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Bethel A.M.E. Church

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**FIRST EPISCOPAL
DISTRICT**
African Methodist Episcopal Church

District Theme
"Moving From Status Quo to Christian Purpose"
Matthew 28: 19, 20

6TH SESSION

Western New York

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

April 30 - May 5, 2002



Delaine-Waring AME Church

680 Swan Street
Buffalo, New York 14210

The Rev. Robert L. Reynolds, Host Pastor
The Rev. Ernestine M. Ward, Host Presiding Elder
Mrs. Carrie R. Grady, Episcopal Supervisor
Bishop Zedekiah L. Grady, Presiding Prelate

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, April 30, 2002

Evangelist Day

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

7:30 A.M.

The Western New York Annual Conference
Women's Missionary Society's
Annual Meeting

11:00 A.M.

Women's Missionary Society's
Annual Sermon
The Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart

1:00 P.M.

Recess for Lunch

2:00 - 5:30 P.M.

Women's Missionary Society's
Business Meeting

7:30 P.M.

Women's Missionary Society's
Involvement Night

Thursday, May 2, 2002

WESTERN NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

8:00 A.M.

Devotions: Conference Evangelists

8:30 A.M.

Roll Call

Organization of the Conference
Appointment of Committees

10:00 A.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE

ORDER OF SERVICE

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2002

The Rev. Ernestine M. Ward
Worship Leader

ORGAN PRELUDE ...

INTROIT ...

* PROCESSIONAL AME Hymn No. 519
"The Church's One Foundation"

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the word.
From heaven He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder Men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed:
Yet saints their watch are keeping, Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Yet she on earth hath union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, On high may dwell with Thee.

* DOXOLOGY AME Hymn No. 547
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP The Rev. Robert L. Reynold

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into
the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within
thy gates, O Jerusalem.

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will
seek thy good.

Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. Lord, I
have loved thy habitation, the place where thy
honor dwelleth.

For the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation
of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord,
my strength and my redeemer.

O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.

* HYMN OF PRAISE The Rev. John C. Just
"And Are We Yet Alive"
AME Hymn No. 304

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

Preserved by power divine To full salvation here,
Again in Jesus' praise we join, And in His sight appear.

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

But out of all the Lord Hath brought us by His love;
And still He doth His help afford, And hides our life above.

Then let us make our boast Of His redeeming power,
Which saves us to the uttermost, Till we can sin no more.

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

INVOCATION The Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse

CHORAL RESPONSE AME Hymn No. 189
"Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart"

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

** WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC Delaine-Waring AME Church Choir

SCRIPTURE

Old Testament The Rev. William C. Cobb, Jr.

New Testament The Rev. Anne Hargrove Finn

* PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE ...
"From All That Dwells Below the Skies"

* THE DECALOGUE The Rev. Norvel Goff

* GLORIA PATRI "Glory Be To The Father"

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC Delaine-Waring AME Church Choir

GIFTS FOR MISSIONS The Rev. Lorraine F. Bradley

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC Delaine-Waring AME Church Choir

* THE LITANY The Rev. Natalie P. Alford

Oh God, Our Heavenly Father, by whose goodness,
mercy and grace we have been brought into yet
another session of this great Annual Conference,

We offer praise and thanksgiving unto Thee.

For the African Methodist Episcopal Church, its
leadership and its people, whom you have blessed
so abundantly over the years,

We offer praise and thanksgiving unto Thee.

For the year of service and work that has passed, for
an opportunity to give an account of our steward-
ship, and for the year that lies ahead of us,

We offer praise and thanksgiving unto Thee.

For all who have a place in our lives and in our
hearts, who are connected to us by the sacred ties
of kindred friendship and love,

We offer praise and thanksgiving unto Thee.

For the mission that is ours, and for the many new
challenges and opportunities that are before us in
these challenging and changing times,

We offer praise and thanksgiving unto Thee.

For the gift of Thy Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ, whom Thou did send as a living example for
us, who died on Calvary's cross for our sake and
who rose again,

We offer praise and thanksgiving unto Thee.

Amen.

** WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC Delaine-Waring AME Church Choir

PRESENTATION OF
THE BISHOP The Rev. Ernestine M. Ward

PRESENTATION OF
THE PREACHER Bishop Zedekiah L. Grady

** SERMONIC HYMN The Rev. Ella M. Brannon
"Break Thou the Bread of Life"
AME Hymn No. 209

Break Thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves Beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee, O living Word!

Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, To me, to me,
As Thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, All fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace, My all in all.

Thou art the bread of life, O Lord, to me,
Thy holy Word the truth that saveth me;
Give me to eat and live With Thee above;
Teach me to love Thy truth, For Thou art love.

