

ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

African Methodist Episcopal Church

CEYLC 2025

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION YOUTH
& LEADERSHIP CONGRESS**

July 14-17, 2025



ROSEN CENTRE HOTEL

9840 International Drive | Orlando | Florida 32819

BISHOP MARVIN CLYDE ZANDERS, II | PRESIDING PRELATE
MRS. WINIFRED HOUSTON ZANDERS | EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR
THE REVEREND DR. PAULA LAKE | CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Eleventh Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

101 East Union Street | Suite 301
Jacksonville, FL 32202

The Right Rev. Marvin C. Zanders, II
Presiding Bishop

Telephone: (904) 355-8262
Email: 11thdistrictbishopoffice@gmail.com

Dear Eleventh Episcopal District CEYLC:

Grace and peace to you in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

It is with great joy and heartfelt expectation that I extend greetings to each of you gathered for this year's Christian Education Youth Leadership Congress—a special and historic convening under the inspiring theme, "It's A New Season: It's Time to Reap!" Indeed, this is not just a new year, but a divinely appointed season of harvest, purpose, and forward momentum in the lives of our youth and the life of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Dr. Paula Lake along with the Christian Educators of the Eleventh Episcopal District have prepared a Congress that will transform the culture. I am excited about the powerful lineup of preachers and lecturers who come bearing both Word and wisdom: the dynamic Rev. Dr. Arthur Jackson, III, the prolific Rev. Matthew L. Watley, the passionate educator, Rev. Dr. Challis Bradford, the insightful Rev. Shawn Williams, and the gifted General Officer, the Rev. Brian Blackwell. Your voices will sow seeds of transformation into fertile ground. We welcome you with gratitude and great expectation. And I cannot forget the heartbeat of this Congress—the anointed Congress Choir, whose voices will lift our spirits and open the heavens.



To every young person, youth leader, and participant: know this—God has positioned you for such a time as this. The seeds planted in past seasons through prayer, teaching, and perseverance are ready to bear fruit. Step into this moment with open hearts and open hands.

Supervisor Winifred Houston Zanders joins me in prayer that this Congress be marked by a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit, life-changing encounters, and a renewed commitment to reap the abundant harvest that is already ours in Christ Jesus. Welcome to your new season. It's time to reap!

Peace, Power, and Progress

Marvin C. Zanders, II

The Right Rev. Marvin C. Zanders, II
Presiding Bishop Eleventh Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Florida Conference ♦ Central Conference ♦ South Conference
West Coast Conference ♦ East Conference ♦ Bahamas Conference



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Christian Education Department

July 14, 2025

Bishop Marvin C. Zanders, II
Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Winifred Houston Zanders
Episcopal Supervisor

The Rev. Dr. Paula Lake
Christian Education Director

The Rev. Dr. Rhella Murdaugh
Curriculum Chair

The Rev. Dr. Missouri McPhee
Secretary

**Florida Conference
Christian Education Directors**
*The Rev. Willie Merrick
Dr. Catherine Powell (Assoc.)*

**Central Conference
Christian Education Director**
The Rev. Dr. Roy Jones, Jr.

**South Conference
Christian Education Director**
The Rev. Michael Clark

**West Conference
Christian Education Director**
The Rev. Lynnette Daughtry

**East Conference
Christian Education Director**
The Rev. Dr. Vaseal Montgomery

**Bahamas Conference
Christian Education Director**
The Rev. Winifred Williams

Bible Discovery Superintendent
The Rev. Reginald Johnson

**Music & Christian Arts Ministry
Directors**
*Mr. Gentle Hamilton, III
Mr. Jeremiah Moore (Assoc.)*

Chief Marshal
The Rev. Mikell J. James

Director of Dance
Ms. Devona Johnson

Sons of Allen Coordinators
*The Rev. George Hardy
The Rev. Marque Woodard (Assoc.)*

**Commissioner
Christian Debutante-Master
Commission**
Mrs. Novella Jones

EWU Scholarship Chair
The Rev. Willie Mae Williams

Greetings Congress Attendees!

We have embarked upon a new season with our Episcopal team, The Right Reverend Marvin C. Zanders, II and Supervisor Winifred Houston Zanders leading the way. Welcome home Team Zanders.



This Christian Education Youth & Leadership Congress will be one with engagement, reflection and growth. Our theme, “It’s A New Season: It’s Time to Reap”, invites us to reflect on the seeds of hard work, innovation, and collaboration we have sown. Now, together we step forward to harvest the rewards of our dedication.

The plenary sessions and labs are designed to cultivate, educate, and motivate clergy, laity, and youth to go forth as laborers seeking to take what they have received here at CEYLC to empower their churches and communities to make disciples, for the harvest is plentiful. Special thanks to all our dynamic guest preachers, plenary and lab presenters for allowing God to use your mind to equip the CEYLC attendees.

I am truly blessed to have a gifted and dedicated Christian Education Board, Media, Curriculum, and Registration Team, who collectively work together to bring the vision and purpose of the Congress to fruition.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. We are reaping the harvest God promised us. The time to reap is now-let’s make this ministry season our most fruitful yet!

Privileged to Serve,

Rev. Dr. Paula Lake

MEET OUR GUEST PREACHERS & PRESENTERS



THE REVEREND ARTHUR JACKSON, III has served as Senior Pastor of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Miami Gardens, Florida since March 8, 1991. A native of South Florida, Pastor Jackson was born to Reverend and Mrs. Arthur Jackson, Jr. on May 5, 1964.

Pastor Jackson was licensed as a Minister on October 9, 1988, at the New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Miami, Florida where he served as an Associate Minister under the leadership of his father, Rev. Arthur Jackson, Jr. Pastor Jackson earned the degree of Master of Divinity from Virginia Union University, to further broaden his perspective in exegesis, counseling, leadership, preaching, and teaching.

A man of great character, integrity, wisdom, and counsel, Pastor Jackson's consistent obedience to God has taken the Antioch congregation from the "Faithful Fifty" members to a blossoming ministry of over 7,000 that continues to grow at record pace.

To accommodate the tremendous membership growth, several phases of building expansions have been realized under the direction of Pastor Jackson. A 17,500 square foot Worship Center was already completed under his leadership. An updated, state-of-the-art sanctuary seating over 3000, was opened in September 2021. This facility added an additional 56,000 square feet to our Campus. It is a worship center with a mixture of modern and traditional design elements with activities and spaces for ministry to all ages and the community at large, suited to minister to the lost, making disciples according to the mandate of God's Word.

Pastor Jackson humbly serves God and his community through the fifty-two ministries established at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Miami Gardens. His insightful and inspiring messages tackle and provide relevant, practical solutions to issues ranging from personal crisis, emotional upheavals, relationships, spiritual growth, and fellowship through the Holy Spirit, and the list goes on. Pastor Jackson's dynamic style of preaching demonstrates a keen sensitivity and awareness of the needs of God's people. Potent, prolific, and practical are words that characterize both his ministry and his person.

He is sought over much of the United States and Caribbean as an evangelist, speaker, and lecturer, spreading the Good News of the Gospel. He is the proud father to Jaden Jackson. Seeking to serve, he is a member of the fraternities Kappa Alpha Psi and Sigma Pi Phi.

MEET OUR GUEST PREACHERS & PRESENTERS



PASTOR SHAWN WILLIAMS is a visionary leader, dynamic preacher, and compassionate servant, widely respected across the African American community and beyond. With a reputation for innovative thinking, spiritual insight, and progressive leadership, Pastor Williams is dedicated to empowering individuals and transforming communities through the transformative power of the Word of God.

Affectionately known as “Pastor Shawn,” he is the proud eldest son of Overseer and Lady B.E. Williams. A native of Jacksonville, Florida, he graduated from Jean Ribault High School before pursuing an extensive theological education at Logos Theological Seminary. He holds an Associate of Arts in Biblical Studies, a Bachelor of Arts

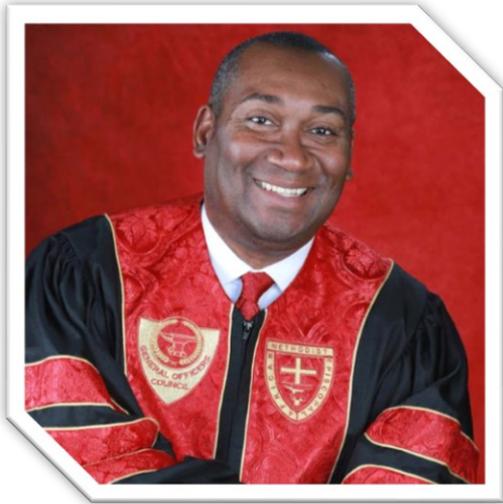
in Christian Education from St. Thomas Theological University, and a Certificate in Developmental Psychology, reflecting his commitment to both spiritual and personal development.

