163rd Annual Session of the

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

The Freedom Church

November 19 – 22, 2026

The Quadrennial Theme for 2024 - 2028 is:

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church-- Serving This Present Age: Committing to Our Mission, Being Creative in Our Methods, Concentrating on Our Ministries, and Connecting Through Our Membership

Host Church:
York Memorial A. M. E. Zion Church
201 Tyson Street ~ Greenville, NC 27834
Reverend Darius R. Ballard ~ Host Pastor

PRESIDING ELDERS:
Presiding Elder Erlinda C. Dobson ~ New Bern District
Presiding Elder Avery C. Brown, Sr. ~ Beaufort District
Presiding Elder Lester A. Jacobs, Jr. ~ host - Washington District

Mrs. Devieta C. Moore - Missionary Supervisor
Rt. Rev. W. Darin Moore - Presiding Prelate

163rd Annual Session of the North Carolina Conference

Thursday – November 19, 2026
1:00 pm

Opening of the 163rd Session - North Carolina Conference
Presiding Elder Erlinda C. Dobson - Worship Leader

Devotion	
Call to Worship	Presiding Elder Erlinda C. Dobson
Invocation	Presiding Elder Erlinda C. Dobson
Responsive Reading	Reverend Gwendolyn Haddock
Affirmation of Faith	Reverend Doris Petteway
Scripture	Reverend Thomas Fryar
Prayer	Reverend Reginal E. Rountree
Music Ministry	North Carolina Conference Choir
Ministry of Kindness	Finance Committee
Presentation of the Bishop	Presiding Elder Lester A. Jacobs, Jr.
Introduction of the Preacher	Bishop W. Darin Moore
Music Ministry	North Carolina Conference Choir
Communion Meditation	**Reverend Dr. Avery C. Brown, Sr.** *Presiding Elder - Beaufort District*
Ministry of Giving	Finance Committee

Holy Communion

2:00pm

Roll Call	Reverend Letisha Chapman
Credentials Committee	Presiding Elder Avery C. Brown, Sr.
Rules Committee	Reverend Darius R. Ballard
Nominations Committee	Presiding Elder Avery C. Brown, Sr.
Conference Treasurers Report	Presiding Elder Erlinda C. Dobson

Places and Dates of the Annual Conferences

164th Session - November 18 – 21, 2027 - St. Augustus A. M. E. Zion – Kinston, NC
165th Session - November 16 – 19, 2028 - Piney Grove A. M. E. Zion – Havelock, NC

Places and Dates - 2026 Checkup Meetings

1st Checkup Meeting March 6, 2027 - Piney Grove A. M. E. Zion – Havelock, NC
2nd Checkup Meeting May 8, 2027 - Bryant Chapel A. M. E. Zion – Cove City, NC
3rd Checkup Meeting (Hybrid) July 10, 2027 - A. M. E. Zion – , NC

4:00pm The Lay Hour

Lay Presidents' Report - Mrs. Wanda M. Poole
Installation of Conference Lay Officers
Stole Ceremony of New Members

5:00pm Dinner

7:00pm **Education Night Service**
Mrs. Renate Lee - Worship Leader

Call to Worship	Mrs. Renate Lee
Invocation	Mrs. Renate Lee
Responsive Reading	Mrs. Brenda Bryant
Affirmation of Faith	Rev. Dr. Mary Moore
Scripture	Mr. Calvin Crooms
Prayer	Reverend Dr. M. Luther Hill

Report of the Conference Christian Education Director

CED Stoling Ceremony

Introduction of the Preacher	Bishop W. Darin Moore
Education Sermon	**Reverend Dr. Sybil Kearse**
Ministry of Giving	Finance Committee
Music Ministry	York Memorial A. M. E. Zion Choir

Friday - November 20, 2026

9:00am ***Presiding Elder Avery C. Brown, Sr. - Worship Leader***

Devotion	
Call to Worship	Presiding Elder Avery C. Brown, Sr.
Scripture	Reverend Angelia Washington
Prayer	Reverend Thomas E. Fryar
Presentation of the Bishop	Presiding Elder Dr. Erlinda C. Dobson
Music Ministry	North Carolina Choir
Episcopal Address	**Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate** *Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District* *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*

Response:
Clergy: Reverend Garry M. Slade
Lay: Mrs. Wanda M. Poole

The Great Offering

The Presiding Elders Reports

- Presiding Elder Erlinda C. Dobson - New Bern District
  Response: Reverend Aubrey D. Godette
- Presiding Elder Avery C. Brown, Sr. - Beaufort District
  Response: Reverend Annette Hoskins Satterfield
- Presiding Elder Lester A. Jacobs, Jr. - Washington District
  Response: Reverend Darius R. Ballard

