

**ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
CENTRAL & WEST COAST ANNUAL CONFERENCES**

**SAT
14
DEC
2024**

"IT'S A NEW SEASON"



HOPE • PEACE • JOY • LOVE

ADVENT

DAY OF SHARING

**SERVICE OF LOCAL MINISTRY ORDINATION
& DEACONESS CONSECRATION**

WORSHIP GUIDE

Eleven O'Clock in the Morning

HOST CHURCH

**Saint Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church
1968 Bruton Boulevard | Orlando | FL 32805**

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Central/West Coast Annual Conferences

Conference Theme:
"It's A New Season"



Day of Sharing
Service of Local Ministry Ordination
and
Deaconess Consecration
Saturday, December 14, 2024 @ 11:00 A.M.

The Right Reverend Marvin Clyde Zanders II
Presiding Bishop
Mrs. Winifred Houston Zanders
Episcopal Supervisor

Saint Mark
African Methodist Episcopal Church
1968 Bruton Boulevard | Orlando | Florida 32805
The Reverend Terence R. Gray I | Host Pastor

The Reverend Valarie J. Walker | Host Presiding Elder | North Orlando District
The Reverend Milton Broomfield | Associate Presiding Elder | Orlando District
The Reverend Dr. Lorenzo Laws | Associate Presiding Elder | Daytona Beach District

West Coast Conference Presiding Elders
The Reverends Jimmy J. Thompson; James O. Williams, Sr. & Dr. Patricia Wallace

On the Rationale, Initiation and Implementation of the Eleventh Episcopal District's Day of Sharing

Written by the Reverends Vincent Lane & Grayce Lane

The genesis of the Day of Sharing in the 11th Episcopal District can be traced back to the time Bishop Frank Curtis Cummings arrived in the 11th Episcopal District from his assignment in the 1st Episcopal District. In the 1st District, they had a gathering in December as a form of a "Helps Ministry." Upon arrival in the District, Bishop Cummings encountered Presiding Elder J.B. Blake of the then South Florida Conference. Presiding Elder Blake had a desire to see a gathering whose goal would be to help and assist widows of the church. Presiding Elder Blake made the case for this idea as a "helps ministry" to bring people together showing love and support, and, in a real and tangible way, demonstrate to the recipients that they have not been forgotten. The first Day of Sharing series held in the District was held at or around Christmas of 1993, and the initial Day of Sharing is believed to have taken place at Bethel AME Church, Pompano.

Later, under the leadership of Bishop John Hurst Adams, beginning in 2001, the Ordination of the Local Deacons and Elders, as well as the Consecration of Deaconesses were removed from the site of the Annual Conferences and added to the respective Conferences' Annual Day of Sharing.

A Brief History of the Deaconesses Movement

Written by the Reverend Dr. Missiouri L. McPhee



The recognized service of women in the Church has apostolic origins. The term *diakonos*, which literally translates, "servant" was used both for Deacons and, in the early days, for Deaconesses, is applied by Paul the Apostle (Romans 16:1) to "Phoebe, a *diakonos* of the Church which is in Cenchraea." We have discovered through the epistles of St. John Chrysostom (c. 347-407 CE), Early Church Father and Archbishop of Constantinople, that about forty Deaconesses were attached to the principal church at Constantinople circa 400 A.D. There are other records that purport Deaconesses in Antioch and throughout the East, and, by the 4th Century, the Office of Deaconess was well known in the Church. Sadly, during the Middle Ages (5th through the 15th centuries), the Office fell into disuse as more and more Deaconesses were being co-opted into the monastic movement and becoming nuns.

Because of the social reforms that occurred in the 19th Century, a great need became apparent for such a ministry of women. Many Protestant churches on the European continent as well as in America began to revitalize the Early Church Order of Deaconess. The African Methodist Episcopal Church ("AME") revitalized this office at its 1900 General Conference held in Columbus, Ohio. It was introduced to the church as a position of special status for women to perform full-time church and charitable work.

Traditionally, the ministries of the Office of Deaconess in the AME Church stressed work with destitute persons and groups in urban areas. One of the pioneers of this Office in the AME Church was Anna Hall. She was the first black graduate deaconess of the AME Church (meaning she graduated from Deaconess School). Commissioned in 1901, she started a city mission in Atlanta and supervised the field work, of what was then Clark College for female students. After approximately five years, Anna Hall went to Liberia, Africa and served for 24 years. As recognition of her distinguished service, the Liberian church named a mission station for her in 1952. In that same year, the United Methodist Church's constituent seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, Gammon Theological Seminary, dedicated the Anna E. Hall Apartments for married

students. The building still stands today. A contemporary example of an AME Deaconess is the late Rosa Louise McCauley Parks, having been distinguished by her commitment to the social equality of all persons and civil rights advocacy.