On June 29, 2024, Pastor Williams was joyfully installed as Senior Pastor of Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church in Miami, Florida—enthusiastically referred to as “The Mount.” With a profound passion for teaching and discipleship, he also serves as the Founder and CEO of Shawn Williams Ministries, a national platform dedicated to conducting workshops, revivals, and leadership training. His mission is to raise up devoted disciples of Christ who make a meaningful impact in local and global communities.

Pastor Williams is a unifier, fostering growth, healing, and transformation in every space he touches. His ability to uplift, equip, and connect individuals from diverse backgrounds is a testament to his exceptional leadership. He believes in creating environments where everyone feels valued and inspired to follow their God-given purpose.

At the core of his ministry is his loving wife, Lady Tamera Kelly Williams—a woman of wisdom, grace, and purpose, who faithfully supports his vision and mission. Together, they are dedicated to ministering to their congregation and beyond. Pastor Williams is also a proud father of Joshua, Danny, Tamaryck, and Joy Williams who inspire him to lead with love and purpose each day. With unwavering faith and dedication, he continues to inspire others to live out their calling and make a positive impact in the world.

MEET OUR GUEST PREACHERS & PRESENTERS



THE REVEREND BRIAN K. BLACKWELL was born and raised in Flint, Michigan. He graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree from the Florida A&M University School of Business and Industry. He also earned his Master of Divinity from Turner Theological Seminary at The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC). Rev. Blackwell is also pursuing a Master of Business Administration degree at the University of Michigan-Flint with an anticipated graduation date of 2025.

Prior to answering the call to ministry, Rev. Blackwell worked in several finance and business analyst roles in Corporate America with MeadWestvaco (now Smurfit Westrock), CP Kelco, and McMaster-Carr. He has used this wide-ranging experience for the edification of God's Kingdom.

Rev. Blackwell has served as the pastor of St. Luke AME Church-Birmingham, St. Paul AME Church-Lanett and St. Mark AME Church-Guerryton. In 2017, he was appointed as the pastor of St. Paul AME Church in the Smithfield neighborhood of Birmingham. Since coming to St. Paul Smithfield, Rev. Blackwell worked with the congregation to create multiple feeding ministries and a clothing closet. In 2019, the Smithfield Community Development Corporation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded to provide affordable housing, healthy food and educational opportunities in the Smithfield Community. In 2020, the church was also able to pay off its mortgage three (3) ahead of schedule.

Since 2014, Rev. Blackwell has served on the Board of Directors for Daniel Payne College Legacy Village Foundation as the Treasurer. Rev. Blackwell also serves as the Comptroller of the Ninth Episcopal District. In 2021, Rev. Blackwell was elected to the General Board of the AME Church and served as the Budget Committee Chairperson for the Commission on Statistics & Finance. He was also assigned to the Commission on Retirement Services where he used his financial analysis skills to assist in the actuarial work of the Department.

In 2024, Rev. Blackwell was elected as the Executive Director of the Department of Retirement Services for the AME Church at the 52nd Quadrennial Session of the AME Church General Conference. Rev. Blackwell is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is married to Attorney Lynita Mitchell Blackwell, and they are the blessed parents of Angelica Gwendolyn.

MEET OUR GUEST PREACHERS & PRESENTERS



THE REVEREND MATTHEW L. WATLEY is a dynamic and dedicated pastor, renowned speaker, author, professor, entrepreneur, leadership consultant, and visionary 'kingdom builder'.

As the founder and Senior Pastor of Kingdom Fellowship AME Church, Reverend Watley leads and spiritually guides a thriving community of over 8,000 members. In a remarkable testament to his leadership, the church recently transitioned to a cutting-edge facility, the Kingdom Worship Center, valued at \$45,000,000.

Reverend Watley's community involvement extends beyond the church. As the Chair of The Black IDEA Coalition, he is dedicated to achieving black parity in employment, investment, and contracting. He also leads the Kingdom Global Community Development Corporation, which provides comprehensive support services to address food insecurity, health issues, and outreach to individuals in various communities.

Rev. Watley frequently speaks on economy, culture, leadership, and health equity issues. He has spoken for Ch2Mhill, The Prudential, Industrial Bank, The American Institute of CPAs, the US Department of Transportation, and the Milken Institute. Rev. Watley founded The Kingdom Network (TKN), a leadership program that supports the development of national clergy.

Rev. Watley is a member of the Board of Trustees of Wiley University, the Advisory Board of the Museum of the Bible, the Board of Visitors of the Howard University School of Divinity, the Sub-Saharan Africa Advisory Committee of EXIM, and an at-large member of the General Board of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He has served as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University and lectured at various higher-learning institutions, including Howard University, Alabama State University, Cornell University, Wesley Theological Seminary, and Wilberforce University.

Pastor Watley also has a BA in Political Science and a Master of Divinity from Howard University, an Executive Master's in Leadership from Georgetown University, and a Master of Arts in Education and Human Development from George Washington University. In May of 2021, Pastor Watley was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Wiley College, where he delivered the commencement address to the graduating class of 2021. Rev. Watley is currently a doctoral candidate at Fuller Theological Seminary. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., for his commitment to building a stronger nation through volunteer service. Pastor Watley is the author of several books and articles; *Ignite* is his most recent book.

Pastor Watley professes that among his most significant roles are husband, father, and son. He is married to Shawna Francis Watley, a Senior Policy Advisor at Holland & Knight LLC, and has one daughter, Alexandra Elizabeth Watley. The Watley family resides in the Metropolitan Washington Area.

MEET OUR GUEST PREACHERS & PRESENTERS



THE REVEREND DR. CHALLIS BRADFORD is a student, prayer warrior, Preacher, Psalmist, Teacher, and the servant-leader Pastor to the faith community of Greater Garth African Methodist Episcopal Church in Dallas, Texas. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a focus in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration with a focus in Finance from Letourneau University. She also holds a Master of Divinity with a focus in Social Justice and Theology from Perkins School of Theology on the campus of Southern Methodist University. Additionally, she has a Doctor of Ministry degree from Payne Theological Seminary. Her dissertation title is “*Creating a Shared Vision in the 21st Century Church.*” She is a Certified Accounting

Fundamentalist.

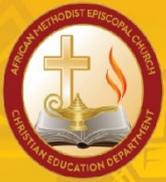
As a Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. member, she serves as Chaplain for the Dallas Alumnae Chapter and Texas/New Mexico State; a member of the Regional and National Chaplains Council. She is on the Board of Directors as the Parliamentarian and Chaplain for the Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women. Professionally, she is a Controls and Reporting Financial Analyst.

Dr. Bradford is the Grants Director and Texas coordinator for Oikos Institute for Social Impact. She is also the Dallas lead for the Texas Methodist Foundation *Neighbor 2 Neighbor* Cohort and Smart Surfaces initiatives.

She serves as the AME North Texas Board of Examiners Chair, Tenth Future Inc. board member and Secretary, North Texas conference Board of Trustees Treasurer, Tenth District Finance Team, Tenth District Board of Trustees, and a member of the AME Church General Board.

Dr. Bradford is one of three co-hosts of the *Timely Wisdom* broadcast. She is the founder of Faithful Fridays, a non-profit that serves the community hot meals, snacks, personal care items, and more. Additionally, she and other partners combat the food insecurities in “Our” neighborhood by launching the People’s Community Garden in South Dallas on the property of Greater Garth Chapel AME Church. Together, these programs offer a farm-to-table approach to helping families receive healthy, nutritious meals.

She is married to Terry, and together, they have three beautiful children: Brandon, Sherrell, and Tyra. She and Terry are also the proud grandparents of Alyanna and Brandon Jr. She is committed to serving God’s people through love, compassion, empathy, and encouragement.



ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT AME CHURCH

2025 Christian Education Youth and Leadership Congress



Itinerary

SATURDAY, JULY 12TH

1:00PM – 5:00PM

CDMC Rehearsal

- Debutantes & Masters
- Sub Debs/Masters
- Allenites

SALON 17/18

SALON 19

SALON 15

LUNCH

SIGNATURE 1

SUNDAY, JULY 13TH

4:00PM – 5:45PM

CDMC HOLDING ROOMS

- Debutantes
- Masters
- Sub Debs/Masters
- Allenites
- Photography

SALON 7

SALON 8

SALON 6

SALON 20

SALON 21

5:30PM – 6:00PM

CDMC PARTICIPANTS GATHERING

SIGNATURE 1

6:30PM – 8:30PM

CDMC CEREMONY

EXEC. BALLROOM

8:45PM

CDMC RECEPTION

GRAND D

MONDAY, JULY 14TH

8:00AM - 4:00PM

11TH DISTRICT OFFICE

REGISTRATION DESK 2

8:00AM - 4:00PM

CEYLC Registration Check-in

REGISTRATION DESK 1

8:00AM - 4:00PM

CEYLC Kit Pick Up

SIGNATURE 1

11:00AM - 2:00PM

COMMUNITY IMPACT DAY

Youth/SOA - New Bethel AMEC Orlando

1:00PM

Eleventh District YPD Meeting

GRAND E

2:45PM - 3:00PM

Women in Ministry Meeting

SALON 12

3:00PM

Women's Missionary Society Meeting

GRAND D

3:30PM - 5:00PM

Women's Missionary Society Seminar

GRAND D

(Open to the Public)

Parliamentary Procedure Training with

Ms. Wanda M. Sims, PRP, CP

Connectional WMS Parliamentarian

3:00PM - 5:00PM

**REHEARSAL VIA THE PERFORMING ARTS #2
AGES (10-18)**

Choir/Youth Usher Rehearsal

Liturgical Rehearsal

Step Team/Mime

Media Technology

EXEC. BALLROOM

SALON 7

SALON 4

SALON 11

6:40PM

Worship Participants' Gathering Room

SIGNATURE 1

7:00PM

OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE
The Reverend Arthur Jackson, III
Senior Pastor
Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
Miami Gardens, Florida

EXEC. BALLROOM

TUESDAY, JULY 15TH

8:00AM - 4:00PM

8:00AM - 4:00PM

8:00AM - 4:00PM

8:00AM - 9:00AM

8:00AM - 9:00AM

11TH DISTRICT OFFICE

CEYLC Registration Check-in
CEYLC Kit Pick Up

Bible Discovery Hour

Bible Discovery Hour: Youth Edition

REGISTRATION DESK 2

REGISTRATION DESK 1

SIGNATURE 1

EXEC. BALLROOM

SALON 3/4

PLENARY SESSION I

9:00AM – 10:30AM

GROUNDING IN SPIRITUAL TRUTH: Self Discovery

Presenter: The Reverend Arthur Jackson, III
Clergy/Laity/Young Adults

Youth Session (14-17): “Discerning Truth”

Youth Session (10-13): “What is Truth?”

EXEC. BALLROOM

SALON 3/4 & 7/8

SALON 1/2 & 11/12

LEARNING LABS I

10:35AM – 11:50AM

GOD’S LOVE LANGUAGE:

Understanding, Listening & Responding

Clergy: “Praying for Fruitful Results”

Laity: “Lord, Teach Me How to Pray”

Young Adults: “Lord, Teach Me How to Pray”

Youth (14-17): “Courage to Pray Publicly”

Youth (10-13): “Praying Beyond Blessing Our Food”

Worship Participants’ Gathering Room

EXEC. BALLROOM

GRAND D

SALON 6

SALON 3/4 & 7/8

SALON 1/2 & 11/12

SIGNATURE 1

11:50AM

12PM

NOON DAY HOUR OF POWER

The Reverend Shawn Williams

Senior Pastor

Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church

Miami, Florida

EXEC. BALLROOM

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

LEARNING LABS II

2:30PM – 4:00PM

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CALL

Clergy: “My Calling to Fulfill”

Presenters: Bishop Marvin C. Zanders, II
The Reverend Brian K. Blackwell

(Executive Director, AMEC Retirement Services)

EXEC. BALLROOM

4:00PM - 5:00PM

Laity: "Telling Our Stories"
Young Adults: "Telling Our Stories"
Youth Girls:
"Becoming Her: Discovering Your God-Given Identity"
Youth Boys: "Bridging the Gap" (SOA)

GRAND D
SALON 6
GRAND E

SALON 11/12

SALON 6

4:00PM – 5:00PM

A CONVERSATION WITH THE BISHOP:

Bishop Zanders in Dialogue with Pastors
Pastoring 5 Years or Less

REHEARSAL VIA THE PERFORMING ARTS #2 AGES (11-18)

Choir/Youth Usher Rehearsal
Liturgical Rehearsal
Step Team
Media Technology

EXEC. BALLROOM
SALON 7
SALON 4
SALON 11

5:00PM

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

Worship Participants' Gathering Room

SIGNATURE 1

6:40PM

WORSHIP SERVICE

The Reverend Matthew L. Watley

Senior Pastor

Kingdom Fellowship AME Church
Calverton Maryland

EXEC. BALLROOM

7:00PM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16TH

8:00AM - 4:00PM

11TH DISTRICT OFFICE

CEYLC Registration Check-in
CEYLC Kit Pick Up

REGISTRATION DESK 2
REGISTRATION DESK 1
SIGNATURE 1

8:00AM - 4:00PM

8:00AM - 4:00PM

8:00AM - 9:00AM

Bible Discovery Hour

EXEC. BALLROOM

8:00AM - 9:00AM

Bible Discovery Hour: Youth Edition

SALON 3/4

PLENARY SESSION II

9:00AM – 10:30AM

SEEDTIME: Reimagining and Understanding Your Call Post-COVID

Presenter: The Reverend Matthew L. Watley
Clergy/LAY/Young Adults:

EXEC. BALLROOM

Youth Session (10-13): "Knowing Your Fruit"

SALON 7/8 & 11/12

Youth Session (14-17): "Owning Your Fruit"

SALON 1/2 & 3/4

LEARNING LABS III

10:35AM – 11:50AM

FROM SEED TO FRUIT: Growing As A Disciple

Clergy/Laity: "Designing a Discipleship Pipeline"

EXEC. BALLROOM

Young Adults: "From Worship to Witness"

SALON 6

Youth (14-17): "Being an Ambassador for Christ"

SALON 1/2 & 11/12

Youth (10-13): "Modeling Christ"

SALON 3/4 & 7/8

11:50AM

Worship Participants' Gathering Room

SIGNATURE 1

12:00PM

NOON DAY HOUR OF POWER
The Reverend Dr. Challis Bradford
Senior Pastor
Greater Garth Chapel AME Church
Dallas, Texas

EXEC. BALLROOM

1:30PM

TICKETED EVENT!
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTORS'
LUNCHEON

GRAND D/E

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

LEARNING LABS IV

2:30PM – 3:50PM

INTERGENERATIONAL HARVEST
Presenter: (Panel Discussion)
Clergy/Laity/Young Adults/Youth

EXEC. BALLROOM

4:00PM – 5:00PM

REHEARSAL VIA THE PERFORMING ARTS #2
AGES (11-18)

Choir/Youth Usher Rehearsal
Liturgical Rehearsal
Step Team
Media Technology

EXEC. BALLROOM
SALON 7
SALON 4
SALON 11

4:00PM - 5:00PM

A CONVERSATION WITH THE BISHOP:
Bishop Zanders in Dialogue with Young Adults

SALON 6

5:00PM - 6:00PM

RAYAC ELECTIONS

SALON 6

7:00PM– 11:00PM

A HOMECOMING CELEBRATION
“CHEERS TO NEXT LEVEL LEADERSHIP:
WELCOME HOME TEAM ZANDERS!”
(Wear your favorite HBCU Jersey! It's Homecoming!)