1:00pm **MISSIONARY LUNCHEON**

WHOMS Convocation
Mrs. Devieta C. Moore
Missionary Supervisor - Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District

Presenter: Senator Kandie D. Smith
Topic: **Empathy and Compassion**

3:30pm **Equipping the Saints**

Presenter: **Reverend Dr. Nathanial B. Cox**
Pastor - Grace A. M. E. Zion - Raleigh, NC

Serving This Present Age: Concentration on Our Ministries

Business Session Continued
Conference Committee Reports

Necrology Report — Reverend Gregory E. Hargett, Jr.
Closing Comments and Prayer — Bishop W. Darin Moore

5:00pm **Dinner**

7:00pm **Missionary Candlelight Service**

Call to Worship — Mrs. Devieta C. Moore
Invocation — Rev. Lydia Staton
Scripture — Mrs. Debra W. Washington
Prayer — Sister Bertha Baker
The Litany — Mrs. Devieta C. Moore
Missionary Stole Ceremony
Introduction of the Preacher — Bishop W. Darin Moore
Music Ministry — New Bern District Choir
Missionary Sermon — **Reverend Dr. Nathaniel B. Cox,**
Pastor – Grace A. M. E. Zion - Raleigh, NC
Ministry of Giving — WHOMS District Presidents
Missionary Benediction

Saturday - November 21, 2026

9:00am **Christian Education Convocation**

10:30am **Worship Service**
Eddie Tootle III - Worship Leader

Call to Worship	Eddie Tootle III
Scripture	Josiah Jones
Prayer	Kingston Canandy
Music Ministry	Youth / Young Adult Choir
Liturgical Dance	New Bern District Liturgical Praise Team
Introduction of the Preacher	Bishop W. Darin Moore
Music Ministry	Youth / Young Adult Choir
Meditation	**Reverend Pia Jessup**
	Pastor - St. John A. M. E. Zion - Rocky Mount, NC
Ministry of Giving	Finance Committee
Installation of VICYC Officers	
Scholarship Awards	

Unfinished Conference Business

Conference Studies - Board of Examiners	Reverend Dr. Gwendolyn Parmley McCloud
Admissions	Reverend Dr. William T. Snow
Holy Orders	Presiding Elder Erlinda C. Dobson
Disciplinary Questions	Reverend Roger Raynor
Passing of Character	

6:00pm **MSWFs'- Freedom Awards Dinner**
Corner Stone Event Center
1095 Allen Road - Greenville, NC 27834

Sunday - November 22, 2026

Worship Service Location: Greenville Convention Center
303 Greenville Blvd. SW - Greenville, NC 27834

9:00am **Church School**
(Conference Director of Christian Education and Local Superintendent is in Charge)
9:45am Ecclesiastical Order - Chief of Protocol - Reverend Brian T. Cornelius

10:00am

Sunday Morning Services
Reverend Darius R. Ballard - Worship Leader

Devotion	
Call to Worship	Reverend Darius R. Ballard
Invocation	Reverend Darius R. Ballard
Responsive Reading	Reverend Kisha Simpson
Affirmation of Faith	Reverend Jerome Frasier
Scripture	
Old Testament	Reverend Lynn Godette
New Testament	Reverend Aubrey D. Godette
Prayer	Reverend Timothy R. Jackson
Ministry of Kindness	Finance Committee
Presentation of the Bishop	Presiding Elder Lester A. Jacobs, Jr.
Music Ministry	North Carolina Conference Mass Choir
Sunday Morning Sermon	**Bishop W. Darin Moore - Presiding Prelate** *Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District* *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*
Ministry of Giving	Finance Committee
Music Ministry	North Carolina Conference Mass Choir

Ushers Grand March - Mrs. Delores Thomas

Report of the Courtesy Committee — Mrs. Brenda Bryant

The Charge
The Reading of Appointments

The Closing of the 163rd Session of
North Carolina Annual Conference

Closing Hymn ***God Be With You Until We Meet Again***
The Benediction — Bishop W. Darin Moore

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church -- Serving This Present Age: Committing to Our Mission, Being Creative in Our Methods, Concentrating on Our Ministries, and Connecting Through Our Membership.

