseph D. Tull.

Following communion, the Annual Conference sang, “Lord, I Lift your Name on High” and the benediction was pronounced by the preacher of the morning, The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley. “And they sang a hymn and we out.”
First Day
Afternoon Session

Devotions were conducted at 3:00 P.M. by members of the Western New York Annual Conference Department of Evangelism, The Rev. Lorra Fields-Bradley, President.

Bishop Norris the Presiding Officer for the Afternoon Session greeted Annual Conference and expressed his thanks and appreciation to Bishop Ming for allowing him to assist Bishop Hildebrand with the series of Annual Conferences. Words of thanks were also expressed to Bishop Hildebrand for allowing him to learn the Episcopacy from such as Episcopal giant.

Presiding Elder Ward was then asked to read her summary for the Albany-Rochester District. The pastors of the District were then asked to be prepared to read. The pastors read in the following order:

**CHARGE**
- Bethel, Buffalo
- Baber, Rochester
- St. John, Niagara Falls
- Israel, Albany
- Agape, Buffalo
- Delaine-Waring, Buffalo
- Bethel, Schenectady
- Payne, Chatham
- St. Mark, Kingston
- First, Lockport
- Bethel, Coxsackie
- Bethel, Olean
- Bright Chapel, Syracuse
- Mount Zion, Buffalo
- Bethel, Lackawanna
- St. James, Utica

**PASTOR**
- The Rev. Richard Stenhouse
- The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr.
- The Rev. Micah D. Chandler
- The Rev. Harold L. Rutherford
- The Rev. Wayne A. Johnson, Sr.
- The Rev. Robert L. Reynolds
- The Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart
- The Rev. Ella Brandon
- The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley
- The Rev. Dr. George L. Larkins, Jr.
- The Rev. Isabel Johnson
- The Rev. Dr. Ernestine M. Ward
- The Rev. Percy Jones
- The Rev. Anne Hargrave-Pinn
- The Rev. William Cobb, Jr.
- The Rev. Samuel Bell

**Observations by Bishop Norris**

Bishop Norris thanked the clergy for the unique manner in which the pastoral reports were presented. The Rev. John C. Justice presented his transfer from the New Jersey Conference to the Western New York Annual Conference. The Reverend George L. McKnight favored the Conference with the singing of “The Storm is Almost Gone.”

The Literary Reports were then called for by Bishop Norris. Bishop Norris called for the chairpersons of the Annual Conference Committees to be prepared to read their respective reports. Those Committee who are not ready at this time are requested to be prepared for the second day session of the Annual Conference.

Education; Temperance; Missions, Circuits and Stations; Charge Classification and Publication Committees will be presenting reports on May 20, 2001.

**The Presiding Elder’s Support and Apportionment** was presented by The Rev. Harold L. Rutherford. The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr. made the motion that the report be received and adopted. The Rev. Dr. Micah D. Chandler seconded it. Motion carried.

**The Christian Education Report** was read by Sister Thelma Lanier. Bishop Norris thanked the Committee on Christian Education for their report. The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr. made the motion that the report be received and adopted. It was seconded by The Rev. Dr. Micah D. Chandler. Motion carried. Dr. Earl Jefferson, First Episcopal District of Christian Education was acknowledged for the work he continues to do in the arena of Christian Education.

**The Committee on Deeds and Abstracts** report was given by The Rev. Richard S. Stenhouse. All documents are in order and copies are on file with the Secretary of the Annual Conference Trustee Board. The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr. made the motion that the report be received and adopted. It was seconded by The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley. Motion carried.

**Classification of Pastors Report** was read by the Rev. Harold L. Rutherford. The Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse made the motion that the report be received and adopted. It was seconded by The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley. Motion carried.
Evangelism Report was read by the President, The Rev. Lorraine Field Bradley. The Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse made the motion that the report be received and adopted. It was seconded by The Rev. Norvel Goff. Motion carried. Bishop Norris stated that the growth of our church depends on a well-organized thrust for evangelism. "We must fertilize our plants so that they may grow."

The Conference Branch WMS was commended for their program last evening and no one was brought before the Ministerial Efficiency Committee at the Annual Conference.

Noteworthy Comments:
The Rev. Dr. Earl R. Jefferson was asked to give direction to the Annual Conference regarding the Conference Institute on the District Theme "Moving from Status Quo to Christian Purpose" which will be held on Friday, May 25, 2001 at 8:15 A.M.

