

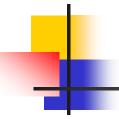
African Methodist Episcopal Church

History, Organization, and Processes
Guide to Knowing your Church

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- Richard Allen, the architect of African Methodism was born a slave in Pennsylvania in 1760.
- He worked and purchased his freedom and his brother's.
- He was converted to Christianity at an early age.

Sarah Allen





- Born a slave in Virginia 1764
- Married Richard Allen, August 18 1801
- Six children, four boys and two girls
- First Missionary
- Yellow Fever Epidemic- received an award for tireless work in Philadelphia



St George Methodist Episcopal Church

- He preached and spread the gospel throughout his community.
- Along with other free persons of African descent, he joined the St. George Methodist Episcopal Church.
- In the early days they were allowed to worship with the Caucasian parishioners and assisted with the building of the Church's gallery.

1787 Reverends Richard Allen and Absalom

Jones



- At St. George they were seen as a nuisance in the church and were pulled off their knees while in prayer and ordered to take back seats.
- They founded The Free African Society, which was the beginning of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.



Many Obstacles

- This was not an easy task and there were many obstacles placed before them.
- It was a time when Black folk were called colored people, a time in which slavery was legal, a time in which most people of color had major restrictions placed on their very existence.

1816

Richard Allen called together sixteen representatives from Bethel African Church in Philadelphia, and African Churches in Baltimore Maryland, Wilmington Delaware; Attleboro, Pennsylvania, and Salem New Jersey, to meet in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

 Organized as the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Richard Allen was the founder and first Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). AME is the oldest organization Black organization in existence today.



Logo of the AME CHURCH



African Methodist Episcopal Church

- What does this mean?
- African
- Our local Church is named Bryant Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- What does the title mean? Our church was named after Bishop Harrison Bryant.
- Often African Methodist Episcopal is shorten to A.M.E. Church. The word African means that our church was organized by people of African descent and heritage.
- It does not mean that our church was founded in Africa or that it is for people of African descent only. It simply means that those Americans who founded our Church were of African descent and that we proudly recognize this fact.

Our Motto

- "God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family."
- The evolvement of our motto demonstrates that African Methodists engage in ongoing assessments of our theology and how God speaks to us in changing circumstances.

METHODIST

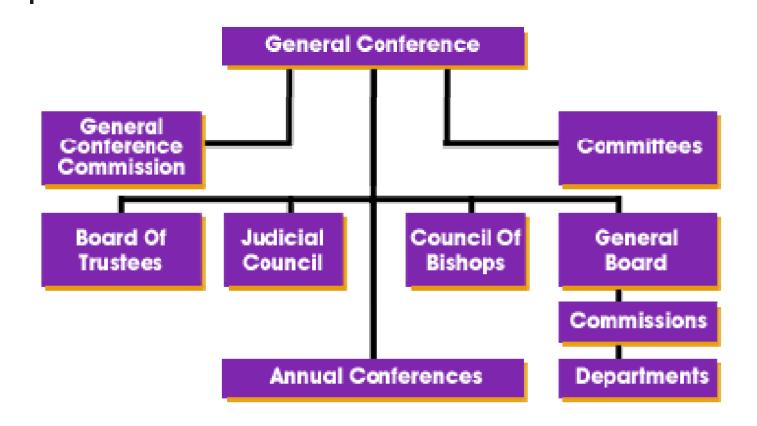


- Our church is a member of the family of Methodist Churches. Richard Allen, our founder and first active bishop, felt that no religious group or denomination would suit the capacity of our people as well as Methodism.
- The Methodist Episcopal Church was an anti-slavery church.
- He was impressed with its emphasis upon the plain and simple gospel. He felt that Methodism had what we needed to encourage us to make progress to worship God freely, and to fill every office which was available in the church and in our total community.