THE NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE - COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

ADMISSIONS
Reverends Dr. William Snow (Chair), Darius Ballard, Dr. M. Luther Hill, Pia Jessup, Dr. Lester A. Jacob Jr., Reginald Bradshaw, Cynthia Smith

APPEALS
Reverends Dr. Avery C. Brown (Chair), Dr. EC Dobson, Dr. Lester A. Jacobs Jr., Roger Raynor, Garry Slade, Gerald Godette

AUDIT
Reverends Dr. Sabrina Miller (Chair), Darnell Matthews, Dr. Avery C. Brown, Curtis Oden

BOARD OF LAY ACTIVITIES
Dr. Frances Hill-Boomer (Chair), Dr. Avery C. Brown, Dr. Erlinda C. Dobson, Lester A. Jacobs, Jr., Michael Jackson, Fernanda Copeland, Ms. Barbara Hammond, Harry Edwards

BUDGET
Reverends Lester A. Jacobs, Jr. (Chair), Dr. Avery C. Brown, Dr. Erlinda C. Dobson, Revs. Brian T. Cornelius, Dr. Janie Rouse, Mrs. Carthelia Carter, Mr. Clyde Murphy

CHIEF OF PROTOCOL & ASSISTANT CHIEF OF PROTOCOL
The Reverends Brian T. Cornelius (Chair), Thomas Fryar, Dr. M. Luther Hill, Gethsemane Hill, Kisha Simpson,

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD
Reverends Dr. M. Luther Hill, (Chair), Dr. Erlinda C. Dobson, Aubrey Godette, Cynthia Smith, Darius Ballard, Annette Hopskin-Satterfield

CONFERENCE STUDIES
Reverends Dr. Gwendolyn Parmley McCloud (Chair), Dr. William Snow, Letisha Chapman, Rev. Darnell Matthews, Dr. Francs Boomer, Marlena Daggs,

CONFERENCE TRUSTEES
Reverends Dr. W. Darin Moore, Dr. Avery C. Brown (Chair), Dr. Erlinda C. Dobson, Lester A. Jacobs, Jr., Brian Cornelius, Curtis Oden, Darius Ballard, Honorable Kandie Smith, Gary Mattocks, Hope Bryant, Mr. Willie Smith

CONFERENCE WORKERS
Sister Scherri Strayhorn (Chair), Ms. Linda Daugherty, Ms. Joan Atkinson, Reverends Sandra Rhodes, Rev. Lynett Artis, Annette Hoskins-Satterfield, Mrs. Mildred Seon, Briana Oden

CRENDENTIALS
Reverends Dr. Avery C. Brown (Chair), Dr. Erlinda C. Dobson, Lester A. Jacobs, Jr., Roosevelt Johnson, Joyce Bell, Gwendolyn Haddock, Josie Faye Clark, Marlena Daggs, Dorothy Jones, and Rev. Doris Petteway, Lynne Godette, Theodore Farrow

COURTESY
Mrs. Brenda Bryant (Chair), Mrs. Delores Thomas, Ms. Jacqueline Redding, Ms. Patricia Battle, Reverends Roger Raynor, Doris Tomberlin, Vera Price

Evangelism
Rev. Katie Chapman (Chair), Lynn Godette, Morris Ellison, Chynthia Smith, Reginald Roundtree, Stephanie Hargett, Theodore Farrow

FINANCE
Reverends Leddia Chapman (Chair), Dr. M. Luther Hill, Reginald Bradshaw, Mike Burden, Mr. Hank Dobson, Rev. Darius Ballard, Rev. Troy Bragg, Dr. Janie Rouse, Rev. Gerald Godette

HOLY ORDERS
Reverends Dr. Erlinda C. Dobson (Chair), Dr. Avery C. Brown, Annette Satterfield, Katie Chapman, Lester A. Jacobs, Jr., Dr. William T. Snow, Pia Jessup, Rev. Kelvin Chadwich

HOMES MISSIONS
Reverends Dr. Avery C. Brown (Chair), Dr. Erlinda C. Dobson, Lester A. Jacobs, Jr., Dorothy Jones, Angelia Washington, Almira Tootle, Sharon Floyd, Janice Snow, Sarah Tootle, Danny Boomer, Mildred Seon

MUSIC
Reverends Lorean Wilson-Bradshaw, Reverend Roosevelt Johnson, Reverend Gregory Hargett, Jr., Jayson-Coley Hargett, Ms. Ann Cherry, Mrs. Carole K. Downing, Mr. Jonathan Tootle, Calvinette Sheppard, F

NAACP
Mr. Willie Anderson (Coordinator), Mrs. Lottie Hickman, Ms. Joyce O'Neal

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Mrs. Jackie Matthews (Chair), Reverends Garry Slade, Dr. William Snow, Rev. Garrick Witherspoon