The Evangelists are asked to begin promptly at 8:00 A.M. and the business session will commence promptly at 9:15 A.M. The Board of Examiners will give their report tomorrow. The Rev. Ward Grier of the United Methodist Church was presented to greet the Annual Conference. Following his greeting, Sister Mary P. Williams greeted the Annual Conference and presented Presiding Elder Ward with a portrait painted by The Rev. William C. Coblentz Jr. from her family.

The worship service in celebration of Lay Night will be held this evening at 7:30 P.M. It is requested that members of the Conference be present for the Annual Lay Night service. The afternoon session concluded with the singing of "Blessed Assurance." Bishop Richard Allen Hildebrand pronounced the Benediction.

First Day - Evening Session

The evening worship service was conducted by the Lay Organization of the Conference, Bro. Thomas Davis, Conference President. The worship leader for the service was Bro. Meredith Anding, Bethel AME Church, Buffalo, New York. The speaker of the evening was Sister F. Jane Harris, First Episcopal District Lay President. Sister Harris spoke from the theme: "To Serve the Present Age." Please refer to Conference printed program for participants.

Bishop Norris acknowledged the presence of The Rev. Robert and Karen Jones, Pastor and First Lady of St. Mark AME Zion Church and thanked them for their attendance and extended his greeting and best wishes to Bishop Walker, Presiding Prelate of their Zion.

Second Day - Morning Session

FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2001

Dr. Earl Jefferson, First District Director of Christian Education began the morning session with singing, prayer and the reading of the scripture, Matthew 28:19-29 the emphasis was placed on the concept of the "Great Commission." Dr. Jefferson explained to the seminar attendees that we are responsible for the going out and coming in of souls. The "Great Commission" is the mandate for stewardship, evangelism and church growth. If we take the time to read the book of Jeremiah we find an excellent example of what god is mandating and what he wants us to do. In reference to stewardship, Dr. Jefferson stated that when we think about stewardship we often think about money, methods and people. Stewardship is about how we use the gifts entrusted to us from God. It is also one of the means by which the church grows. Our current theme is a mandate that tells us that we must move away from the status quo or sameness. We are comfortable with things that are familiar. We need as a people to move towards "Holiness." Dr. Jefferson also led a discussion about the music in our churches and concluded that everyone in church needs Christian education. When we look at leadership we need to consider efficiency and effectiveness. The seminar was concluded.

The conference Department of Evangelism led the morning devotionals we prepared our hearts and minds for the morning business session. Rt. Reverend Richard Franklin Norris, Sr. greeted the conference and called for the reading of the proceedings of the First Day Morning Session.

The Reverends Wayne A. Johnson and Micah D. Chandler read the minutes. After the minutes of the proceedings were read a motion was made by The Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse and seconded by The Rev. Lorraine Field Bradley that the minutes of the First Day Morning Session would be received and adopted with the necessary corrections should there be any. The
was a question on the floor from Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr. in reference to order that the Pastoral Reports were read and asked that the minutes reflect the correction. So noted the motion carried.

The proceedings of the First Day Afternoon Session were then read. Motion was made by The Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse and seconded by The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley that the minutes be received and adopted with necessary corrections should there be any.

Bishop Norris then called for the reading of the Literary Reports and stated that the floor would accept questions, comments or concerns in reference to the reports. The Rev. Robert Reynolds read the report on Temperance. After the reading of the report Bishop Norris called the motion to accept the report. The motion was made by The Rev. Richard Stenhouse and seconded by The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley. Motion carried.

The Rev. Norvell Goff, Sr. read the report on “The State of the Church.” After the reading of the report, Bishop Norris called the motion to accept the report. The motion was made by The Rev. Richard Stenhouse and seconded by The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley. Motion carried.

The Rev. Micah D. Chandler read the report on “The State of the Counti...” After the reading of the report, Bishop Norris called the motion to accept the report. The motion was made by The Rev. Richard Stenhouse and seconded by The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley. Motion carried.

The Reverend Jocelyn Hart read the report on “Social Action”. After the reading of the report, Bishop Norris called the motion to accept the report. The motion was made by The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr. and seconded by The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley. Motion carried.

The Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Johnson read the report on “Publication.” After the reading of the report, Bishop Norris called for the motion to accept the report. The motion was made by The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr. and seconded by The Rev. Robert Reynolds. Motion carried.

The Rev. Robert Reynolds gave the report on “Missions, Circuits & Sections.” After the reading of the report, Bishop Norris called the motion to accept the report. The motion was made by The Rev. Richard Stenhouse and seconded by The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley. Motion carried.