GRAND D/E

THURSDAY, JULY 17TH

C.E.Y.L.C. T-SHIRT DAY

8:00AM

CEYLC Director's Office
11th District Office

REGISTRATION DESK 2
REGISTRATION DESK 1

8:00AM - 9:00AM

8:00AM - 9:00AM

Bible Discovery Hour
Bible Discovery Hour: Youth Edition

EXEC. BALLROOM
SALON 3/4

PLENARY SESSION III

9:30AM – 11:00AM

THINK ON THESE THINGS:
Being Authentic in An Unauthentic World
Presenter: The Reverend Dr. Challis Bradford
Clergy/LAITY/Young Adults/Youth

EXEC. BALLROOM

11:30AM

CLOSING MESSAGE
Bishop Marvin Clyde Zanders, II

EXEC. BALLROOM

**Eleventh Episcopal District AME Church
2025 Christian Education Youth & Leadership Congress**

THE OPENING WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Monday, July 14th | 7:00 PM

**Worship Leader
Presiding Jimmy J. Thompson**

The Praise & Worship

11th District Praise Team

The Doxology

The Choir & Congregation

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (AMECH #647)

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.

(Words by Thomas Ken; Tune Attr. to Louis Bourgeois—1551)

The Call to Worship

The Reverend Dr. Paula Lake

Leader: Children of God! We’ve gathered here tonight at the call of our Bishop and by the grace of our God, the Lord of the harvest.

People: **God is our Creator, Sustainer, and Giver of all good things, including the promise of a bountiful harvest in this new season. It’s time to REAP!**

Leader: Children of God! Why have we come?

People: **We’ve come to REAP the harvest God has promised to us, remaining steadfast in faith and confident in God’s faithfulness to fulfill God’s promises.**

Leader: Children of God! What have we come to do?

People: **We’ve come to take back what the enemy stole from us! We’ve come to reclaim our families, our increase, our finances, our self-worth and self-respect, our praise, our personal freedoms, and our right to exist and be heard!**

Leader: So, Children of God! Why have we come?

People: **We’ve come to rejoice and to recover it all! We’ve come to worship the Lord of the harvest and to passionately declare ... IT’S TIME TO REAP!**

(A Call to Worship Written by the Reverend Dr. Missiouri McPhee)

The Hymn of Praise

The Reverend Markus White

“God of Grace and God of Glory” (AMECH #62)

God of grace and God of glory, On Thy people pour Thy power;

Crown Thine ancient Church’s story; Bring her bud to glorious flower.

*Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.*

Lo! The host of evil round us Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; Free our hearts to work and praise.

*Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,
For the living of these days, For the living of these days.*

Cure Thy Children's warring madness, Bend our pride to Thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul.

*Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,
Lest we miss Thy Kingdom's goal, Lest we miss Thy Kingdom's goal.*

Set our feet on lofty places; Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christlike graces In the fight to set men free.

*Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,
That we fail not man nor Thee, That we fail not man nor Thee!*

Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore;
Let the search for Thy salvation Be our glory evermore.

*Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,
Serving Thee whom we adore, Serving Thee whom we adore. Amen.
(Words by Harry Emerson Fosdick; Tune by John Hughes)*

The Prayer of Invocation

The Reverend Kirk Bogen

The Choral Response

The Choir & Congregation

“Welcome Holy Spirit”

Welcome Holy spirit. We are in Your Presence.
Fill us with Your power, live inside of me.
You're the living water, ever flowing fountain.
Comforter and Counselor, take complete control.
(©1992 Hilde Bedsvaag, Jerry Savelle Ministries Int.)

The Scripture Lessons

Deuteronomy 24:19-21 (NLT) *The Reverend Dorian Harris*

Galatians 6:7-10 (NLT) *The Reverend Nekeshia Harris*

Matthew 9:35-38 (NLT) *Presiding Elder Elizabeth Yates*

The Selection

11th District Youth & Young Adult Choir

The Gifts for Mission

The Reverend Nevell A. Owens, PhD

The Presentation of the Bishop

Presiding Elder Dr. Lorenzo Laws

The Introduction of Preacher

Bishop Marvin Clyde Zanders, II

Presiding Prelate

Eleventh Episcopal District

The Worship Through Music

11th District Youth & Young Adult Choir

The Sermon

***The Reverend Arthur Jackson, III
Senior Pastor
Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
Miami Gardens, Florida***

The Call to Christian Discipleship

The Reverend Woodrow Leeks, II

The Worship through Giving

11th District Stewardship Committee

The Announcements

The Reverend Dr. Paula Lake

The Doxology

The Choir & Congregation

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (AMECH #647)

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.

(Words by Thomas Ken; Tune Attr. To Louis Bourgeois—1551)

The Benediction

The Reverend Arthur Jackson, III

**Eleventh Episcopal District AME Church
2025 Christian Education Youth & Leadership Congress**

**THE HOUR OF POWER
Tuesday, July 15th | 12:00 PM**

**The Reverend Dontavious Sanders
Worship Leader**

The Praise & Worship	<i>11th District Praise Team</i>
The Prayer	<i>The Reverend Kennetta Carter</i>
The Scripture Reading	<i>Matthew 12:1-8 (NLT)</i> <i>Sister Taylor Strickland</i>
The Gifts for Mission	<i>Brother Jayce Williams</i>
The Presentation of the Bishop	<i>Sister Shrin Bryant</i>
The Introduction of the Speaker	<i>Bishop Marvin Clyde Zanders, II Presiding Prelate Eleventh Episcopal District</i>
The Worship Through Music	<i>11th District Praise & Worship Team</i>
The Word Proclaimed	<i>The Reverend Shawn Williams Senior Pastor Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church Miami, Florida</i>
The Invitation call to Discipleship	<i>The Reverend Lori Snell</i>
The Worship through Giving	<i>11th District Stewardship Committee</i>
The Announcements	<i>The Reverend Willie Merrick</i>
The Doxology	<i>The Choir & Congregation</i>
<p>“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (AMECH #647) 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. <i>(Words by Thomas Ken; Tune Attr. to Louis Bourgeois—1551)</i></p>	
The Benediction	<i>The Reverend Shawn Williams</i>

**Eleventh Episcopal District AME Church
2025 Christian Education Youth & Leadership Congress**

**THE EVENING WORSHIP EXPERIENCE
Tuesday, July 15th | 7:00 PM**

**Worship Leader
The Reverend Robin Dixon-Floyd**

Praise & Worship

11th District Praise Team

The Call to Worship

The Reverend Dr. Haywood Davidson, Jr.

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.**

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 praises!**

The Selection

11th District Youth & Young Adult Choir

The Prayer

The Reverend Joseph Brooks

The Choral Response

The Choir & Congregation

“Don’t Do It Without Me”

Lord, whatever You're doing in this season

Please, don't do it without me.

Don't do it without me.

(© 2008 Written and Recorded by Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr.)

The Scripture Reading

Psalm 126 (NLT) The Reverend LaFiesta Cox-Brown

The Gifts for Mission

The Reverend Dr. McRae Mangum

The Presentation of the Bishop

The Reverend Dr. Ronnie Clark

The Introduction of Speaker

Bishop Marvin C. Zanders, II
Presiding Prelate
Eleventh Episcopal District

The Selection

11th District Youth & Young Adult Choir

The Sermon

The Reverend Matthew L. Watley
Senior Pastor
Kingdom Fellowship AME Church
Calverton, Maryland

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Presiding Elder Howard Williamson

The Worship through Giving

11th District Stewardship Committee

The Announcements

The Reverend Lynnette Daughtry

The Doxology

The Choir & Congregation

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (AMECH #647)

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.
(Words by Thomas Ken; Tune Attr. to Louis Bourgeois—1551)

The Benediction

The Reverend Matthew L. Watley

**Eleventh Episcopal District AME Church
2025 Christian Education Youth & Leadership Congress**

**THE HOUR OF POWER
Wednesday, July 16th | 12:00 PM**

**Worship Leader
Brother Rajeem Rolle**

The Praise & Worship	<i>11th District Praise Team</i>
The Prayer	<i>Sister Tiana Ligon</i>
The Scripture Reading	<i>II Corinthians 9:6-15</i> <i>Sister Kailar Shaw</i>
The Liturgical Dance Selection	<i>11th District Liturgical Dancers</i>
The Gifts for Mission	<i>Brother Jay’vion Woodward</i>
The Presentation of the Bishop	<i>Sister Riley Gadson</i>
The Introduction of The Speaker	<i>Bishop Marvin C. Zanders, II</i> <i>Presiding Prelate</i> <i>Eleventh Episcopal District</i>
The Selection	<i>11th District Youth & Young Adult Choir</i>
The Sermon	<i>The Reverend Dr. Challis Bradford</i> <i>Senior Pastor</i> <i>Greater Garth AME Church</i> <i>Dallas, Texas</i>
The Invitation to Christian Discipleship	<i>The Reverend Phillip Green</i>
The Worship through Giving	<i>11th District Stewardship Committee</i>
The Announcements	<i>The Reverend Michael Clark</i>
The Doxology	<i>The Choir & Congregation</i>
“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (AMECH #647) 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. <i>(Words by Thomas Ken; Tune Attr. to Louis Bourgeois—1551)</i>	
The Benediction	<i>The Reverend Dr. Challis Bradford</i>