NECROLOGY
Reverends Gregory Hargett Jr. (Chair), Willie Jones, Katie Chapman, Dorothy Jones, Mrs. Renate Lee, Ms. Mary Holmes, Ms. Helen Barrett, Rev. Hope Bryant, Sylvia Teel

RULES
Reverends Darius R. Ballard (Chair), Brian T. Cornelius, Tishaun Kendall, Dr. M. Luther Hill, Letisha Chapman, Annette Hoskins-Satterfield, Doris Tomberlin, Ms. Andrea Becton, Rev. Reginal Rountree, Rev. James Armond

STATE OF THE COUNTRY
Reverends Timothy R. Jackson (Chair), Cynthia Smith, Rev. Jerome Frazier, Gethsemane Hill, Rev. James Armond, Gwendolyn Parmley, Thomas Fryar

USHERS
Reverend Brian T. Cornelius (Chair), Delores Thomas, Barbara Hammonds, Major Harvey, Pamela Golden, Sandra Smith, Destiny Sutton

VIRGIN ISLANDS
Reverends Katie Chapman (Chair), Dr. Erlinda C. Dobson, Dr. Avery Brown, Darnell Matthews, M. Luther Hill, Carol Becton, Mrs. Janice Snow

VOTER REGISTRATION
Mr. Willie Anderson (Coordinator), Rev. Curtis Oden, Jr., Ms. Barbara Hammonds, Mrs. Marian McClean, Honorable Kandie Smith

WORSHIP
Reverends Katie Chapman, Joyce Bell, Vera Price, Thomas Fryar, Dorothy Jones, Glenda Roulhac

The One Hundred Sixty-Third Annual Session *of the*
NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

THE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

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Presiding Elders:
Presiding Elder Erlinda C. Dobson - New Bern District
Presiding Elder Avery C. Brown, Sr. - Beaufort District
Presiding Elder Lester A. Jacobs, Jr. - Host - Washington District

Mrs. Devieta C. Moore –Missionary Supervisor
The Rt. Reverend W. Darin Moore – Presiding Prelate

Opening Worship Service of Annual Conference

THE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

Presiding Elder Erlinda C. Dobson. - Worship Leader

THE PROCESSIONAL

Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart

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 fair,
Raise high your free, exultant song,
God's wondrous praises declare. ***- refrain***

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. ***- refrain***

Still lift your standard high,
Still march in firm array,
As warriors through the darkness toil,
Till dawns the golden day. ***- refrain***

THE CALL TO WORSHIP — Presiding Elder Erlinda C. Dobson

Leader**:** Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
People: **Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.**
Leader**:** For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
ALL: **For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.**

THE CHORAL RESPONSE ***The Lord Is In His Holy Temple***

The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.

THE INVOCATION (The People Seated and Bowed) — Presiding Elder Erlinda C. Dobson

Almighty God, it is our privilege and joy to praise you. As we sing, let us make a joyful noise to you. As we pray, may our words and thoughts be a pleasing aroma to you. As we open your word may we trust in your unfailing promises. Open the eyes of our hearts that we may see you more clearly today. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

Hear Our Prayer O Lord
Hear our prayer O Lord, Hear our prayer O Lord
Incline Thine ear to us, And grant us Thy peace

THE HYMN ***He Lives***

I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today;
I know that he is living, whatever foes may say.
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need him, he's always near. ***- refrain***

He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see his loving care,
And though my heart grows weary, I never will despair.
I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast;
The day of his appearing will come at last. ***- refrain***

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;
None other is so loving, so good and kind. ***- refrain***

RESPONSIVE READING *Psalm 145:1-9* Reverend Gwendolyn Haddock

Leader**:** I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

People: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Leader**:** Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

People: One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.

Leader**:** They will recount the glorious[a] splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works I will meditate.

People: They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

Leader**:** They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

ALL: The **LORD** is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The **LORD** is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. A-men, A-men.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: **The Apostle's Creed**

Reverend Jerome Frasier

THE SCRIPTURE — Reverend Doris Petteway

THE PRAYER — Reverend Reginal E. Rountree

THE RESPONSE ***He's Sweet I Know***

He's sweet, I know. He's sweet, I know.
Storm clouds may rise, strong winds may blow.
I'll tell the world wherever I go,
That I've found a Savior, and He's sweet, I know.

