

Connectional Council

&

THE BOARD OF BISHOPS MEETING OF THE



Bishop J.J. Clinton
Founder of the Tennessee Annual Conference
October 6, 1968

July 20-21, 2017

Hosted By

Mid-West Episcopal District

Headquartered at the

Knoxville Marriott

501 E. Hill Avenue, Knoxville, Tennessee, 37915

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Central Southern Africa



Bishop Hilliard Dogbe
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Dr. Elaine J. Copeland , President Clinton College.....	Rock Hill, SC
Dr. Claude Shuford Lomax-Hannon Junior College.....	Greenville, AL, President
Dr. Charles Wesley Ford , President A.M.E. Zion University	Liberia, West Africa
Dr. Donald J. Ekpo , President Hood-Speaks Theological Seminary.....	Nigeria, West Africa

OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Thursday, July 20, 2017-10:00A.M.

Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Presiding

The PreludeCongregation in Meditation

The Processional Hymn

“All Hail The Power of Jesus’ Name” (Coronation)

*All hail the power of Jesus’ Name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all.*

*Ye chosen seed of Israel’s race, Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of
all; Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord
of all.*

*Sinners, whose love can ne’er forget The wormwood and the
gall, Go, spread your trophies at His feet, And crown Him Lord
of all Go, spread your trophies at His feet, And crown Him Lord
of all.*

*Let every kindred, every tribe, On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all;
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all.*

*O, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all;
We’ll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of All.
Amen*

The Call to WorshipBishop Mildred B. Hines

Leader: Seek the Lord while He may be found,

People: Call upon Him while He is near.

**Leader: Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous
man his thoughts;**

*Unison: Let him return to the Lord, that He may have mercy on
him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.*

The InvocationBishop Joseph Johnson

O God, Light of the minds that see You, Life of the souls that love You, and Strength of the thoughts that seek You; enlarge our minds and raise the vision of our hearts that, with swift wings of thought, our spirits may reach You, the Eternal Wisdom, who are from everlasting to everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Hymn of Praise “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigning bears thee on eagle’s wings, e’er in his keeping maintaining. God’s care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds, Hast thou not known his sustaining?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee; surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with his love doeth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee, fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee. Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed, spreading the wings of grace o’er thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore Him.

The Responsive Reading.....Bishop Hilliard Dogbe

“God’s Offer of Mercy” (Isaiah 55:1-9)

Leader: **The Lord says, “Come everyone who is thirsty – here is water!**

People: Come, you that have no money – buy grain and eat! Come! Buy wine and milk – it will cost you nothing!

Leader: Why spend money on what does not satisfy? Why spend your wages and still be hungry? Listen to me and do what I say and you will enjoy the best food of all. Listen now, my people, and come to me; come to me, and you will have life!

People: I will make a lasting covenant with you and give you the blessings I promised to David. I made him a leader and commander of nations, and through him I showed them my power.

Leader: Now you will summon foreign nations; at one time they will come running to join you! I, the Lord your God, the holy God of Israel, will make all this happen; I will give you honor and glory.”

People: Turn to the Lord and pray to him, now that He is near. Let the wicked leave their way of life and change their way of thinking.

Leader: Let them turn to the Lord, our God; He is merciful and quick to forgive.

Unison: “My thoughts,” says the Lord, “are not like yours, and are different from yours. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways and thoughts above yours.”

The Affirmation of FaithBishop U.U. Effiong
“The Apostles’ Creed”

The Old Testament LessonBishop Staccato Powell

The Gloria Patri

The New Testament LessonBishop Dennis V. Proctor

The Prayer HymnBishop George W.C. Walker, Sr.
“God Moves In A Mysterious Way”

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform; He plants His footsteps in the sea, And rides upon the storm.

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.*

His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding every hour; The buds may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flower

Blind unbelief is sure to err, And scan His work in vain; God is His own interpreter, And He will make it plain. Amen

The Morning PrayerBishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr.
The Choral Selection/Anthem
The Ministry of Kindness OfferingBishop Warren M. Brown
The Music of Inspiration

The Presentation of PreacherBishop George E. Battle, Jr.
The Hymn of Preparation “Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound”
*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, That saved a wretch
like me! I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but
now I see.*

*‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears
relieved; How precious did that grace appear The hour I first
believed!*

*Thro’ many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead
me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope
secures; He will my shield and portion be As long as life
endures.*

*Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail, And mortal life shall
cease, I shall possess, within the veil, A Life of joy and peace.*

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow The sun forbear to
shine; But God, who called me here below, Will be forever
mine.*

*When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as
the sun, we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when
we’d first begun. Amen*

The SermonBishop George D. Crenshaw, Presiding Bishop
Central Southern Africa Episcopal District

The Invitational Hymn“Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus”
‘Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to take Him at His word; Just to rest upon His promise; Just to know, “Thus saith the Lord”.