Deaconesses in the AME Church are recognized by their distinctive plain gray uniform and bonnet. The uniform has been a part of deaconess identity since the mid-1880's. Back then, the uniform served as a constant reminder of the dignity of her calling. It also served as a practical means of identifying Deaconesses wherever they went and served as protection as they often worked in less than savory neighborhoods. The choice of wearing a uniform was also an economical one as it was relatively inexpensive to purchase and maintain. Throughout the history of the Deaconess Movement, the uniform has been updated to become more fashionable. Because of all the updates in uniforms, Deaconesses in many Protestant denominations are identified by the wearing of distinctive pins.

An AME Deaconess is a woman selected by the Pastor and Official Board of the local congregation and has been set apart and consecrated by the Bishop of the Episcopal District by the solemn laying-on of hands. She is required to be well trained to fulfill the duties of her vocation. As a widow or unmarried woman of good repute and mature stature, she has dedicated herself to lifelong service in the Church. Her duties are to: encourage, foster, and improve the general interests of the church; promote the comfort and solicit the friendship and sympathy of the general public; cheer the fallen; feed the hungry; clothe the naked; seek out the homeless; encourage thrift; visit mental health institutions and prisons, and save the lost (***The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021, p. 105***). It is the established practice in the Eleventh Episcopal District to consecrate Deaconesses at the Day of Sharing in each of the Annual Conferences.

It should be well stated that the Order of Deaconess is a working order and is the highest vocational calling of a lay woman in the AME Church.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Reverend Dr. Missouri L. McPhee, Chair

Central Annual Conference Board of Examiners

Worship Leader

The Processional

*Chairperson and Dean of the Board of Examiners,
Candidates for Local Ordination and Re-obligation; Board of Examiners, Instructors,
Pastors of Nominees for Deaconess, Host Pastor, Presiding Elders, and Presiding Bishop*

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

(#8 AMECH; Marion)

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

Refrain

Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice, give thanks and sing.

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

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

Yes, on through life's long path, Still chanting as ye go;
From youth to age, by night and day, In gladness and in woe.

5 At last the march shall end, The wearied ones shall rest,
The pilgrims find their Father's house, Jerusalem the blest.

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

(Words by Edward H. Plumptre; Tune by Arthur H. Messiter)

The Advent Doxology

(Tune: Old 100th)

The Choir and Congregation

Praise God, for those who pray for peace; Praise God, in Christ there's sweet relief;

And with the Spirits, Hope, Love Joy; We'll welcome Mary's baby boy. Amen.

(Words by The Rev. Dr. Missouri L. McPhee & Jacob Cuthbert, III; Tune Attr. to Louis Bourgeois)

The Call to Worship

The Reverend Terence R. Gray I

Leader: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! The work of the Spirit is calling us:

People: **To rebuild long-standing relationships ruined by polarization and injustice.**
To repair our communities and sanctuaries as places of HOPE and JOY.
To restore the beauty of Mother Earth devastated by neglect and indifference.
To join in God's life-sustaining, hope-giving, JOY-making work in the world.

Leader: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! The Glory of the Spirit is leading us:

People: **To cast off the spirits of strife, envy, lying, fear, and doubt.**
To put on the mantle of prayer, praise, and proclamation.

**To share God's joyful vision of beauty and justice for a world so loved by God.
To display God's glory as we share the Gospel, serve others, and sow seeds of faith.**

Leader: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! The Holy Spirit is sending us:

People: **To bear witness to signs of JOY in our midst.**

To point others to the new thing God is doing in this new season.

To be faithful in the context of our calling and our witness; and

To proclaim that the JOY of the Lord is our strength!

Leader: Come, sisters and brothers in Christ! Let's make a joyful noise unto the Lord for **JOY** has come to the world! Now, let all the earth sing of God's praises!