THE ANTHEM OR CHORAL SELECTION — NC Conference Choir – Music Ministry

THE MINISTRY OF KINDNESS — Finance Committee

THE CHORAL SELECTION — NC Conference Choir – Music Ministry

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP — Presiding Elder Lester A. Jacobs, Jr.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER — **Bishop W. Darin Moore**

THE CHORAL SELECTION — NC Conference Choir – Music Ministry

THE COMMUNION MEDITATION

Reverend Dr. Avery C. Brown, Sr.
Presiding Elder - Beaufort District

THE CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

THE INVITATIONAL HYMN ***I Need Thee Every Hour***

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford. ***-Refrain***

I need Thee, O I need Thee;
Every hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.

I need Thee every hour, stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh. ***-Refrain***

I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, or life is vain. ***-Refrain***

I need Thee every hour; teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises in me fulfill. ***-Refrain***

THE MINISTRY OF GIVING — Finance Committee

THE OFFERTORY ***All Things Come of Thee, O Lord***

All things come of Thee O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee. A-men.

THE COMMUNION HYMN

There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood

There is a fountain filled with blood, Drawn from Emmanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains.
Lose all their guilty stains, Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see, That fountain in his day;
And there have I, though vile as he, Washed all my sins away.
Washed all my sins away, Washed all my sins away;
And there have I, though vile as he, Washed all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood, Shall never lose its power
Till all the ransomed church of God, Be saved, to sin no more.
Be saved, to sin no more, Be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed church of God Be saved, to sin no more.

E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream, Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme, And shall be till I die.
And shall be till I die, And shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme, And shall be till I die.

Then in a nobler, sweeter song, I'll sing Thy power to save,
When this poor lisping, stammering tongue, Lies silent in the grave.
Lies silent in the grave, Lies silent in the grave;
When this poor lisping, stammering tongue, Lies silent in the grave.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Bishop W. Darin Moore, Celebrant
Presiding Elders, Con-celebrants

THE FELLOWSHIP HYMN

It Is Well With My Soul - Hymn 466

When peace like a river attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll, Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say: "It is well, it is well with my soul."

It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul), it is well, it is well with my soul!

Tho' Satan should buffet tho' trials should come, Let this blest assurance control, That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin – oh, the bliss of this glorious tho't – My sin – not in part but the whole, – Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more; Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trump shall re-sound, and the Lord shall descend, – "Even so – it is well with my soul.

THE OFFICIAL CONFERENCE OPENING

THE BENEDICTION

RITUAL OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT INVITATION

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.
Wherefore ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking from henceforth in His holy way; draw near with faith, and take the Holy Sacrament to your comfort: and, devoutly kneeling, make your humble confession to Almighty God.

THE GENERAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, Judge of all men, 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 thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy 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 Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please Thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***AMEN.***

THE PRAYER OF PARDON

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto thee, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***AMEN.***

THE COLLECT

Almighty God unto Whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***AMEN***

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this Thy holy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Thy table; but Thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy; grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, and to drink His blood, that we may live and grow thereby, and that, being washed through His most precious blood, we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. ***AMEN.***

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Almighty God our heavenly Father who of Thy tender mercy didst give Thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by 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 His precious death until His coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, and grant that we, receiving these Thy creatures of bread and wine, according to Thy 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 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 given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.

Likewise after supper He took the cup; and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying Drink ye all of 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 oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. ***AMEN.***

THE SURSUM CORDA & SANCTUS WITH PREFACE

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee, and saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory, Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high. ***AMEN.***

THE ADMINISTRATION OF SACRAMENTS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us: and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O Lord, our heavenly Father, we Thy humble servants desire Thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching Thee to grant that, by the merits and death of Thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, and through faith in His blood, we and Thy whole Church may obtain the remission of our sins, and all other benefits of His passion. And we offer and present unto Thee, O Lord, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice; humbly beseeching Thee that all we who are partakers of this holy communion may be filled with Thy grace and heavenly benediction. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto Thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech Thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by Whom, and with Whom, in the unity of The Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto Thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men! We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord God heavenly King, God the Father Almighty! O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesus Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art Holy; Thou only art the Lord; Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. ***AMEN.***

May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

The One Hundred Sixty-Third Annual Session *of the*
NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

THE EDUCATION NIGHT SERVICE

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

York Memorial A. M. E. Zion Church
201 Tyson Street – Greenville, NC 27834
Reverend Darius R. Ballard - host Pastor

Thursday – November 19, 2026 - 7:00PM

<u>The Quadrennial Theme for 2024 - 2028 is:</u>
The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church-- Serving This Present Age: Committing to Our Mission, Being Creative in Our Methods, <u>*Concentrating on Our Ministries*</u>, and Connecting Through Our Membership