**Eleventh Episcopal District AME Church
2025 Christian Education Youth & Leadership Congress**

**THE CLOSING WORSHIP EXPERIENCE
Thursday, July 17th | 11:00 AM**

**Worship Leader
Presiding Elder James O. Williams, Sr.**

The Praise & Worship		<i>11th District Praise Team</i>
The Prayer		<i>The Reverend Tamika Moore</i>
The Choral Response		<i>The Choir & Congregation</i>
	“Zion is Calling Me”	
	Zion is calling me to a higher place of praise. To stand upon the mountain and to magnify His name. To tell all the people of every nation that He reigns. Zion is calling me to a higher place of praise. <i>(© 2001 Words by Clint Brown; Recorded by Stephen Hurd)</i>	
The Scripture Reading	John 4:35-38	<i>The Reverend Reginald Johnson</i>
The Gifts for Mission		<i>The Reverend Sandra Bell</i>
The Presentation of The Bishop		<i>The Reverend Dr. Glenn B. Dames, Jr.</i>
The Selection		<i>11th District Youth & Young Adult Choir</i>
The Message Proclaimed		<i>Bishop Marvin C. Zanders, II Presiding Prelate Eleventh Episcopal District</i>
The Invitation to Christian Discipleship		<i>Presiding Elder Ranford Patterson</i>
The Worship through Giving		<i>11th District Stewardship Committee</i>
The Announcements		<i>The Reverend Dr. Paula Lake</i>
The Closing Remarks & Benediction		<i>Bishop Marvin C. Zanders, II</i>

Eleventh Episcopal District AME Church 2025 Christian Education Youth & Leadership Congress

THEME

It's a New Season: It's Time to Reap!: Discipleship 101

Over the past year, the African Methodist Episcopal Church across the 11th Episcopal District has witnessed a powerful move of God — and **CEYLC 2025** will take this momentum to an entirely new level! This Spirit-charged gathering will ignite discipleship as the heartbeat of our faith, drawing every participant into deeper encounters with Christ Jesus and rooting them firmly in God's unchanging Word. From the youngest disciple to seasoned laity and clergy, **CEYLC** will equip everyone with practical tools to live victoriously and bear abundant, lasting fruit for the Kingdom.

Every plenary and hands-on lab will be intentionally designed to spark passion and purpose — helping every generation treasure Scripture as a light for their path, embrace active, Spirit-led ministry, and boldly share their faith with those who come after them. Children, youth, young adults, laity, and clergy will discover their spiritual gifts, grow deeper in prayer and devotion, and craft ministry action plans that move them far beyond passive membership into a lifestyle of courageous, lifelong discipleship. And this gathering is just the beginning! **CEYLC** will release a powerful sense of purpose and anticipation that carries far beyond the conference walls. Participants will leave equipped with new skills, creative strategies, and an unquenchable hunger for God's presence and power. Together, they will forge lasting connections across all ages and return home united by a stirring, unforgettable move of the Holy Spirit — a move that ignites unstoppable growth, bold witness, and vibrant ministry throughout the churches and communities of the 11th Episcopal District.

CEYLC 2025 — It's a New Season, It's Time to Reap: Discipleship 101 — will be a catalytic moment like never before, an exhilarating, spirit-filled experience where every participant is equipped, encouraged, and empowered to embrace this new season of discipleship. United in one spirit, one mission, one family across the 11th Episcopal District, this is our moment to grow deeper, serve with purpose, and reap the glorious harvest God has promised!

TUESDAY, JULY 15th

9:00AM-10:35AM

PLENARY SESSION I

GROUNDING IN SPIRITUAL TRUTH: SELF DISCOVERY

The Rev. Arthur Jackson, III

CLERGY/LAITY/YOUNG ADULTS

Self-Discovery rooted in Spiritual Truth helps you understand that you are created in God's image and loved, your identity is in Christ, and God has a purpose for you. Proverbs 29:11, declares, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Therefore, Self-discovery involves growth and aligning with God's will. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you, as you engage in scripture, prayer, worship, and community activities.

DISCERNING TRUTH

Presenter: **The Rev. Nekeshia Harris** | **The Rev. Shalon Chambers**
Convener: **The Rev. David Green, Jr.** | **Sis. Demyia Briggs**

YOUTH 14-17

Discerning truth is a journey—one that requires patience, critical thought, and courage. As a teenager, you can shape your understanding of the world and set an example for others. By cultivating curiosity, evaluating information carefully, and standing up for what is right, you become a truth-seeker in a world that desperately needs more of them. Teenagers often want to fit in, and sometimes this means agreeing with the crowd even when something feels off. It's okay to question popular opinions and to think differently.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

Presenter: **The Rev. Chloe Lyals Muirhead** | **The Rev. Dorian Harris**
Convener: **Sis. Ashley Broughton** | **Sis. Tracey Harris**

YOUTH 10-13

Truth is a way of describing what people believe about the meaning and purpose of life, and what matters most in the world. It isn't always about facts you can see with your eyes or prove with science—like what color the sky is or how tall a mountain is—but more about what people feel deep inside and the beliefs that guide how they live. Truth is about what you believe deep down about life, meaning, and goodness. It helps guide your actions and gives you a sense of connection to others and the world around you.

10:35AM – 11:50AM

LEARNING LABS I GOD'S LOVE LANGUAGE: UNDERSTANDING, LISTENING & RESPONDING

The concept of “God’s Love Language” invites us to consider: How does God communicate love to us? And how might we, in turn, express our love back? This exploration draws inspiration from the familiar idea of “love languages”—the unique ways individuals give and receive love. When we consider God’s love language, we peer into the heart of spiritual nearness, discovering what it means to experience divine affection, how to listen for God’s voice, and how to respond in a way that nurtures a vibrant, living faith. Before we can speak of listening and responding, we must first try to understand how God expresses love. Throughout sacred texts, traditions, and personal experiences, the message is clear: God’s love is steadfast, creative, and relational. Agricultural and spiritual principles of sowing and reaping have strong parallels. For both, sowing is just the beginning. To grow, cultivation must follow! For spiritual harvests, prayer is our most powerful cultivation tool! It is how we talk to God, hear from him and become spiritually transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ. In this plenary, we will explore how to pray like Jesus with heartfelt intentionality: no fancy words, special methods, procedures, or postures --- just listening, understanding and responding to cultivate deeper, more faithful and trusting relationships with God.

PRAYING FOR FRUITFUL RESULTS

Presenter: **The Rev. Dr. Roy Jones, Jr.**
Convener: **The Rev. Dr. Rhella P. Murdaugh**

CLERGY

For clergy, to be fruitful means to witness the emergence of new disciples, to nurture the gifts of others, and to foster environments where faith takes root and grows. It is a vocation that asks for both patience and perseverance, trusting that the seeds sown today may bear fruit in their own season. For clergy, praying for fruitful results is not a one-time event, but a rhythm interwoven with the daily, weekly, and seasonal cycles of faith life. These prayers may be offered personally in private devotions, corporately in congregational worship, or silently amid pastoral encounters.

LORD, TEACH ME HOW TO PRAY

Presenter: **The Rev. Kirk Bogen**
Convener: **The Rev. Jacquelyn Bogen**

LAITY

In this session, participants will grow in their understanding of prayer as the ultimate way to communicate with God. They will learn the appropriate way to communicate with God personally, thru intercession, and in group or corporate worship settings. Participants will learn the differences in the types of prayers prayed in a traditional AME worship or devotional setting such as opening prayer or invocation, altar prayer (prayers for the people) and closing prayer. Additionally, participants will learn how to pray the ACTS prayer, intercessory prayer, Contemplative prayers (listening) and spiritual warfare prayers.