(An Advent Call to Worship by The Rev. Dr. Missouri McPhee)

The Opening Hymn

Joy to the World (#120 AMECH; Antioch)

The Reverend Patricia Mosley

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow, Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

(Words Isaac Watts; Tune Arr. By Lowell Mason & Composed by George Frederick Handel)

The Prayer of Invocation

Presiding Elder Jimmy J. Thompson

The Choral Response

Center of My Joy (#491 AAHH)

The Choir and Congregation

Refrain

***Jesus, you're the center of my joy. All that's good and perfect comes from you.
You're the heart of my contentment, hope for all I do, Jesus, you're the center of my joy.***

When I've lost my direction, you're the compass for my way.

You're the fire and light when nights are long and cold.

In sadness, you are the laughter that shatters all my fears.

When I'm all alone, your hand is there to hold.

(Words and Tune by William & Gloria Gaither & Richard Smallwood; Arr. by Nolan Williams)

The Worship through Music

The Central & West Coast Conferences Combined Choir

The Reading of Holy Scripture

The Reverend Dr. Roy Jones, Jr.

1 Timothy 3:8-13; Romans 16:1-2

Likewise, must the Deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a Deacon, being found blameless. Let the Deacons be the mate of one spouse, ruling their children and their own homes well. For they that have used the office of a Deacon well will purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. Even so must their spouses be grave, not slanderers, but sober, faithful in all things.

I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of me also.

The Preface to the Decalogue

(#69 AMECH)

The Choir and Congregation

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

(Words by Isaac Watts; Tune by John Hatton)

The Summary of the Decalogue

The Reverend Kirk Bogen

And he said to Him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like unto it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

The Gloria Patri

(#627 AMECH)

The Choir and Congregation

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.

(Words by Charles Meineke)

The Presentation of the Bishop

Presiding Elder Valarie J. Walker

The Sermonic Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
(#75 AMECH; Hymn to Joy)

The Reverend Patrea Wilson

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou are Father, Christ our brother, All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.
(Words by Henry van Dyke; Tune Arr by Edward Hodges & Composed by Ludwig van Beethoven)

The Sermon

The Right Reverend Marvin Clyde Zanders II
Presiding Bishop
Eleventh Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship Completely Yes
(#551 AAHH)

The Reverend Dr. Michael K. Bouie

“Yes, Lord! Yes, Lord!” From the bottom of my heart to the depths of my soul,
“Yes, Lord!” Completely yes! My soul says, “Yes!”

I Love you! I love you! From the bottom of my heart to the depths of my soul,
I love you! I really do. My soul says, “Yes!”
(Words & Tune by Sandra Crouch)

The Announcements

The Reverend Terence R. Gray, I
Host Pastor

The Worship through Giving

The Central & West Coast Conferences Stewardship Committees

The Offertory Response

Praise and Thanksgiving
(#575 AMECH; Galic)

The Choir and Congregation

Father, providing Food for Your children,
By Your wise guiding Teach us to share
One with another, So that, rejoicing
With us, all others May know your care. **AMEN.**
(Words by Albert F. Bayly)

The Recognition of Widows/Widowers of Pastors

The Presiding Elders of the Conferences

Elder:

Presiding Elder Dr. Lorenzo Laws

To the widows and widowers of our beloved and esteemed pastors who have transferred their membership from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant, we extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering dedication to the church, your unconditional love and support for your spouses throughout their respective ministries and time of service. Your strength in the face of deep and difficult loss is a testament to your faith unshakable faith in our God.

Elder:

Presiding Elder Dr. Patricia Wallace

May the love and support of our church family surround you during this most holy and ancient of seasons as we remember your contributions, celebrate your resilience, acknowledge your vital roles in the spiritual and communal fabric of our Zion, and pledge to continue walking alongside you, in faith, as you carry on the legacy of faith and service of your respective spouses.



The Central Annual Conference
Eleventh Episcopal District | African Methodist Episcopal Church
SALUTES ITS WIDOWS & WIDOWERS



SAT
14 DEC
2024



Bishop Marvin Clyde Zanders II
 & Supervisor Winifred Houston Zanders

At The
Central/West Coast Conferences
Day of Sharing & Local Ordination



Mrs. Gloria S. Bruce *Mrs.* Louise Connelly *Dr.* Kathleen Gordon *Rev.* Brenda Hailey *Mrs.* Dorothy Harrison *Rev.* Bertha T. Johnson *Mrs.* Cheryl Latimer *Mrs.* Mabel Tyler

THE "NURTURING" NORTH ORLANDO DISTRICT
Presiding Elder Valarie J. Walker & Consultant Sybil D. Keys