Chorus

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him; How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er;
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him More*

*O how sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me ‘Neath the healing cleansing
flood. **Chorus***

Yes, ‘tis sweet to trust in Jesus, Just from sin and self to cease; Just from Jesus simply taking Life, and rest, and joy, and peace.

Chorus

*I’m so glad I learned to trust Thee, Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me, Wilt be with me to the end.*

Chorus

The Invitation to Christian DiscipleshipBishop Seth O. Lartey

The OfferingBishop W. Darin Moore

The AnnouncementsBishop Kenneth Monroe

The Election of OfficersBishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr.

The BenedictionBishop George D. Crenshaw

The Postlude

Thursday, July 20, 2017 – 3:00 P.M.

Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, Presiding

The Devotion

The Reports:

- General Secretary-AuditorReverend Dr. J. Elvin Sadler
- Director – Church Growth
and DevelopmentReverend Dr. Otis T. McMillan
- Finance DepartmentDr. Shirley Welch
- Chief Operating Officer/Business ManagerMr. Herbert Watkins
- Chief Communications OfficerMrs. Addie Lisby
- Secretary, Christian EducationReverend Dr. Kathryn Brown

~~~~Dinner~~~~

**Thursday, July 20, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.**

Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, Presiding

The Welcome Program

- The Call to Worship
- The Invocation
- The Hymn of Praise
- The Lesson From The Holy Scripture
- The Evening Prayer
- The Music of Inspiration
- The Presentation of the Presiding Bishop
- The Acknowledgements
- The Response to Welcome
- The Evening Offering
- The Introduction of Preacher.....Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.
  
- The Music of Preparation
- The Sermon .....Bishop Hilliard Dogbe, Presiding Bishop  
Western West Africa Episcopal District
  
- The Invitation to Christian Discipleship.....Bishop Louis Hunter, Sr.
- The Announcements
- The Benediction .....Bishop Hilliard Dogbe

## Friday, July 21, 2017 – 9:30 A.M.

Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, Presiding

The Devotion

### The Reports:

Pan Methodist Commission ..... Dr. Mary A. Love  
President, Clinton College .....Dr. Elaine J. Copeland  
President, Lomax-Hannon Junior College .....Reverend Dr. Claude Shuford  
President, A.M.E. Zion University .....Dr. Charles Wesley Ford  
President, Hood Speaks

Theological Seminary .....Reverend Dr. Donald J. Ekpo  
Secretary Editor, Department of Global Missions &

Missionary Seer .....Reverend Dr. Dwight B. Cannon  
Executive Director, Zion Benefits .....Dr. David Aikens  
President, Connectional Lay Council .....Dr. Mary Matthews

### ~~~~Lunch~~~~

The Devotion

The Greetings .....Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr., President  
Livingstone College

Reverend Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore, III, President  
Hood Theological Seminary

### The Reports:

Director of Public Affairs .....Reverend George McKain  
General President, W.H.&O.M. Society .....Dr. Sandra Gadson  
Executive Director, W.H. & O.M. Society ..... Mrs. Rosetta Dunham  
Treasurer, W.H.&O.M. Society .....Mrs. Jacqueline Pinkard  
Manager, Camp Barber .....Bishop Dennis V. Proctor  
Executive Director, Harriett Tubman Home .....Ms. Karen Hill

### ~~~~Dinner~~~~





## Bishop George Crenshaw

### Central South Africa Episcopal District

Born in Jefferson County Alabama, George Crenshaw was ordained as a Christian Minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 1986. He is married to the former Laurena Hardy of Birmingham, Alabama and is the father of two children Quentin Dewayne and Kennedy Diane.

Bishop Crenshaw has had a blessed and productive life in ministry having served in the capacities of Pastor and Presiding Elder. As a pastor, Bishop Crenshaw has served in Calcis, Alabama; Indianapolis, Indiana; Cheraw, SC; Lancaster SC, and presently is serving in Smyrna, Georgia at the Shaw Temple A.M.E Zion Church. His position as Presiding Elder has placed him in the Indianapolis District, Cheraw-Bennettsville District and Lancaster District.

Among his many accolades, Bishop Crenshaw holds an Honorary Doctorate Degree from both Clinton College and Livingstone College; a B.A. from Indiana University, a Masters of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary, and a high school diploma from McAdory High School in McCalla, Alabama.

Bishop Crenshaw has exercised his dominant spiritual gifts of Administration, Teaching, Shepherding and Preaching to fashion a ministry designed to empower and edify.

In addition to his educational accomplishments, Bishop Crenshaw has held many outstanding memberships and positions as well as having been recognized for many distinguished acclaims. He has served as president of the Cheraw Branch of the NAACP. He is a member of the A.M.E. Zion Connectional Budget Board and served as First Vice President of the Presiding Elder's Council 2001-2005. Pastor Crenshaw is a past board member of the Chesterfield General Hospital, Cheraw SC.

Bishop Crenshaw is a five time delegate to the A.M.E Zion Church General Conference, delegate to the 2001 World Methodist Conference in Brighton, England, 2006 World Methodist Conference in Seoul Korea and 2011 World Methodist Conference in South Africa. Bishop Crenshaw served as an Executive Board Member for the period 2006-11.