<u>Presiding Elders</u>:
Presiding Elder Erlinda C. Dobson - New Bern District
Presiding Elder Avery C. Brown, Sr. - Beaufort District
Presiding Elder Lester A. Jacobs, Jr. - host - Washington District

Mrs. Devieta C. Moore –Missionary Supervisor
The Rt. Reverend W. Darin Moore – Presiding Prelate

EDUCATION NIGHT SERVICE

Mrs. Renate Lee - Worship Leader

PRAISE & WORSHIP

THE CALL TO WORSHIP — Mrs. Renate Lee

Leader: **Throughout all our lives God is with us.**
People: *Praise be to God for God's mercy and love.*
Leader: Open your hearts today to God's gentle leading.
ALL: ***We open our lives to God, that we may faithfully serve God all our days.*** ***AMEN.***

THE CHORAL RESPONSE — ***Doxology***

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 INVOCATION *(People Seated and Bowed)* — Mrs. Renate Lee

Gracious God, make each of us an instrument of your grace. Weave us into a community showing forth your power and tenderness. Bless us and our differences and under gird our courage to stand together. We call on you to gather us in your love this evening. Lead us to better know you and glorify you on each step of the journey of our lives. Amen.

THE HYMN — ***Praise Him, Praise Him***

Praise Him!, Praise Him!—Jesus, our blessèd Redeemer,
Sing, O earth, His wonderful love proclaim.
Hail Him! Hail Him! Highest archangels in glory;
Strength and honor give to His holy name!
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children,
In His arms He carries them all day long:

Refrain
Praise Him!, Praise Him! tell of His excellent greatness;
Praise Him! Praise Him! ever in joyful song!

Praise Him!, Praise Him!—Jesus, our blessèd Redeemer,
For our sins He suffered, and bled, and died;
He our rock, our hope of eternal salvation,
Hail Him! Hail Him! Jesus the Crucified.
Sound His praises! Jesus, who bore our sorrows,
Love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong ***Refrain***

Praise Him! Praise Him!—Jesus, our blessèd Redeemer,
Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring,
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever.
Crown Him! Crown Him! —Prophet, and Priest, and King!
Christ is coming! Over the world victorious,
Power and glory unto the Lord belong. ***Refrain***

THE RESPONSIVE READING

Education -*Proverbs 2:1-10* Mrs. Brenda Bryant
(Congregation Standing)

Leader: My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you,

People: Making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding,

Leader: If you indeed cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,

People: If you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,

Leader: Then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

People: For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

Leader: He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,

People: Guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his faithful ones,

Leader: Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path.

All: For wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

THE GLORIA PATRI (Congregation Standing)

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. A-men, A-men

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostle's Creed* Reverend Dr. Mary Moore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Proverbs 8:1-11 Mr. Calvin Crooms

THE CHORAL SELECTION York Memorial A. M. E. Zion – Music Ministry

THE PRAYER Reverend Dr. M. Luther Hill

THE RESPONSE ***Sweet, Sweet Spirit***

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord; there are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. **- *Refrain***

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place

REPORT OF CONFERENCE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR
Mrs. Renate Lee

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER — Bishop W. Darin Moore

THE CHORAL SELECTIONS — York Memorial A. M. E. Zion – Music Ministry

THE EDUCATION SERMON — **Reverend Dr. Sybil Kearse**
Pastor - Wayne Chapel A. M. E. Zion – Kinston, NC

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

THE INVITATIONAL HYMN

Lead Me, Guide Me

I am weak, and I need Thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour;
Let me through the darkness Thy face to see,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. - Refrain

Lead me, guide me along the way; For if You lead me, I cannot stray;
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. - Refrain

I am lost, if you take your hand from me;
I am blind, without Thy Light to see;
Lord, just always let me Thy servant be,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. - Refrain

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE MINISTRY OF GIVING — Finance Committee

THE OFFERTORY

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BENEDICTION — Reverend Dr. Sybil Kearse

THE CHORAL AMEN

WOMEN'S HOME AND OVERSEAS MISSIONARY SOCIETY
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH



Reaching the Masses in An Ever-Changing World
The Journey Continues: *Empathy and Compassion*

Mrs. Jo-Ann O. Monroe, Connectional Secretary, Bureau of Supply
Mrs. Sandra B. Crowder, International President

BUREAU OF SUPPLY PRAYER LUNCHEON

(Enter Quietly and Prayerfully)

Call to Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us together today. Fill our hearts with empathy, kindness, and compassion so we may reflect Your love in all we do. Help us to encourage, support, and care for one another with grace and understanding. Guide this gathering by Your Spirit and let everything we do bring glory to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Opening Hymn ***Love Lifted Me***

I was sinking deep in sin, Far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within, Sinking to rise no more;
But the Master of the sea ..Heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me– Now safe am I.