EPISCOPAL

- The word Episcopal refers to the form of government under which our church operates.
- The Episcopal form of government means that the chief executive and administrative officers of our denomination are our Bishops.
- Their authority is given them by the General Conference. In our Church, we are provided a representative form of government, through the Episcopacy.
- Laws are enacted through deliberative discussion, debate, and action.
- In July 2008, we had an opportunity to vote on Bishops and governing laws at the General Conference through elected Lay and ordained delegates.

Episcopacy





MISSION

- The Mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and environmental needs of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed.
- At every level of the Connection and in every local church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church shall engage in carrying out the spirit of the original Free African Society



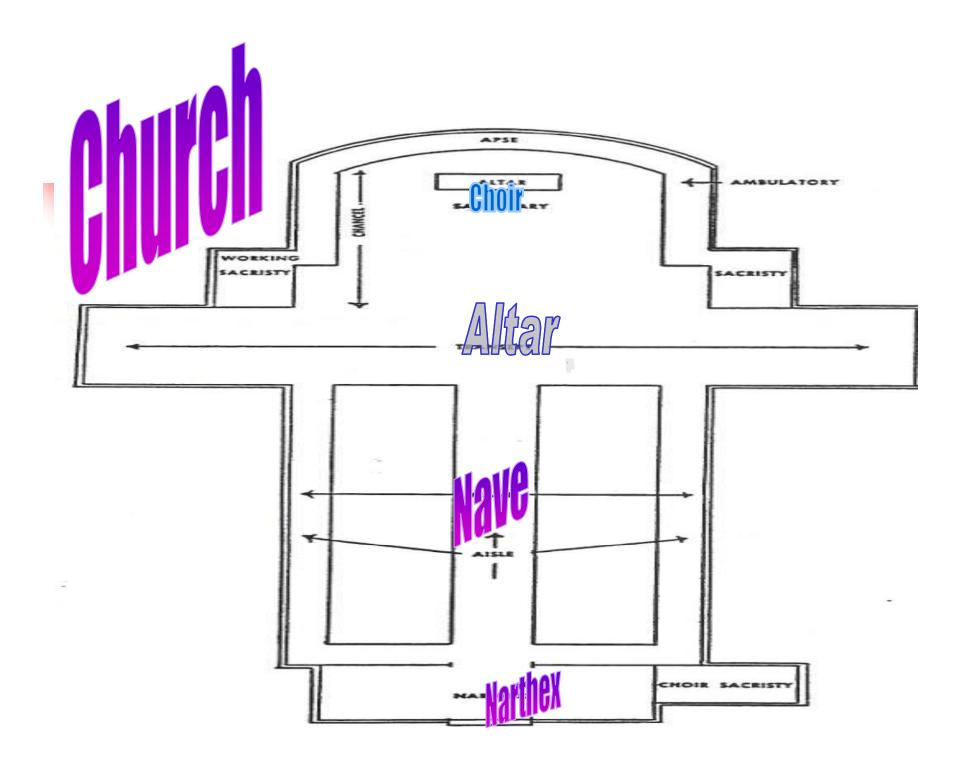
Seek out and Save the lost and Serve the Needy

- 1. Preach the Gospel
- 2. Feed the Hungry
- 3. Cloth the Naked
- 4. Housing the Homeless
- 5. Cheering the Fallen
- 6. Providing jobs for the jobless
- 7. Administering to the needs of those in prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, asylums and mental institutions, senior citizens' homes and caring for the sick, the shut-in, the mentally and socially disturbed,
- 8. Encouraging thrift and economic advancement.



Isaiah 65:23

When you call, I will hear while you are yet speaking I will answer.



Parts of the Church

- Narthex- entrance of the church. Located between the outer doors and the interior of Nave. This area is usually used for getting bulletins, registering guests.
- Nave the division of the church in which the congregation is seated.
 Always enter with quiet reverence.
- Sanctuary- commonly referred to the interior of the church but it refers to the portion of the church in which the Altar is a consecrated place.
- Altar Rail-separates the Alter, the sacred portion from the Nave and is used by worshipers to pray and receive Holy Communion

Parts of the Church



- Altar is the holy table on which nothing is placed except consecrated articles.
- Etiquette dictates that one should not cross in front of the altar during the service or walk during Holy Communion, the Invitation to join the church, prayer or scripture readings.