The Rev. Harold L. Rutherford read the report on “Ministerial Classification.” After the reading of the report Bishop Norris called for the motion to accept the report. The motion was made by The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr. and seconded by The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley. Motion carried.

The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr. read the report on “Charge Classification.” After the reading of the report Bishop Norris called for the motion to accept the report. The motion was made by The Rev. Robert Reynolds and seconded by The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley. Motion carried.

The Rev. Harold L. Rutherford read the report on “Presiding Elder’s Support.” After the reading of the report Bishop Norris called for the motion to accept the report. The motion was made by The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr. and seconded by The Rev. Lorraine Fields-Bradley. Motion carried.

The reading of the Literary Reports was completed and Bishop Norris stated to the conference how he was pleased to receive the reports and the work that was done to complete them. Bishop Norris called for the Report of the Board of Examiners. The Rev. Harold L. Rutherford, Dean called upon the Rev. Wayne A. Johnson, Sr., secretary of the Board to read the report.

THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

The Rev. Harold L. Rutherford, Dean
The Rev. Wayne A. Johnson, Sr., Secretary
The Rev. Robert L. Reynolds, Registrar
Presiding Elder Ernestine Miriam Ward, Consultant

To the Presiding Prelate, Bishop Donald George Kenneth Ming, Bishop Richard Allen Hildebrand, and Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, Sr. and the members of the Fifth Session of Western New York Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

We, The Board of Examiners, wish to make the following report.

We have conducted an Institute for all candidates who have been recommended by their local church and District Con-
ference to the ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

As per the Discipline, we have instructed, interviewed and examined all applicants concerning their conversion experience, their call to preach and their striving toward the mark of perfection. The following is our report and recommendations of all persons seeking ordination to the Itinerancy and Local Ministry in the Western New York Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

CLASS ON SECOND YEAR STUDIES

Sister Christine Slaughter: Sister Slaughter is a member of Baber AME Church, Rochester, New York, The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr., Pastor. She is 39 years of age, single. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University and is pursuing a Master’s Divinity degree at Northeastern Seminary, Rochester, New York.

The Board recommends her election and ordination as an Itinerant Deacon.

LOCAL RELATIONS

Fourth Year:
Rev. Jeanette Johnson - Payne AME Church, Chatham, New York, the Reverend Ella M. Brandon, Pastor.

The Board recommends her election and ordination as a Local Elder for Payne AME Church. The Board has received a letter from the respective church requesting her ordination.

The Board of Examiners

DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS

Who are the preachers admitted on trial?
None at this time.

Who will remain on trial?
None at this time.

Who are admitted or readmitted to full connection?
None at this time.

Who have been elected and ordained deacons?
Sister Christine Slaughter, Baber AME Church, Rochester, NY

Who have been elected to be ordained Elders?
The Rev. Jeanette Johnson, Local Elder, for Payne AME Church, Chatham New York.

Who have been located this year?
No one.

Who have been elected by the General Conference to exercise the Episcopalian Office and to superintend the African Methodist Episcopal Church?
The Superintendency of the African Methodist Episcopal Church has been entrusted to the active Bishops of the Church.

Who are the supernumerary preachers?
The Reverends Elijah Green, Pedro A. Castro, Jr., and Natalie Alford.

Who are the superannuated preachers?
The Reverend James C. Waters

Who have been expelled from the Connection by this conference?
None.

Who have withdrawn from the Conference and the Connection this year?
None
All the preachers blameless in life and conversation?
Bishop Norris announced that all characters of the ministers in the Western New York Annual Conference were declared passed.

What members of the Conference have died this year?
Mrs. Edith White Ming, Episcopal Supervisor, The Rev. Thomas Davis, Itinerant Elder.

Have all the preachers subscribed to the Christian Recorder, and also to the AME Review, The Voice of Missions, The Journal of Christian Education, Secret Chamber, or The Missionary Magazine?
Yes.

What preachers are indebted to any of the Departments or the Church Pulpit?
None.

Does each Station, Circuit or Mission in this Annual Conference have a Lay Organization?
All congregations do not have a Lay Organization.

If not, what stations, circuits or mission in this Annual Conference do not have a Lay Organization?
A list is requested from the Conference Lay President, Bro. Thomas Davis.