Mrs. Bettie F. Champion *Mrs.* Vida Kennon *Mrs.* Linda Massey *Mrs.* Francina Mainer *Rev.* Lugenia P. Sanchez *Mrs.* Annie Wheeler

THE "OUTSTANDING" ORLANDO DISTRICT
Presiding Elder Milton Broomfield & Consultant Ronda Broomfield



Mrs. Ruby Birk-Williams *Mrs.* Phyllis Davis *Mrs.* Lillie Hansberry *Mr.* Joseph Harvey *Mrs.* Martha Missick *Mrs.* Marylon Mott

THE "DYNAMIC" DAYTONA BEACH DISTRICT
Presiding Elder Dr. Lorenzo Laws & Consultant Gertrude Laws



The West Coast Annual Conference
Eleventh Episcopal District | African Methodist Episcopal Church
SALUTES ITS WIDOWS



SAT
14 DEC
2024



Bishop Marvin Clyde Zanders II
 & Supervisor Winifred Houston Zanders

At The
Central & West Coast Annual Conferences
Day of Sharing & Local Ordination



Mrs.
Ida King

Mrs.
Jonnye Butler

Mrs.
Annie Wilcher

Mrs.
Vera Partner

THE "LIVELY" LAKELAND DISTRICT
Presiding Elder Jimmy J. Thompson & Consultant Kathryn Thompson



Mrs.
Martha Lawson

Mrs.
Rosetta Merrick

Mrs.
Carl L. Stephens

THE "SWEET 16" ST. PETERSBURG DISTRICT
Presiding Elder James O. Williams, Sr. & Consultant Evelyn T. Williams



Mrs.
Roslyn H. Gay

Rev.
Rebecca Kearney

Mrs.
Dorothy Evelyn Keel

Mrs.
Diana Murphy

Mrs.
Barbara Rutledge

Mrs.
Delceda Walker

THE "TRENDING TREMENDOUS" TAMPA DISTRICT
Presiding Elder Dr. Patricia S. Wallace & Consultant Frank DeWitt Wallace

The Recognition of Widows & Widowers of Pastors who served in the Central Annual Conference and have now joined the Church Triumphant

**North Orlando District
Rev. Valarie J. Walker
Presiding Elder**

**Mrs. Sybil Keys
District Consultant**

**Mrs. Gloria S. Bruce
Mrs. Louise Connelly
Dr. Kathleen Gordon
The Rev. Brenda Hailey
Mrs. Dorothy Harrison
Rev. Bertha T. Johnson
Mrs. Cheryl Latimer
Mrs. Mabel Tyler**

**Orlando District
Rev. Milton Broomfield
Presiding Elder**

**Mrs. Ronda Broomfield
District Consultant**

**Mrs. Bettie F. Champion
Mrs. Vida Kennon
Mrs. Linda Massey
Mrs. Francina Mainer
The Rev. Lugenia P. Sanchez
Mrs. Annie Wheeler**

**Daytona Beach District
Rev. Dr. Lorenzo Laws
Presiding Elder**

**Mrs. Gertrude L. Laws
District Consultant**

**Mrs. Ruby Birk-Williams
Mrs. Phyllis Davis
Mrs. Lillie Hansberry
Mr. Joseph Harvey
Mrs. Martha Missick
Mrs. Marylon Mott**



The Recognition of Widows of Pastors who served in the West Coast Annual Conference and have now joined the Church Triumphant

**Lakeland District
Rev. Jimmy Thompson
Presiding Elder**

**Mrs. Kathryn Thompson
District Consultant**

**Mrs. Jonnye Butler
Mrs. Ida King
Mrs. Vera Partner
Mrs. Annie Wilcher**

**St. Petersburg District
Rev. James Williams, Sr.
Presiding Elder**

**Mrs. Evelyn T. Williams
District Consultant**

**Mrs. Martha Lawson
Mrs. Rosetta Merrick
Mrs. Carl L. Stephens**

**Tampa District
Rev. Dr. Patricia Wallace
Presiding Elder**

**Mr. Frank Dewitt Wallace
District Consultant**

**Mrs. Roslyn H. Gay
Rev. Rebecca Kearney
Mrs. Dorothy Evelyn Keel
Mrs. Diana Murphy
Mrs. Barbara Rutledge
Mrs. Delceda Walker**

THE LITURGY FOR THE CONSECRATION OF DEACONESSES

The Pastor:

The Reverend Arthur Davis, Jr.