[Refrain]
Love lifted me, Love lifted me,
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me;

Love lifted me, Love lifted me,
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me.

All my heart to Him I give, Ever to Him I'll cling,
In His blessed presence live, Ever His praises sing.
Love so mighty and so true Merits my soul's best songs;
Faithful, loving service, too, To Him belongs. [Refrain]

Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves;
He will lift you by His love ..Out of the angry waves.
He's the Master of the sea, Billows His will obey;
He your Savior wants to be– Be saved today. [Refrain]

Empathy and Compassion Scripture and Prayer Readings

Scripture: Ephesians 4:32
Prayer: Lord, help us extend kindness and compassion daily, showing patience, forgiveness, and love to everyone we encounter along life's journey.

Scripture: Galatians 6:2
Prayer: Father, give us hearts willing to comfort, encourage, and support others through struggles with empathy, understanding, grace, and faithful compassion.

Scripture: Colossians 3:12
Prayer: Lord, clothe us with humility and compassion so our actions reflect Your love and bring healing, encouragement, peace, and hope to others.

Scripture: Romans 12:15
Prayer: God, help us genuinely share the joys and sorrows of others while offering comfort, empathy, encouragement, and unwavering love through every season.

Scripture: Micah 6:8
Prayer: Father, teach us to walk humbly, love mercy deeply, and treat every person with fairness, dignity, compassion, kindness, and sincere understanding.

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:8
Prayer: Lord, strengthen us to serve others with humble hearts, listening carefully, speaking kindly, and reflecting Christ's compassion in every relationship and encounter.

Solo or Praise Dance

Wesleyan Grace
Lunch is Served

Introduction of Meditation Speaker

Meditation Hymn ***O Master Let Me Walk With Thee***

O Master, let me walk with thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret; help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience; still with thee
In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong:

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only thou canst give,
With thee, O Master, let me live.

Meditation

Closing Remarks

Missionary Benediction
God be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us and give us peace. Amen.



The One Hundred Sixty-Third Annual Session *of the* NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

THE MISSIONARY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

York Memorial A. M. E. Zion Church
201 Tyson Street – Greenville, NC 27834
Reverend Darius
R. Ballard - host Pastor

Friday – November 20, 2026 - 7:00PM

<u>The Quadrennial Theme for 2024 - 2028 is:</u>
The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church-- Serving This Present Age: Committing to Our Mission, Being Creative in Our Methods, <u>*Concentrating on Our Ministries*</u>, and Connecting Through Our Membership

<u>Presiding Elders</u>:
Presiding Elder Erlinda C. Dobson - New Bern District
Presiding Elder Avery C. Brown, Sr. - Beaufort District
Presiding Elder Lester A. Jacobs, Jr. - host - Washington District

Mrs. Devieta C. Moore –Missionary Supervisor
The Rt. Reverend W. Darin Moore – Presiding Prelate

THE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District
North Carolina Annual Conference

MISSIONARY QUADRENNIAL THEME

"Reaching The Masses In An Ever-Changing World - The Journey Continues through Self-Care And Wellness • Equity And Justice • Leadership And Legacy • Empathy And Compassion".

WORSHIP LEADER — **Mrs. Devieta C. Moore - Missionary Supervisor**
Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

People: We come to worship the Light of the world.

Leader: May the flame we share remind us of Christ's love shining through His servants everywhere.

People: Send us, Lord, to shine with your love.

All: Let us worship God.

THE INVOCATION — Reverend Lydia Staton

Oh Lord, may your Spirit fill this place. Let the light of your awesome Presence radiate through us so that we may forever walk in the light of your love, delight in the light of your peace and rejoice in the light of your power. Let the light from the lighthouse shine on all of us in this place Amen.

THE CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Lift Him Up

How to reach the masses, men of every birth? For an answer Jesus gave a key,
"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, Will draw all men unto Me."
Lift Him up, Lift Him up,... Still He speaks from eternity,
"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.

O the world is hungry for the living bread, Lift the Saviour up for them to see,
Trust Him, and do not doubt the words that He said, "I'll draw all men unto Me."

Lift Him up by living as a Christian ought, Let the world in you the Saviour see,
Then men will gladly follow Him who once taught, "I'll draw all men unto Me."