LORD, TEACH ME HOW TO PRAY

Presenter: **The Rev. Lamone Gibson**
Convener: **Sis. LaTasha Jones**

YOUNG ADULTS

Are you ready to take your prayer life from surface-level to supernatural? This powerful, hands-on lab is designed specifically for young adults who are hungry to truly hear from God. Through interactive activities, real talk, and spiritual practices rooted in Scripture, you'll learn how to recognize God's voice, listen with clarity, and respond with bold faith. Discover how prayer can become your lifeline for guidance, peace, and power. Whether you're new to prayer or ready to go deeper, this lab will ignite your spiritual life and help you walk in purpose, passion, and divine direction.

COURAGE TO PRAY PUBLICLY

Presenter: The Rev. Michael Clark | The Rev. Rebecca Thompson
Convener: The Rev. Carrie Brown | The Rev. Ron Rawls, Jr.

YOUTH 14-17

Praying publicly is both a privilege and a responsibility, a moment when one's private devotion meets the collective spirit of a gathered community. Whether in a house of worship, at a family event, or during an official gathering, public prayer has the power to inspire, unify, and comfort. This lab description explores the purpose, preparation, etiquette, and art of praying publicly.

PRAYER POWER-UP: PRAYING BEYOND BLESSING OUR FOOD

Presenter: The Rev. Tamika Moore | The Rev. Lori Snell
Convener: Bro. Jacob Cuthbert, III | The Rev. Kevin Snell

YOUTH 10-13

"God is great, God is good..." Sound familiar? If that's where your prayer life starts—and stops—it's time for a power-up. This session will show how prayer can be more than a routine and become a real, everyday connection with God. Through creative activities and quiet moments, you'll explore new ways to talk *and* listen to God. Walk away with simple tools and the confidence to pray with purpose— anytime, anywhere.



2:30PM – 4:00PM

LEARNING LABS II UNDERSTANDING YOUR CALLING

Understanding the call that God has for you is far beyond salvation. Discovering your calling from God involves prayer, studying Scripture, and seeking wisdom from others, while being available for God's purpose. It's a process of aligning your desires, spiritual gifts, and the needs of the world with God's will. This process often includes recognizing your passions, having a heart for people and being receptive to the Holy Spirit as He leads you. Participants will learn how spiritual gifting and God's calling and equipping are similar but not synonymous to understanding their call. They will discover the various levels of ministry service; not all require ordination and necessitate "the called" to become local church pastors. Lastly, participants will leave with an understand of how their call unites with the call of others, creating greater unity in diversity as the body of Christ.

MY CALLING TO FULFILL

Presenters: Bishop Marvin C. Zanders, II & The Rev. Brian K. Blackwell
Convener: The Rev. Dr. Paula Lake

CLERGY

Intrinsic to every accepted call encounter is the underlying responsibility and expectation of that call being fulfilled. For much too long, those who have accepted the call of God to serve in ministry and mission activities have failed to fulfill the call assigned to them leading to apathy in God's church. Many have turned in their call, however they have maintained the sacred title of pastor or reverend. Based on the conditions we live in today, not fulfilling your call is not an option the church can afford to bargain with. Participants in this lab will be able to clearly articulate the unique purpose God has designed for their lives for serving the church and the community. They will leave with an understanding that to be effective in fulfilling their call to ministry takes daily surrender, faithful obedience, good stewardship, and spiritual growth.

TELLING OUR STORIES

Presenter: Dr. Catherine Powell
Convener: Bro. Donald McIntosh

LAITY

As recorded in the Scriptures, God continues to call people today. We will explore Biblical stories to gain deeper insights into how God has worked through individuals in the past. Reflecting on these stories will help us discern how God's call is unfolding in our lives. In response, sharing our spiritual journeys will help us create deeper personal relationships with God and inspire others. This interactive session encourages participants to value and share their stories as testimonies to God's continuing calls.

TELLING OUR STORIES

Presenter: The Rev. Sonya McIntosh
Convener: Bro. Greg Bowers

YOUNG ADULTS

Storytelling is a powerful vehicle, carrying us from the uncertain shores of adolescence into the vast, unpredictable sea of adulthood. It is through our stories that we shape identity, forge connections, challenge convention, and inspire change. In telling our stories, we honor our past, make sense of our present, and lay the groundwork for the future. Each voice, however small, contains the possibility of connection and transformation. As we listen to young adults telling our stories, we do not simply bear witness—we become participants in a world that is ever-changing, ever-renewing, and ever more humane.

**BECOMING HER:
DISCOVERING YOUR GOD-GIVEN IDENTITY”**

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Sha’Leda Mirra
Convener: Dr. Tamara Baker-Drayton

YOUTH GIRLS

This interactive lab helps young girls see that it's never too early to answer God's call. Like **Samuel**, who heard God’s voice as a child (*1 Samuel 3:1–10*), and **David**, who was anointed as a young shepherd (*1 Samuel 16:11–13*), girls will explore how God can use them now to make a difference. They’ll also reflect on the faith of **Mary**, a young woman who boldly accepted God's call to carry the Savior of the world (*Luke 1:26–38*). Through Bible stories, fun activities, and reflection, they’ll learn how their gifts, personality, and faith are all part of a beautiful identity shaped by God’s design. A simple self-examination activity will help them recognize what makes them unique and how those traits can be used for God’s glory. God is calling—will you answer?



**GAP JUMPERS:
BUILDING THE BRIDGE TO CHRIST-POWERED PURPOSE**

Presenter: The Rev. Kenneth Irby
Convener: The Rev. George Hardy

YOUTH BOYS

You’re standing on one side—facing pressure, questions, and expectations. On the other side is the purpose God created you for. This Sons of Allen lab invites you to build and jump—laying down the planks of brotherhood, Scripture, and real talk as you move toward the life Jesus is calling you to live. Expect to walk away with a clearer vision, stronger faith, and the boldness to take your next step with Christ.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16th

9:00AM – 10:30AM

PLENARY SESSION II

SEEDTIME:

RE-IMAGING AND UNDERSTANDING YOUR CALL POST COVID

Presenter: The Rev. Matthew Watley

Convener: The Rev. Dr. Angela Bess

CLERGY/LAITY/YOUNG ADULTS

The global pandemic was dreadful. No one could have predicted such chaos and fear to occur. Yet, it provided a positive and hopeful aspect beyond a negative and difficult situation. The Pandemic Crisis pushed us to be change agents in a different way. The church was compelled into the digital future while embracing technology they once refused. We now offer new ways to worship. Re-imagining ministry made it possible to engage people in online ministry that might never become involved in person ministry. The pandemic provided an opportunity to stop some things that had not been working, eliminate some things that were seemingly impossible, and start new trends. However, online or virtual ministry should not replace in-person ministry.

KNOWING YOUR FRUIT

Presenter: Sis. Keisha Snead

Rev. Joseph Brooks

Convener: Bro. Tayvon Walker

Rev. Lamarda Brooks

YOUTH 10-13

Spiritual fruit is a way to describe the good things that grow in our hearts and lives when we follow God and let the Holy Spirit guide us. When we connect with God and try to live in a loving, kind way, we “grow” spiritual fruit. These fruits aren’t something you can eat, but people can see them in the way you act, speak, and treat others. The Bible lists nine spiritual fruits in the book of Galatians. Think of these fruits as special superpowers that help you become the best version of yourself. The more you practice them, the stronger they grow.

OWNING YOUR FRUIT

Presenter: The Rev. Mikel J. James

The Rev. Shanetta Ligon

Convener: Sis. Rachelle Jones

Bro. Travis Ligon

YOUTH 14-17

In this lab participants will leave recognizing what types of fruit they are producing, learning how to take responsibility as well as credit for their fruit, and the benefits of staying connected to the vine and the vine grower when it comes to bearing fruit that will last. Matthew 7:16-20 reminds us that we will know a tree by its fruit. According to this parable, there are two types of trees that bear two types of fruit. The “Good Tree” bears good fruit, and the “Bad Tree” bears bad fruit. It is also impossible for a bad tree to bear good fruit. Therefore, saying you’re a Christian and living a life of a Christian are two different things, just like saying you’re saved and living a saved life are two different things. Owning your fruit means taking personal responsibility for the outcomes, impact, and evidence of your life in Christ.