Bishop Zanders, we present these holy women to be consecrated Deaconesses: *Sisters Georgia Character* (Saint Lawrence AMEC, Eatonville); *Ferleece Pierce Major* (New Bethel AMEC, Altamonte Springs); *Claudia Sylvia Moon* (New Bethel AMEC, Altamonte Springs); *Betty Ann Scott Smith* (New Bethel AMEC, Altamonte Springs).

Bishop:

The Rt. Reverend Marvin Clyde Zanders, II

Take heed that these women whom you present are proper persons to perform the work of a Deaconess, and that they are of sober minds, modest in all their ways and possessed of large charity.

The Pastor:

The Reverend Travis Kendrick

They have been examined and are believed to be well qualified to enter upon the sacred duties of Deaconesses.

Bishop:

The Rt. Reverend Marvin Clyde Zanders, II

It becomes the Deaconess that she shall be pious, chaste, temperate in all things, modest, humble, industrious and devout, as she is to serve the Church of God and to give God praise and glory. Throughout the history of the Church, God has been pleased to call, and qualify certain women for the gentle and holy service of ministering to the Church and the ministry. Such women were Deborah, Mary, the Holy Mother, Eunice, Lois, Pricilla, Lydia, and Phoebe. And in the latter days God has been pleased to own and bless the labors of Sisters Sarah Gorham, Rosa Parks, Opal Lee and many others. May the Lord bless and acknowledge these persons according as God has blessed the ministration of all holy women. May these women withdraw themselves from all worldly cares and vocations and give themselves up entirely to the ministrations of the Church and to suffering humanity.

(Then shall the Bishop inquire of the candidate(s) as follows):

Bishop:

Have you duly considered the sacredness, the exactions and responsibilities of the office which you have come to enter?

Candidates: *I have considered them all.*

Bishop:

Are you determined to observe the rules for a Deaconess, give yourself up to such life and duties as these rules require, and keep yourself unspotted from the world, and all its vanities and frivolities?

Candidates: *I am so determined.*

Bishop:

Will you be governed by the Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and subject to the direction given in the discharge of the duties of your office?

Candidates: *I will be so governed.*

(Then shall the person(s) to be consecrated kneel)

Bishop:

The Rt. Reverend Marvin Clyde Zanders, II

Be thou consecrated to the office and work of a Deaconess in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Then shall the Pastors place the bonnets on the heads of the candidates).

THE LITURGY FOR THE ORDINATION OF LOCAL DEACONS

The Chair:

The Reverend Dr. Missiouri L. McPhee

Bishop Zanders, at the request of the congregations presenting them for ordination, we present these persons to be admitted Local Deacons.

Bishop:

The Rt. Reverend Marvin Clyde Zanders, II

Take heed that the persons whom you present to us at this solemn occasion appear at the request of the congregation where they hold membership in good and regular standing, and elected by this Annual Conference to the order of Local Deacon for said congregation, and that they are apt and meet by their godly conversation to exercise their ministry duly to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church.

Elder:

The Reverend Dr. Glenn B. Dames, Jr.

We have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and affirm that they are aware of the unique role of the Local Deacon and believe that they are qualified to perform the duties of Local Deacons in the congregation where they hold membership.

Bishop:

The Rt. Reverend Marvin Clyde Zanders, II

Please give me the Names of the Candidates.

Elder:

The Reverend Dr. Marcus Green

The Candidates are **Oree Maxine Bowen Johnson** (Mt. Olive AMEC, Orlando), **Mattie Mae Phillips** (Greater Faith AMEC, Deltona).

Bishop:

The Rt. Reverend Marvin Clyde Zanders, II

Members of the Central and West Coast Conferences, and to all who witness this solemn ceremony, if there are any of you who know any impediment or crime in either of these persons presented to be ordained Local Deacons for which they ought not be admitted to this office, come forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

Elder:

The Reverend Dr. Caroline D. Shine

LET US PRAY. Almighty God, who by your divine providence has appointed diverse orders of ministers in Your Church, and did inspire your Apostles to choose to the order of deacons the first martyr, St. Stephen and others; mercifully behold these servants now called to the like office and administration; replenish them so with the truth of Your doctrine and adorn them with the innocence of life that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve You to the glory of Your holy name and the edification of Your Church, through the merits of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **AMEN.**

THE EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES FOR DIACONATE ORDERS

Bishop:

Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to take upon you the office of ministry in the Church of Jesus Christ, as a Local Deacon; to serve God for the promotion of God's glory, and the edifying of God's people in your local congregation?