He is a 2000 James Varick Freedom Medal recipient and is a past President of Hood Theological Seminary Student Government Association. Bishop Crenshaw was a contributing Writer of the A.M.E Zion Church Christian Education Manual 2002.

He was recognized as the 1999 “Man of the Year” by the Lambda Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and recipient of the “Outstanding Community Leader” award from the Bennettsville Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Bishop Crenshaw is a community activist and was recognized as “Citizen of the Year” by the Cheraw Branch of the NAACP.

He is the founder of the Zion Center Community Development Cooperation in Cheraw, SC as well as the founder of the Cheraw-Bennettsville District A.M.E Zion Church Mass Choir.

Bishop Crenshaw presently serves as Chairman of the Budget Committee, Home Missions Treasurer, Vice Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee, and Member of the Admissions Committee and Conference Examiners for the Georgia Conference of the A.M.E Zion Church. Pastor Crenshaw is Founder and President of the Shaw Temple Biblical and Leadership Institute.

Bishop Crenshaw is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is a Life member of the Connectional Lay Council of the A.M.E. Zion Church and a Life member of the NAACP. Pastor Crenshaw received the 2011 Atlanta Gospel Choice Award as one of the "Chosen 10 Pastors" in the State of Georgia.



## Bishop Hilliard Dogbe

Western West Africa Episcopal District

Bishop Hilliard K. Dela Dogbe served as the Chief of Staff and Protocol of the Western West Africa Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Zion Church, an area covering Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. He was responsible for the planning and coordination of all operations and activities within the Episcopal District, together with the provision of leadership and effective management of all work emanating to and from the Bishop.

Besides being an astute administrator, Bishop Dogbe is an academic, a church builder, and a pastor with a proven ministry in Ghana and beyond. His passion for multi-generational ministry finds high premium in his ministry to the youth and the aged. He places much emphasis on the "wholistic" development of each individual and the total well-being of all. With his interest in training and raising Christian leaders for the mission and ministry of the Church in the world, Bishop Dogbe since 1999 became part of the training team traveling widely across all the Annual Conferences in the Episcopal Area enhancing the capacity of our ministers through teachings and leadership development programs.

Having started his itinerant ministry in the A.M.E. Zion Church in 1990 when he was received into Conference, after four years as an exhorter and a local preacher, he has served the church in many capacities locally in the episcopal area and at the connectional level. He has also represented the church on ecumenical boards in Ghana..





## Reverend Dr. Eleazar Merriweather

Reverend Dr. Eleazar Merriweather was born in Demopolis, Alabama. He is a graduate of John Essex High School, Demopolis, AL; Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering (1981); a graduate of Johnson Bible College, Knoxville, TN where he received a Masters of Arts in New Testament Studies and Preaching Exposition (1997) and he received a Doctor of Divinity, Livingstone College, May 2011.

Reverend Merriweather is very active on all levels of the A.M.E. Zion Church Connection, local community, and the city of Detroit. He served as Administrative Assistant to the Presiding Bishops, Dean of the Rochester-Brown School of Ministry for the Central Africa and Mozambique Annual Conferences; Assistant Dean for the Mid-West Episcopal District Leadership Training Institute, Conference Secretary of the Michigan Annual Conference, and the Southeast Regional Advisory Board for Hospice of Michigan, and the International Director of Discipleship Formation.

Reverend Merriweather served as Pastor of the Lomax Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Knoxville, TN (1990-2000), where he led the congregation in building a new Church, St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church, Grand Rapids, MI (2000-2009), and currently the St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church, Detroit, MI (2009-); there he led the congregation in paying-off approximately \$400,000 in debt. God has tremendously blessed the ministry, and thus all three Churches under his leadership have experienced rebirth, renewal and restoration. Reverend Merriweather is a dynamic teacher, preacher, and leader.

In addition to his pastorates, Reverend Merriweather served as Presiding Elder of the Western Michigan District for one year, and he currently serves as Presiding Elder of the Trinidad District, Trinidad & Tobago Conference.

Before receiving his call to pastor, Reverend Merriweather was employed at Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, Inc. (1981-2001), Oak Ridge, TN. During his tenure there, he held positions of Systems Manager for the Emergency Power System, Site Energy Conservation Manager, Acting Division Training Manager, Group Leader, and Field Maintenance Engineer. Reverend Merriweather is married to Rev. Wanda Merriweather, they have two daughters; LaQuitta and Alesia, and three grandchildren.