FROM SEED TO FRUIT: GROWING AS A DISCIPLE

Self-Discovery & Spiritual Growth is a personal transformational process designed to guide participants on a reflective journey toward understanding how experiences in life connect with a deeper sense of their call to ministry. Through critical reflection of the chronological awareness of God's presence in their lives, participants will be able to document and codify moments where God was shaping and equipping them prior to their call to contextual ministry.

The second half of the course delves into spiritual growth as an evolving process, emphasizing the importance of authenticity, compassion, and presence. Participants explore concepts such as consciousness, inter-connectedness, and inner peace, applying them to real-life scenarios and personal challenges. By fostering a supportive and contemplative environment, this process empowers participants to develop their own spiritual practices and integrate newfound insights into daily life. Upon completion, participants emerge with a greater sense of wholeness, direction, and alignment with God's shaping, equipping and call on their lives.

DESIGNING A DISCIPLESHIP PIPELINE

Presenter: Dr. Donnell Moore
Convener: The Rev. Dr. Caroline D. Shine

CLERGY/LAITY

Discipleship is a process. In Matthew 28:18-20 (NRSVUE) Jesus outlines a clear process for making disciples, forming a pipeline for spiritual growth. He commands his followers to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." This involves evangelism (making new believers), baptism (publicly declaring faith), and ongoing teaching to foster obedience and continuous growth and development.

The concept described in 2 Timothy 2:2 (NRSVUE) suggests a continuous cycle: Paul disciples Timothy, Timothy disciples' faithful people, and these faithful people disciple others. This creates a sustainable "pipeline" for spiritual growth and development.

FROM WORSHIP TO WITNESS

Presenter: The Rev. James V. Williams
Convener: Sis. Kristie Kelly

In quiet moments of reflection, when the noise of everyday life fades away, you come to realize the numerous aspects of your life that have shaped your journey. The transition from where you once stood to where you are today reflects the guidance that has influenced your steps, even when the path seemed uncertain. With a greater sense of understanding God's calling on your life, how do you enhance your personal growth while also enabling yourself to share experiences and guide others on their own journeys of spiritual journey?

MODELING CHRIST

Presenter: The Rev. Chiquita Washington
Convener: Bro. Bradley Edmonds

YOUTH 10-13

In this engaging session, young attendees will explore practical ways to model Christ's teachings in their daily lives. Through interactive discussions, activities, and real-life examples, we will delve into the principles of **love, compassion, kindness, and forgiveness** that Jesus Christ exemplified. This session also aims to empower youth to incorporate these values into their interactions and decisions, fostering a deeper understanding of their spiritual journey. It serves as a guide to encourage the development of a Christ-like character among today's youth, emphasizing the relevance of these principles in their contemporary context.

BEING AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

Presenter: Sis. Aisha Mangum
Convener: Bro. Eddie Lake, II

YOUTH 14-17

In this session, participants will learn what it means to represent God to the world and not be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by influencing friends and nonbelievers into believing in the power of God unto salvation. Additionally, as ambassadors of Christ, participants will learn how to share the message of salvation with others, how to live with integrity and purpose, and how to build relationships that lead to making disciples of Jesus Christ.

2:30PM – 3:50PM

LEARNING LAB IV

INTERGENERATIONAL HARVEST: A PANEL DISCUSSION

Panelists: The Rev. Michael Bell, Jr. & The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Stockton
Sis. JaTericka Connelly & Sis. RhoShonda Herring,
Bro. Josiah Butler & Bro. TreShon Bell
Moderator: The Rev. Michael Price, Sr.

CLERGY/LAITY/YOUNG ADULTS/YOUTH

This panel discussion will address Intergenerational relationships within the African Methodist Episcopal Church and share the benefits, emphasizing the importance of one generation sharing wisdom, insight, life experiences, and faith journeys with another generation. Intergenerational relationships help to foster a sense of community within the church, promote the positive transfer of knowledge from one generation to another, and these key relationships help preserve our denominational legacy and heritage. Intergenerational relationships provide the opportunity for gifts, graces, and expertise to be shared in meaningful ways. They assist in breaking down negative generational stereotypes, while exposing all generational age groups to a wider range of life experiences, perspectives, and values. This aids in building strong intergenerational connections that are more inclusive and supportive, fostering empathy, understanding, support, and value.

THURSDAY, JULY 17th

9:30AM – 11:00AM

PLENARY SESSION III

**THINK ON THESE THINGS:
BEING AUTHENTIC IN AN UNAUTHENTIC WORLD**

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Challis Bradford

Convener: The Rev. Dr. Victor Cole

CLERGY/LAITY/YOUNG ADULTS/YOUTH

At a time when more people are walking away from organized religion and the institutional church, those who remain must be able to demonstrate God's purpose for the church in the 21st century in consistent, life-giving ways. We must defend the church at all costs because our very spiritual lives depend upon it. To be the authentic church means to live truthfully honest with yourself, others, and God. It means not wearing masks to please people or fit in, but instead, standing firmly in your God-given identity. It also means not being ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ for it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. Therefore, believers must be grounded in the word of God and willing to lives saved lives that are inconsistent with the ways of the world—and be good with it. Participants in this plenary will leave confident in knowing who they are in Christ, speaking the truth in love, rejecting the pressure to act out of Christian character, and how to allow God to work on their inner selves to maintain their authentic relationship with God.



Eleventh Episcopal District AME Church 2025 Christian Education Youth & Leadership Congress

COVENANT & CODE OF CONDUCT

Attending the Christian Education Youth & Leadership Congress (CEYLC) is an honor and privilege that has been entrusted to each Participant because of their proven leadership qualities. Throughout CEYLC, each Participant has an opportunity to share with the church their manifold gifts. As such, each Participant is called to present their best selves as members of CEYLC. With this goal in mind, each Participant must agree to read, understand, and abide by the guidelines below.

YOUTH:

1. You are expected to be on time to plenaries, learning labs, meetings, and rehearsals.
2. You are expected to wear your **ARM BANDS** at **ALL** times. This is your ticket into all learning labs and activities.
3. You are expected to be in your rooms by curfew (10:30PM).
4. You are expected to have at least 7 hours of sleep each night.
5. You are responsible for getting yourself up and to your selected activity/learning lab on time.
6. When speaking in group activities, you are expected to use “I” statements and to speak only for yourself.
7. You are expected to be appropriately dressed, avoiding clothing that promotes tobacco, alcohol, or illegal substances. Underwear and torso must be covered. Please refrain from wearing the following **PROHIBITED** items: Short Shorts, Yoga/Biking pants, Sagging Pants, Mini Skirts, Tank/Halter/Tube Tops, Midriff Blouses, Excessively Tight Clothing.
8. You are expected to keep noise to a minimum at all times. This includes music and talking in the hallways.
9. You are expected to use earphones or headsets when listening to music during your free time. Loud audio from any apparatus/device is not permitted at Congress.
10. You are expected to refrain from using cell phones and media devices in a manner that does not enhance worship and teaching moments.
11. You are expected to be cognizant of your spiritual walk and sphere of influence when utilizing social media.
12. You are expected to adhere to all rules and directions given by Chaperones, Clergy, Missionaries, Sons of Allen, Women in Ministry and official CEYLC Staff Members.
13. You are expected to be active and involved throughout the entire CEYLC, participating fully in selected activities and assigned groups.
14. You are expected to take responsibility for your needs, keeping your chaperones informed of your whereabouts and general state of being at all times.
15. You are expected to keep yourself hydrated and fed. Meals and snacks are at your own expense.
16. You will respect the privacy of your sleeping space. Only your roommate(s) may be in your room.

ADULT LEADERS:

1. Chaperones at CEYLC must check-in with their participants daily and at bedtime to ensure all youth are well and accounted for.
2. All medical situations/incidents must be reported to the CEYLC Staff for appropriate response, care, and documentation.
3. All disciplinary issues must be reported to the Chaperones and escalated to the CEYLC Staff for appropriate response and reporting as necessary.