Candidates: I trust so.

Bishop:

Do you unfeignedly believe all the canonical Scriptures of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament?

Candidates: I do believe them.

Bishop:

Will you diligently study the Scriptures and expound the same as you are given opportunities to preach, teach, and serve in various ministries in your local church?

Candidates: I will.

Bishop:

It appertains to the office of a Local Deacon to assist the Pastor in Divine Service; especially when the Pastor administers the Holy Communion, to help in the distribution thereof, and to read and expound the Holy Scriptures; to instruct the youths and, in the absence of the Pastor, to baptize. Further, it is the office of the Local Deacon, with the consent of the Pastor, to search for the sick, poor and impotent and other such ministries that may prove helpful in the life of the congregation. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

Candidates: I will do so, by the help of God.

Bishop:

Will you frame and fashion your own life and the lives of your families according to the doctrine of Christ and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples of the flock of Christ?

Candidates: I will do so, by the help of God.

Bishop:

Will you reverently submit to the godly judgment of those to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonition?

Candidates: I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper?

THE ACT OF ORDINATION

Then shall the Bishop, laying his hand upon every one of them separately, say:

Bishop:

The Rt. Reverend Marvin Clyde Zanders, II

Take authority to execute the office of a Local Deacon in the Church of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

Then shall be delivered to each of them the Holy Bible, the Bishop saying:

Bishop:

The Rt. Reverend Marvin Clyde Zanders, II

Take authority to read the Scriptures and to preach the same in the Church of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.



*The Central &
West Coast Annual Conferences
of the*

**ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

CONGRATULATES

African Methodist Episcopal Church

Deaconess
Ministry



DSS. GEORGIA CHARACTER

Saint Lawrence AMEC | Eatonville
The Rev. Travis Kendrick | Pastor

DSS. FERLEECE PIERCE MAJOR

New Bethel AMEC | Altamonte Springs
The Rev. Arthur Davis, Jr. | Pastor

DSS. CLAUDIA SYLVIA MOON

New Bethel AMEC | Altamonte Springs
The Rev. Arthur Davis, Jr. | Pastor

DSS. BETTY ANN SCOTT SMITH

New Bethel AMEC | Altamonte Springs
The Rev. Arthur Davis, Jr. | Pastor

**THE REV. OREE MAXINE
BOWEN JOHNSON**

Local Deacon
Mt. Olive AMEC | Orlando
The Rev. Dr. Marcus R. Green | Pastor

THE REV. MATTIE MAE PHILLIPS

Local Deacon
Greater Faith AMEC | Deltona
The Rev. Dr. Caroline D. Shine | Pastor

**DAY OF SHARING
2024**

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Right Reverend Marvin Clyde Zanders, II
Chief Celebrant

The Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together (#530 AMECH)

The Choir and Congregation

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

*When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees.

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees.
(Words and Tune: Traditional Spiritual)

The Solicitation

Bishop Marvin Clyde Zanders, II

You that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbor, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in His holy ways; draw near with faith to receive the holy Sacrament, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, in the presence of His church.

The General Confession

The Congregation

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed against Your divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father for Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer of Consecration

Bishop Marvin Clyde Zanders, II

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of Your tender mercy did give Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, who made thereby His oblation of Himself, once offered, a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute and in His holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that His precious death until His coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech You, and grant that we, receiving these Your creatures of bread and wine, according to Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion, may be partakers of His most blessed body and blood; who in the same night that He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you." Likewise after supper He took the cup and when He had given thanks He gave it

to them saying, “All of you drink this, for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of Me.” Amen.

The Sharing of the Elements

(Bishop, Presiding Elders, Board of Examiners, the Ordinands & their families, Deaconesses & their families)

The Lord’s Prayer

(To Be Sung)

Ms. Barbara Murray

The Doxology

The Choir/Congregation

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

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

The Benediction

The Right Reverend Marvin Clyde Zanders, II

Go forth confident that God is faithful:
Those who have sowed in sorrow will return with shouts of joy
Bearing the harvest of God’s work.
Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say **REJOICE!** – for the Lord is near.

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		Presiding Elder Dr. Patricia Wallace Tampa District



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