O send Thy Spirit, Lord, Now unto me,
That He may touch my eyes, And make me see;
Show me the truth concealed Within Thy Word,
And in Thy book revealed I see the Lord.

** THE ANNUAL SERMON The Rev. Micah D. Chandler

** INVITATION TO
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP The Rev. Micah D. Chandler

** THE OFFERING The Finance Committee

* OFFERTORY ...

** INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS ...

COMMUNION HYMN AME Hymn No. 22
"There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood"

SERVICE OF COMMUNION
Bishop Zedekiah L. Grady, Chief Celebrant

Assisted By
Visiting Bishops, General Officers, the Presiding Elder
and Visiting Presiding Elders

HYMN OF FELLOWSHIP AME Hymn No. 52
"What A Fellowship"

* DOXOLOGY ...

* BENEDICTION The Rev. Micah D. Chandler

* Stand
** Let The People Enter

The Afternoon Agenda
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2002

- 1:00 P.M. Recess for Lunch
- 2:45 P.M. Devotions:
Conference Evangelists
- 3:00 P.M. Business Session
- 5:30 P.M. Recess
- 7:30 P.M. Lay Organization
and Commitment Night

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2002

- 8:00 A.M. Devotions:
Conference Evangelists
- 8:15 A.M. Conference Institute
"Christian Education"
The Rev. Earl R. Jefferson
Presenter
- 9:15 A.M. Business Session
- 12 Noon Hour of Power

ORDER OF SERVICE

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2002 - HOUR OF POWER

The Rev. Micah D. Chandler
Worship Leader

- * DOXOLOGY AME 6
"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

- * CALL TO WORSHIP The Rev. Anne Hargrove Pi

Seek ye the Lord where He may be found,

Call ye upon Him while He is near.

The hour cometh and now is, when the true
worshippers shall worship Him in spirit and in truth.

For the Father seekth such to worship Him.

Oh come, let us worship Him in spirit and in truth.

- ** HYMN OF PRAISE The Rev. Percy Jon
"The Comforter Has Come"
AME Hymn No. 199

O spread the tidings 'round wherever man is found,
Wherever human hearts and human woes abound;
Let every Christian tongue proclaim the joyful sound:
The Comforter has come!

(Refrain)

*The Comforter has come, the Comforter has come!
The Holy Ghost from heaven, the Father's promise given;
O spread the tidings 'round wherever man is found:
The Comforter has come!*

The long, long night is past, the morning breaks at last,
And hushed the dreadful wail and fury of the blast,
As o'er the golden hills the day advances fast!
The Comforter has come!

O boundless love divine! how shall this tongue of mine
To wondering mortals tell the matchless grace divine:
That I, a child of hell, should in His image shine!
The Comforter has come!

INVOCATION The Rev. Pedro Castro

CHORAL RESPONSE AME Hymn No. 415
"My Faith Looks Up To Thee"

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away, O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

SCRIPTURE The Rev. Ella Mae Brandon

* GLORIA PATRI ...

GIFTS FOR MISSIONS ...

** WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC The Choir

PRESENTATION OF
THE PREACHER Bishop Zedekiah L. Grady

** SERMONIC HYMN The Rev. Craig J. Wright

SERMON ...

* INVITATION TO
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP ...

** OFFERING The Finance Committee

* THE OFFERTORY ...

ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

* DOXOLOGY BENEDICTION

* Stand
** Let the People Enter

The Afternoon Agenda FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2002

1:00 P.M. Lunch
2:45 P.M. Devotions:
Conference Evangelists
3:00 P.M. Business Session
5:30 P.M. Recess
7:30 P.M. YOUTH NIGHT
Sponsored by
The Department of
Christian Education

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2002

8:30 A.M. YPD ANNUAL MEETING
Venue to be Announced
Devotions:
Conference Evangelists
8:45 A.M. Business Session
9:45 A.M. Memorial Service
10:00 A.M. Ordination Service

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2002

2:00 P.M.

CHURCH-SCHOOL

Church-School will be held at all member churches. The Conference Church-School Superintendent, however, will conduct a model Church-School at the seat of the Annual Conference. All superintendents are expected to be present at this unique "once a year" experience.

Church-School Brother Joseph Thomas, Sr.

Devotional Reading Acts 13:26-39

Background Scripture Galatians 1:1,2

Printed Text Galatians 1:1,2,6-12;2:15-21

Golden Text Galatians 2:16

"We have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law."
Galatians 2:16

3:00 P.M.