- Are the hosts and hostesses- are to be respected as the doorkeepers of the house of the Lord.
- And are expected to treat the worshipers with the same respect and courtesy.



Etiquette

- Worshipers should not eat or drink (sodas or water) in the Nave.
- Nor litter the pew with candy wrappers or paper.
- All moving around and talking should be limited to a minimum at all times.



EXPECTATIONS!

- Congregation must stand if able during the Processional,
 Call to Worship, Doxology, Decalogue Biblical Readings,
 Altar Call, Recessional and Benediction.
- Doors that enter the Nave should remain closed during these times.
- Doors that enter the Nave should be opened during the hymns, and Anthem.



"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-

- LEADER: What day is this?
- **PEOPLE:** This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
- LEADER: 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.
- **PEOPLE:** 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.
- LEADER: Because of the House of the Lord, our God, I will seek thy good.
- PEOPLE: Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.

DOXOLOGY



- LEADER: Blessed are they that dwell in Thy House. Lord,
- I have loved Thy habitation, the place where Thy honor dwelleth.
- PEOPLE: For the Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth
- keep silence before him.
- LEADER: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight,
 O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.
- PEOPLE: 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 his praises.

THE DECALOGUE



- Minister: And God spoke all these words saying: I am the Lord, your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other Gods before me. Exodus 20:1-3
- **People:** Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.
- HYMN: Nearer my God, to thee! Nearer to thee, E'en though it be a cross, that raiseth me. Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God to thee. Nearer my God to thee, nearer to thee.
- Minister: Hear what Christ our Savior saith, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.



GLORIA PATRI*

- 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, Amen.

*Congregation Standing

Apostle's Creed

• I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead; and buried. The third day he arose from the dead' he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

RECESSIONAL SONG—



"I will Bless the Lord at all times

Verse:

I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good. I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good. I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good.

He's good, real good, so good; each and every day of my life I'll bless the Lord for He's good.

Vamp 1:

I'll will bless the Lord at all times.

Vamp 2:

I will bless the Lord.

Ending:

I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good.



Ten Commandments

And God spoke all these words saying: I am the Lord, your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other Gods before me.

II

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my comandments. Exodus 20:4-6

III

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misues his name. Exodus 20:7

IV

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God, you shall not do any work; you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day, therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it. Exodus 20:8-11



V

Honor your father and your mother so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12

VI

You shall not murder. Exodus 20:13

VII

You shall not commit adultery,. Exodus 20:14

VIII

You shall not steal. Exodus 20:15

IX

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. Exodus 20:16

X

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox , or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Exodus 20:17

Salvation

- Salvation is a free gift of a Holy God to a sinful world,
 Ephesians 2:8-9
- God so loved the world that He sent His only Son, Jesus as a personal sacrifice.
- All have Sinned Romans 3:23



Who are Christians?

- If you have confessed with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9
- One who has accepted Christ Jesus as his/her personal Savior.
- One that has repented for his/her sins. I John1:9



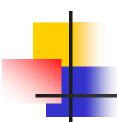
Jeremiah 29:10-11

- ...I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place.
- For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.



Christian Stewardship

- Has an active and consistent time to pray and study the Bible.
- Recognition that our earthly possessions including our time, talents and money are a trust from God.
- As stewards, we are under obligations to use all of these to the Glory of God.
- All members are encouraged to tithe.



A Thought

If you have missed knowing me, you have missed nothing.

If you have missed some of my emails, you might have missed a laugh.

But, if you have missed knowing my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, you have missed everything in the world.

