



Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization
African Methodist Episcopal Church

RESOLUTION by The Committees on Social Action and AME V-Alert

To President Simeon Rhoden and the leadership the Fifth Episcopal Church we thank God, President Rhoden and the Conference leadership for the opportunity to serve on this committee. We humbly submit this report which synthesizes our prayer reflection:

The Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization is mindful that the African Methodist Episcopal Church is called to both priestly and prophetic responsibility, and being faithful to promote God's kingdom on earth, set forth the following proposals for social action that will uphold the legacy of the AME Church, which long ago declared that "working with and for the poor and disenfranchised is not an addendum to an already crowded agenda but the very essence of who we are and what we must do", and

Whereas, we join in grief with Mother Emanuel Church in the loss of her pastor, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, and members - the Rev. Daniel Simmons Sr., Mrs. Cynthia Hurd, the Rev. Sharonda Singleton, Ms. Myra Thompson, Mr. Tywanza Sanders, the Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Ms. Susie Jackson, and Ms. Ethel Lance, along with the family of Ms. Sandra Bland and the DuPage Church in Lile, Illinois, we pray and ask for the God of love, mercy and grace to comfort; restore and give peace to family members and of all of us who have been shaken and saddened by these tragedies. May our faith be strengthened and our hope restored. and

Whereas, the recent Charleston, South Carolina tragedy; the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri; Eric Garner in Staten Island; Akil Gurlu in New York; Tamir Rice in Cleveland, Ohio; Ezell Ford in Los Angeles, Freddie Gray in Baltimore, Walter Scott in North Charleston, and Sandra Bland in Waller County Texas, our nation's president being called "a monkey," disrespected and having his citizenship questioned, are all indicative of a systemic race problem, and

Whereas, The United States incarcerates more of its citizens than any country on the planet. The prison population increased from just over 300,000 in 1972 to its current population of over 2.2 million, which includes 700,000 inmates in local jails. One in three young African American men are now under the control of the Criminal Justice System. The drive towards private-zation of prisons dangles a profitable price tag on the head of each inmate who falls prey to the profit-seeking investors in human commodity, and

Whereas, "The Social Action Committee believes that the 5th District Lay Organization can shed light on the issues impacting greatly our nation-view of race, like gun violence, mass incarceration, public school and foster care system failure, scams abuse against our elders, and poverty," then

Be It Resolved that we therefore recommend that if not already existent, each Conference Lay Organize a Social Action/ AME V Alert Committee to both initiate action, report results, and respond when needed. This Lay Initiative would have a tab on the front page of the 5th District Lay Organization website to capture our work on social action issues that might include but not be limited to mass incarceration of Black males and other people of color, human trafficking, abuse in foster care, elder care/abuse, gun violence, and voter disenfranchisement, and

Be It Also Resolved that we support the General Board on September 2nd at the National Press Club, in joining with our sister communions and other partners to constrain this nation to address the issue of race in this nation, and

Be It Finally Resolved that , we propose that the Connectional Lay Organization partner in the *Covenant Project to Eradicate Mass Incarceration, fighting against the enemies of justice and freedom by organizing, identifying and supporting a network of local churches, organizations and initiatives, and join in the action to be taken at the site of the 50th General Conference of the AME Church in July 2016.*

*Respectfully submitted,
5th District Social Action/ AME V-Alert Committee
Roxanne Buchanan (Pacific Northwest)
Sandra Dockery (California)
Naomi Evans (Midwest)
Pearline Hayes (Southern California)
Evelyn Sutton (Deseert Mountain)
Nixetta Williams (Missouri)
Doris Jones (Desert Mountain) co-chair
"Jackie" Dupont-Walker, chair*