CLOSING AND COMMISSIONING SERVICE

CLOSING AND COMMISSIONING SERVICE

The Rev. Ernestine M. Ward
Worship Leader

PRELUDE ...

* PROCESSIONAL AME Hymn No. 568
"God of Our Fathers"

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be Thy strong arms our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory laud, and praise be ever Thine.

* DOXOLOGY AME Hymn No. 647
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP The Rev. Robert L. Reynolds

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into
the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within
thy gates, O Jerusalem.

**For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand.
I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my
God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will
seek thy good.

**Those that be planted in the house of the Lord,
shall flourish in the courts of our God.**

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. Lord, I
have loved thy habitation, the place where thy honor
dwelleth.

**For the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the
earth keep silence before Him.**

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of
my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my
strength and my redeemer.

**O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has
done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise
unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.**

** HYMN OF PRAISE The Rev. George L. Lark
"Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart"
AME Hymn No. 8

Rejoice, ye pure in heart,
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
Your glorious banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.

(Refrain)
Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice,
give thanks and sing.

Bright youth and snow-crowned age,
Strong men and maidens meek;
Raise high your free, exulting song,
God's wondrous praises speak.

With all the angel choirs,
With all the saints on earth,
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
True rapture, noblest mirth.

Then on, ye pure in heart,
Rejoice, give thanks and sing;
Your glorious banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.

INVOCATION The Rev. John C. Justice

CHORAL RESPONSE ...

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC The Annual Conference Choir

THE SCRIPTURE

Old Testament The Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse

New Testament The Rev. Ella M. Brandon

* PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE ...

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

* DECALOGUE (Summary) The Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart

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

* GLORIA PATRI "Glory Be To The Father"

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

- WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC The Annual Conference Choir
- GIFTS FOR MISSIONS The Rev. Miah D. Chandle
- ** WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC The Annual Conference Choir
- PRESENTATION OF
THE BISHOP The Rev. Ernestine M. Warren
- ** SERMONIC HYMN The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr.
"I've A Message from the Lord"
AME Hymn No. 215

I've a message from the Lord, Hallelujah!
The message unto you I'll give;
'Tis recorded in His word, Hallelujah!
It is only that you "look and live."

Refrain
"Look and Live," my brother, live,
Look to Jesus now and live;
'Tis recorded in His word, Hallelujah!
It is only that you "look and live."

I've a message full of love, Hallelujah!
A message, O my friend, for you;
'Tis a message from above, Hallelujah!
Jesus said it, and I know 'tis true.

Life is offered unto you, Hallelujah!
Eternal life thy soul shall have,
If you'll only look to Him, Hallelujah!
Look to Jesus, who alone can save.

I will tell you how I came, Hallelujah!
To Jesus when He made me whole:
'Twas believing on His name, Hallelujah!
I trusted, and He saved my soul.

- SERMON Bishop Zedekiah L. Grady
- ** INVITATION TO
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP Bishop Zedekiah L. Grady

** OFFERING ...

* OFFERTORY ...

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

OF GUESTS Bishop Zedekiah L. Grady

* SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS ...

** ANNOUNCEMENTS Bishop Zedekiah L. Grady

THE COMMISSIONING SERVICE

THE CHARGE AME Hymn No. 242

"A Charge To Keep I Have"

A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify,
A never dying soul to save
And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfill;
O may it all my powers engage
To do my Master's will!

Arm me with jealous care,
As in Thy sight to live,
And O, Thy servant, Lord, prepare,
A strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray,
And on Thyself rely
Assured, if I my trust betray,
I shall forever die. Amen.

THE GIVING OF
CERTIFICATES TO CONFERENCE OFFICERS ...

THE HYMN AME Hymn No. 220

"Go Preach My Gospel"

"Go, preach My gospel," saith the Lord,
 "Bid the whole earth My grace receive.
 Explain to them My sacred word;
 Bid them believe, obey, and live."

"I'll make My great commission known,
 And ye shall prove My gospel true
 By all the works that I have done
 And all the wonders ye shall do."

"Go, heal the sick; go, raise the dead;
 Go, cast out devils in My name;
 Nor let My prophets be afraid,
 Though Greeks reproach and Jews blaspheme."

"While thus ye follow My commands
 I'm with you till the world shall end;
 All power is trusted in My hands;
 I can destroy and can defend."

He spake, and light shone round His head,
 On a bright cloud to heaven He rode.
 They to the farthest nation spread
 The grace of their ascended God.

SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER ...

THE READING OF
 APPOINTMENTS Bishop Zedekiah L. G.

* DOXOLOGY ...

* BENEDICTION Bishop Zedekiah L. G.

* Stand

** Let the People Enter



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