Hierarchy of the Itinerant Ministry



- In the AME Church protocol is determined by position and tonsure. It is accepted that the hierarchy of the Itinerant Ministry is:
- Bishop
- Presiding Elder
- Itinerant Elder
- Iterant
- Deacon
- Local Elder
- Local Deacon
- Evangelist
- Licentiate
- Lay Preacher



Hierarchy of the Episcopacy

- Senior Bishop (Retired)
- Senior Bishop (Active)
- President of the Council of Bishops
- President of the General Board or according to senority (election) who is present when acknowledgments are made.



Local Church Organization:

- 1. Boards
- a. Stewards
- b. Trustee
- c. Stewardesses
- d. Deaconesses
- 2. Licensed Missionary Workers

Organizations:

- a. The Class
- b. Choirs
- c. Church School
- d. Allen Christian Fellowship
- e. Lay Organization
- f. Women's Missionary Society/YPD
- g. Sons of Allen



The Official Board

Composed of all the class leaders, exhorters, deaconesses, stewards, trustees, stewardesses and presidents of all organizations of a station, circuit or mission, including the president of the Lay Organization. The officers, both junior and adult of the Junior Church shall also be members of the Official Board and shall contribute to the funds collected for the church, pastor, presiding elder, the poor and general funds.

Conferences

- The General Conference
- The Annual Conference
- The District Conference
- The Quarterly Conference
- The Church Conference
- Episcopal Districts



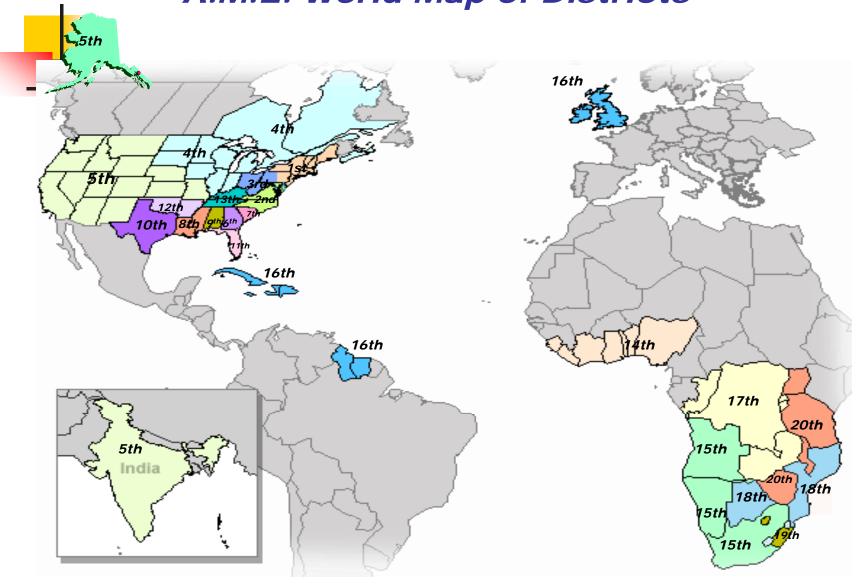
Local Church

- Quarterly Conference
- Consists of ministerial staff, stewardesses, trustees, class leaders, general officers, deaconesses, licensed missionary workers, evangelists and superintendent of the Church School, presidents of all organizations of AME. Held every three months.
- The Church Conference
- Consists of the ministerial staff and church members. The pastor reports to the Church his labors, burdensi, cares.
 Officers should give information of their work.

Fifth District

The Mighty Fifth is composed of 15 states west of the Mississippi :Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Oregon, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and the country of India. The Fifth has seven annual conferences: Pacific Northwest, Desert Mountain, California, Southern California, Midwest Conference and India.

A.M.E. World Map of Districts



Symbols

FLOWERS

FLOWERS are symbolic of the beauty of God and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They symbolize the re-birth of the Savior.

The CHRISTMAS ROSE symbolizes the nativity of our Lord.

The DAISY is the emblem of the Christ Child's innocence.

The EASTER LILY is the symbol of Easter, because it blooms at that time of year.

The LILY OF THE VALLEY means humility and purity.