When shall this Annual Conference meet next?
The date for the next Annual Conference will be given by Bishop Mironia, the First Episcopal District Planning Meeting to be held at the Headquarters Building on June 7-8, 2001.

Where shall our next Annual Conference be held?
The Reverend Robert L. Reynolds and Delaine-WaringAME Church, Buffalo, NY have extended an invitation for the Sixth Session of the Western New York Annual Conference to be held at Historic Bethel AME Church, Buffalo, New York.

Where are the preachers stationed this year?
The preachers will be assigned at the will of the Bishop with a single eye to the glory of God.
our deceased Episcopal Supervisor, Mrs. Edith White Ming. He played a medley that included, Amazing Grace, Guide Me O' Thou Great Jehovah, and God of Our Fathers.

Following the playing of music, Rev. Turk gave his text Matthew 14:22. His subject was "When the Storms of Life are Raging, Keep Your Eye on Jesus." Our hearts burned with great joy as we were lifted higher and higher. A powerful sermon was preached the preacher opened the doors of church with the musicians singing and playing the great gospel tune "When the Storms of Life are Raging."

The Finance Committee was called upon to receive the afternoon offering. Bishop Norris announced that we would be in recess until the evening session, we were encouraged to return to support the Christian Education Department. The host pastor gave announcements. The Doxology was sung, Rev. Turk pronounced the benediction.

Second Day
Evening Session

The Department of Christian Education sponsored the evening program. Mrs. Thelma Lanier is the Conference Director and the program was dedicated to naming the "Youth of the Year". During the course of the evening, Presiding Elder Harold L. Rutherford was recognized for the leadership he has given to the department over the last past year.

Bishop Norris acknowledged our out of conference guests, Ms. Wanda Ringgold, First District YPD Director and Mr. Malcolm Guyton, President of First District YPD. (Refer to program for details.)

Third Day - Morning Session
SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2001

Upon his arrival, The Rt. Rev. Richard F. Norris greeted the Annual Conference and called upon the Secretary to read the minutes of the Second Day proceedings. The proceedings of the Second Day were then read by Reverends Micah D. Chandler and Wayne A. Johnson. Reverend John stated the minutes should be amended to reflect the transfer of himself, the New York Annual Conference and his subsequent assignment to Pe...
Harold L. Rutherford. Our Hymn of Praise was Hymn No. 91, “How Great the Wisdom”. We were led to lofty heights by the singing of the Be Choir of their rendition of “I Will Lift Up My Eyes.”


After the prayer, Bishop Norris made the plea for Missions and spoke at the Richard Allen Hildebrand Clinic in Haiti and all gifts given would 1 towards the completion of the clinic. Bishop Norris then proceeded to introduce the speaker of the hour, The Rt. Rev. Vernon R. Byrd. Bishop Ne in his introduction noted the many accomplishments of Bishop Byrd in United States and abroad. After the lining and singing of the serm hymn, No. 299, “O Master Let Me Walk With Thee” the conference then led to lofty heights by a special solo (“I’ll Rise Again”) by the Lorraine Fields-Bradley.

The Rt. Rev. Vernon R. Byrd delivered the Ordination Sermon, "Living En Lives.” During the course of his sermon Bishop Byrd reminded us that only excuse for living is to bear fruit and that we were not reservoirs, ra we were channels for God. Bishop Byrd offered the invitation to Chris Discipleship.

Bishop Norris acknowledged the presence of Dr. Muriel Howard, Presi of Buffalo State College and her husband. Presiding Elder Ward als< knew the presence of Mr. Gwendolyn Johnson, Office Manager, I Episcopal District Headquarters, Philadelphia, PA.

Bishop Norris requested that all the literary reports be included as appears in the minutes. This was so noted by the Chief Secretary. Bishop E then pronounced the Benediction. (See appendix)
Bishop Norris then addressed the Annual Conference and made a plea to missions. He spoke about the conditions in West Africa and the composition of this six-nation district and the needs of the district. The 14th Episcopal District is a composition of some 200 congregations and 44 schools, one of the poorest areas on the Continent of Africa. Bishop Mingquested that all gifts received in this offering would be given to Bishop Norris to further his work in Africa. The pastors of Bethel, Buffalo and Rochester each presented the Bishop with checks for $1,000 each. Bishop Norris thanked the pastors, churches and the Annual Conference for their generous gifts.