Responsibilities and Regulations

COMMUNITY COVENANT

1. Respect the dignity of **EVERY** human being.
2. Quiet will be maintained in the sleeping rooms from 10:30PM to 6:00AM
3. All youth participants are to be in their sleeping rooms by curfew.
4. All youth participants will remain in their sleeping rooms from curfew until 6:00AM
5. All participants will be responsible for damaged property.
6. Young people leaving CEYLC must sign out with their respective chaperone(s) **AND** must be accompanied by an Adult. **Under no circumstances may one adult (who is not a parent or guardian of the youth they're accompanying off campus) and one young person leave the Congress alone.**
7. No sexual behavior or sexualized or harassing speech will be tolerated.
8. No use of tobacco or vaping products, alcohol, or illegal drugs will be tolerated.

NON-NEGOTIABLE REGULATIONS

The following regulations also apply to all participants (young people and adults) and **failure to comply will result in expulsion from the CEYLC at your parent/guardian's expense:**

1. There will be **NO** possession or use of tobacco, vaping, alcohol or illegal drugs/controlled substances at any time during the event.
2. Participants are expected to respect campus property and individual property and will be held financially responsible for willful destruction of it.
3. **NO** pets (except for documented service animals), fireworks, firearms, knives or other weapons are permitted.
4. All young people leaving CEYLC at any time must be accompanied by adults registered at the Event. **Under no circumstances may one adult (who is not a parent or guardian of the youth they're accompanying off campus) and one young person leave the Congress alone.**



Eleventh Episcopal District AME Church 2025 Christian Education Youth & Leadership Congress

CHAPERONE REQUIREMENTS

Chaperones have perhaps the greatest impact on the CEYLC experience for the youth in attendance. They are expected to set excellent examples in behavior and attitude as they provide safety for participants through diligent discipline regarding appropriate and healthy boundaries.

Chaperones should encourage their youth to fully participate, help them process events, discern opportunities, and help bring their CEYLC experience home in hopeful ways. Chaperones are also responsible for addressing the physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing of the youth in the delegation utilizing the resources of CEYLC volunteer staff as needed.

Chaperones are responsible for conducting nightly room checks and for addressing behavioral issues as needed. They are welcome to attend their own workshop sessions as long as their young people have a known daily check-in plan.

Not every adult makes a great chaperone. We encourage delegations to discern carefully and always have a back-up chaperone ready to step in when an emergency arises.

The following requirements fulfill insurance liability guidelines and have been established as best practices at large events such as CEYLC.

- There must be a minimum of two chaperones per delegation.
- The preferred chaperone to youth ratio is one adult per six youth.
- One adult chaperone over the age of 25 must serve as the primary contact for the delegation, and at least one chaperone traveling with the group must be a minimum of 25 years old.
- All other chaperones must be 21 or older.
- Delegations with more than 12 youth must have a ratio of 1 adult for every 6 youth.

Sample ratios:

- 1-12 youth – 2 adults
 - 13-18 youth – 3 adults
 - 19-24 youth – 4 adults
 - 25-30 youth – 5 adults
 - 31-36 youth – 6 adults
 - 37-42 youth – 7 adults
- Delegations may not exceed the adult to youth ratios outlined above.
 - Each delegation must have both male and female chaperones unless the youth all identify as the same gender, in which case chaperones must match that gender.
 - All chaperones must have passed a Criminal Background Check conducted by the local church within two (2) years of the opening day of CEYLC. Background checks can be completed at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)'s website. There is a fee associated with this service. Please see the website for details. <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Criminal-History-Records>. Background checks completed by any Federal, State, or Municipal agency is acceptable as long as it has

been completed no longer than two (2) years prior to the opening of the Congress.

BACKGROUND CHECKS SHOULD BE KEPT ON FILE WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH.

- Working with large youth populations can put adults with health issues at risk. The Eleventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church encourages all adult chaperones and participants to consult with their respective physician regarding vaccinations.
- Chaperones must travel with the delegation to and from CEYLC and comply with the same standards of behavior regarding our community covenant.
- **At NO time is a Chaperone permitted to be alone with a youth who is not a child or legal ward of said Chaperone. Two-Deep Leadership is strongly recommended.**
- Chaperones are required to always have in their possession a 3-ring note binder containing the Health Forms and Contract Forms of all youth participants.
- Chaperones should also have in their possession a copy of the Covenant & Code of Conduct.



Eleventh Episcopal District AME Church 2025 Christian Education Youth & Leadership Congress

11TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CALENDAR

11th District's Debutante-Master Commission Ceremony July 13, 2025
Rosen Centre Hotel | Orlando, FL

11th District's Christian Education Youth & Leadership Congress July 14-17, 2025
Rosen Centre Hotel | Orlando, FL

11th Episcopal District Women in Ministry Retreat August 7-9, 2025
Mission Inn Resort & Club | Howey-in-Hills, FL

160th Florida Annual Conference YPD Day August 23, 2025
160th Florida Annual Conference WMS Day August 26, 2025
160th Session of the Florida Annual Conference August 27-29, 2025
Bethel AME Church | Tallahassee, FL (Host Site)
Bethel AME Church | Pensacola, FL (Host Church)
The Reverend Clifton Riley | Host Pastor
The Reverend Ronald L. Williams, Sr. | Host Presiding Elder

Christian Education Month September 1-30, 2025

Labor Day September 1, 2025

126th Central Annual Conference YPD Day September 6, 2025
126th Central Annual Conference WMS Day September 9, 2025
126th Session of the Central Annual Conference September 10-12, 2025
Saint Mark AME Church | Orlando, FL (Host Site)
St. Paul AME Church | Apopka, FL (Host Church)
The Reverend Gerard A. Moss, Sr. | Host Pastor
The Reverend Valarie J. Walker | Host Presiding Elder

3rd Annual International RAYAC Sunday September 21, 2025

135th South Annual Conference YPD Day September 20, 2025
135th South Annual Conference WMS Day September 23, 2025
135th South Annual Conference September 24-26, 2025
Payne Chapel AME Church | West Palm Beach, FL
The Reverend Odell D. Watson | Host Pastor
The Reverend Willie J. Cook | Host Presiding Elder

International R.A.Y.A.C. NXT 30 Conference August 29-30, 2025
Baltimore Marriott Waterfront | 700 Aliceanna St., Baltimore, MD 21202
WWW.RAYAC-AME.ORG

3rd Annual AME Connectional Scout Sunday September 28, 2025

4th Annual AAMES VIRTUAL Breast Cancer Awareness 5K October 1-31, 2025

85th West Coast Annual Conference YPD Day October 4, 2025

85th West Coast Annual Conference WMS Day October 7, 2025

85th West Coast Annual Conference October 8-10, 2025

Greater Mount Zion AME Church | St. Petersburg, FL
The Reverend Clarence A. Williams | Host Pastor
The Reverend James O. Williams, Sr. | Host Presiding Elder

World Mental Health Day October 10, 2025

Connectional AME Church School Day October 19, 2025

150th East Annual Conference YPD Day October 18, 2025

150th East Annual Conference WMS Day October 21, 2025

150th East Annual Conference October 22-24, 2025

St. Paul AME Church | Jacksonville, FL
The Reverend Willie N. Barnes, Jr., PhD | Host Pastor
The Reverend Tony D. Hansberry | Host Presiding Elder

85th Bahamas Annual Conference November 6-8, 2025

Cousin-McPhee Cathedral AME Church | Nassau, Bahamas
The Reverend Ranford Patterson | Host Pastor
The Reverend Howard Williamson | Host Presiding Elder

11th Episcopal District Planning Meeting November 18-21, 2025

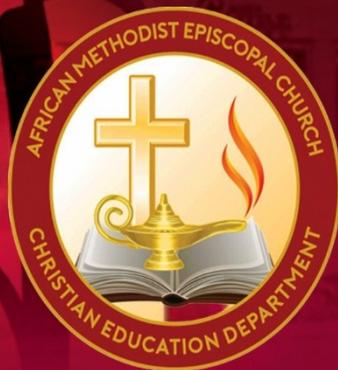
Rosen Centre Hotel | Orlando, FL

Supervisor Winifred Houston Zanders' Birthday November 27, 2025

Thanksgiving Day November 27, 2025







CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
African Methodist Episcopal Church

101 E UNION STREET | SUITE 301
JACKSONVILLE | FLORIDA 32202
TELEPHONE : 904.355.8262
EMAIL : 11THDISTRICTBISHOPOFFICE@GMAIL.COM
WEBSITE: WWW.11THAMEC.ORG