The PASSION VALLEY is symbolic of Christ's suffering.

The POINSETTIA is a flower that recently has come to signify our Lord's Nativity. The rose is a symbol of Messianic hope, love, our Lord or his Nativity.

The SUNFLOWER is emblematic of the soul turning to Christ, because of the flower's habit of turning toward the sun; it is also symbolic of glory, gratitude, and remembrance.

The VIOLET is a symbol of humility and secrecy because of its location, usually beneath hedges or in the shadow of larger plants.

The POMEGRANATE is a symbol of the resurrection of our Lord and the fertility of the Word.

SYMBOLISM OF THE CHURCH YEAR AND COLORS

WHITE the symbol of the Creator, light, joy, purity, innocence, glory and perfection.

VIOLET denotes mourning and penitence and is also symbolic of humility, suffering, sympathy and

fasting.

PURPLE is the regal color, referring to the purple garments put on our Lord when they mocked him.

(John 19:2; Mark 15:17)

RED depicts divine zeal on the day of Pentecost, and refers to the blood of the martyrs of the

Church.

GREEN is the universal color of nature, signifying hope and growth.

BLACK is the color of grief and sorrow.

GOLD refers to worth, virtue, the glory of God, and Christian might.

SEASONS COLORS

The four Sundays in Advent Violet (or Purple)

Christmas White
Pre-Lenten Sunday Violet
All Sundays in Lent Violet
All other days in Lent, up to Good Friday
Holy Week
Palm Sunday White
Maundy Thursday Violet

Bishops of the AME Church

1st Gregory G. M. Ingram	118	14th Earl McCloud Jr.	127
2 nd James Levert Davis	123	15 th David Rwhynica Daniels Jr.	124
3 rd McKinley Young	109	· ·	
4th John Franklin White	130	16 th E. Anne Henning-Byfield	135
5 th Clement W. Fugh	131	17 th Wilfred Jacobus Messiah	120
6 th Reginald T. Jackson	132	18th Stafford J. N. Wicker	137
7 th Samuel Lawrence Green Sr.	125	19th Paul J.M. Kawimbe	121
8 th Julius Harrison McAllister	129	20th Ronnie E. Brailsford Sr.	136
9th Harry Lee Seawright	133	21st Frank Madison Reid III	138
10 th Vashti Murphy McKenzie	117		
11th Adam J. Richardson Jr.	115		
12th Michael Leon Mitchell	134		
13th Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath	128		



- - First: Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York; Western New York, New England, Delaware and Bermuda
 - Second: Baltimore, Washington,
 Virginia, North Carolina and Western
 North Carolina
 - Third: Ohio, Pittsburgh, and West Virginia
 - Fourth: Indiana, Chicago, Illinois,
 Michigan and Canada
 - Fifth: Seven conferences

- Sixth : Georgia SW & N, Atlanta, Macon, Augusta
- Seventh: Palmetto, South Carolina, Columbia
 Piedmont, N.E. South Carolina and Central South Carolina
- Eighth: S.& N. Mississippi; Central Nor. Louisiana & Louisiana
- Ninth: Alabama, North, Central, East South and West
- Tenth: Texas 4 conferences



Episcopal Districts 11-20

- Eleventh : Florida & Bahamas
- Twelfth: Oklahoma, Arkansas
- Thirteenth: Tennessee, & Kentucky
- Fourteenth: Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, Togo-Benin
- Fifteenth: Cape, S.W.A (Namibia), Kalahari, Queenstown and Angola

- Sixteenth: Suriname-Guyana, Windward Islands, Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Europe
- Seventeenth: Zambia Congo, Brazzawille, Katanga, Kananga, Kasai, Rwanda and Burundi
- Eighteenth: Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Mozambique
- Nineteenth: Orangia East West, ,Natal MM Makone Memorial
- Twentieth: Malawi North South Central, Zimbabwe, South, West, Central



Kathryn Kuhlman once said

• Faith is that quality or power by which the things desired become the things possessed.