Following the singing of Mr. Richard Smith ("I'll Fly Away") and the Annual Conference Choir, Rev. Norvel Goff lined the sermonic hymn, No. 4: "I've a Message from the Lord." Following other remarks, the preacher of the hour, The Rt. Rev. Richard F. Norris announced his text and subject: the text was II Cor. 4:1-7; subject, "A Safe Place For Treasure." After the sermon, Bishop Norris extended the Call to Christian Discipleship with singing of one of the great hymns of Christendom: "Just As I Am." Bishop Norris then called for the Finance Committee to receive the offering.

After the offering, Bishop Norris acknowledged the presence of the following individuals: Mother Mary Norris, Episcopal Supervisor, 14th Episcopal District; Mrs. Jean Booker, Public Relations Director, First Episcopal District; Mrs. Charlotte Tull; Mrs. Betty Jefferson; Mrs. Thelma Lanier, Director of Christian Education; Ms. Toni Harris, Director WNY, YWCA; Mrs. Louise McCoillum, WNY Missionary Society President; Mr. Thomas Davis, WNY Lay President; Ms. Kathy Carswell, WNY Missionary Society President; Mrs. Sharon Stenhouse, Missionary Advisor, Bethel, Buffalo, and Presidet Elder Ernestine M. Ward for her outstanding leadership and service to the church over the years. Bishop Norris also acknowledged the great music department of Bethel Church for the outstanding music rendered at the conference.

Bishop Norris called for the reading of the Resolutions. The Chief Secretary informed the Bishop and the Annual Conference that the report is not ready and would be forwarded to the Episcopal Seat. Bishop Norris then called for the reading of the Statistical Report. The Robert L. Reynolds, Statistical Secretary, gave the following statistics relative to the Fifth Session of the WNYAC: conversions 77, accessions 24, membership 4,376. Total amount raised for local purposes $2,380,357.

After the singing of hymn no. 242, "A Charge To keep I Have", and before presenting the certificates and appointments, Bishop Norris informed the Annual Conference that all appointments and conference officers were signed and approved by the Rt. Rev. Donald G. K. Ming and that he was only the facilitator. Bishop Norris then proceeded to distribute the certificates to the various components and specialized ministries within the Western New York Annual Conference.

The Annual Conference was then led in the singing of "Go Preach My Gospel". The scripture lesson selected by Bishop Norris was Luke 9:1-6 and the prayer was given by the Bishop. The Bishop then proceeded to make the pastoral appointments. With the conclusion of the distribution of the Pastoral Appointments, the Doxology was sung and the Resident Bishop pronounced the benediction, The Rt. Rev. Richard F. Norris.
RECEIPTS:

I. Outreach Ministry, Connectional Claims
   Connectional Budget ................................................................. $31.79
   Ministerial Annuity ................................................................. 18.61
   Periodicals ................................................................................. 3.56

II. Episcopal District Ministry
   Continuing Education ............................................................... 3.36
   District Administration .............................................................. 5.03
   General Conference Sustentation ............................................. 3.39
   Headquarters Budget ............................................................... 7.51

III. Annual Conference Operations
   Annual Conference Development ........................................... 4.61
   Roll Call ................................................................................... 7.71
   Advance Offerings ..................................................................... 2.80
   Conference Sustentation .......................................................... 3.39
   Other (Christian Ed., Church School, Evangelism, Ecumenical, etc.) .. 3.06

IV. Worship in Giving ................................................................. 20.51

TOTAL .......................................................................................... 104.81

DISBURSEMENTS

I. Outreach Ministry, Connectional Claims
   Connectional Budget ................................................................. $31.79
   Ministerial Annuity ................................................................. 18.61
   Periodicals ................................................................................. 3.56

II. Episcopal District Ministry
   Theological Education ............................................................... 3.50
   District Administration .............................................................. 5.03
   Mission Outreach ...................................................................... 5.64
   General Conference Sustentation ............................................. 3.39
   Headquarters Budget ............................................................... 7.51

III. Annual Conference Operations
   Annual Conference Development ........................................... 4.61
   Annual Conference Expense * ................................................ 19.69
   Other (Chr. Ed., Church School, Evangelism, Ecumenical, etc.) .. 3.06
   Annual Conference Sustentation ............................................. 3.39

TOTAL .......................................................................................... 104.81

RECAPITULATION

Receipts ....................................................................................... $104.81
Disbursements ........................................................................ $104.81
Balance .................................................................................... 1

* Ministerial Institute, Board of Examiners Expense, Printing, Supplies, Courtesies for confi:
visitors, transportation, cabinet, clerical staff, conference officers, et. al.