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON — Mrs. Debra W. Washington

THE EVENING PRAYER — Sister Bertha Baker

THE PRAYER RESPONSE

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You

THE MUSIC MINISTRY — New Bern District Choir

THE LITANY

LITANY IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN

(adapted by: Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, - Missionary Supervisor)

1st Voice: Oh God, who has created all human beings with dignity and love:

Voices Together: **We lift to you the women of the world**

2nd Voice: Our mothers, daughter, sisters, and friends

Voices Together: **Worthy human beings, beloved by You.**

3rd Voice: Speak deeply into the souls of women and girls today

Voices Together: **Tell them their worth, value and strength.**

4th Voice: So many women have been dis-empowered

Voices Together: **Abused and enslaved**

5th Voice: Pushed to the margins of societies worldwide,

Voices Together: **Their voices never heard.**

6th Voice: But you, Lord, have redeemed the lowly.

Voices Together: **You have scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts**

7th Voice: You have lifted up the humble

Voices Together: **The Mighty One has done great things for us**

8th Voice: Even now, you are bringing justice for women,

Voices Together: **Wave upon wave over the earth.**

9th Voice: Even now women of wisdom are rising to leadership

Voices Together: **In churches, organizations, governments, and arts.**

10th Voice: Give courage to the women working

Voices Together: **For equality and the good of their sisters and brothers.**

11th Voice: Keep them from temptation and evil.

Voice Together: **And may the next generation rise up freer than the last.**

ALL: **Amen**

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THE MISSIONARY STOLING CEREMONY

THE CHARGE

Throw Out the Lifeline

Throw out the lifeline across the dark wave! There is a brother whom someone should save; Somebody's brother! Oh, who then will dare, To throw out the lifeline, his peril to share?

Throw out the lifeline with hand quick and strong. Why do you tarry, why linger so long? See! He is sinking! Oh, hasten today. And out with the lifeboat! Away then away?

Throw out the lifeline to danger fraught men, Sinking in anguish where you've never been; Winds of temptation and billows of woe Will soon hurl them out where the dark waters flow.

Soon will the season of rescue be o'er, Soon will they drift to eternity's shore; Haste then, my brother, no time for delay, But throw out the lifeline and save them today.

CHORUS

Throw out the lifeline! Throw out the lifeline! Someone is drifting away; Throw out the lifeline! Throw out the lifeline! Someone is sinking today.

PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP — Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, Missionary Supervisor

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER — The Rt. Reverend W. Darin Moore
Presiding Prelate - Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District

THE MUSIC MINISTRY — New Bern District Choir

THE MISSIONARY SERMON — **Reverend Dr. Nathaniel B. Cox**
Pastor - Grace A. M. E. Zion Church – Raleigh, NC

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

THE MISSIONARY OFFERING
North Carolina Conference - WHOMS - District Presidents

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS/RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

The Missionary Benediction
"God be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us and give us peace. Amen."

The One Hundred Sixty-Third Annual Session *of the* NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

THE SUNDAY SERVICE

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

Sunday Worship Location:
Greenville Convention Center
303 Greenville Blvd SW - Greenville, NC 27834

Sunday – November 22, 2026 - 10:00AM

The Quadrennial Theme for 2024 - 2028 is:
The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church-- Serving This Present Age: Committing to Our Mission, Being Creative in Our Methods, *Concentrating on Our Ministries*, and Connecting Through Our Membership

Presiding Elders:
Presiding Elder Erlinda C. Dobson - New Bern District
Presiding Elder Avery C. Brown, Sr. - Beaufort District
Presiding Elder Lester A. Jacobs, Jr. - Host - Washington District

Mrs. Devieta C. Moore –Missionary Supervisor
The Rt. Reverend W. Darin Moore – Presiding Prelate

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Reverend Darius R. Ballard - Worship Leader

Organ Prelude or Piano Voluntary
(The Congregation in Devout Meditation)

THE PROCESSIONAL

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 worm-wood 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 WORSHIP — Reverend Darius R. Ballard

Leader: Oh, sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!
People: Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
Leader: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!
All: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised!

THE CHORAL RESPONSE — ***The Lord Is In His Holy Temple***

The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.

THE INVOCATION *(People Seated and Bowed)* — Reverend Darius R. Ballard

Almighty God, as we gather in awe of your goodness and mercy today, we celebrate your presence amongst us by the power of your Holy Spirit. We declare our love for you as you have made known your love for us through your son Jesus Christ. May our hearts overflow with thanksgiving and our mouths proclaim your everlasting greatness. In the wonderful name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

THE CHORAL RESPONSE — ***Hear Our Prayer, O Lord***

Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord
Incline Thine ear to us, And grant us Thy peace A-men.

THE MORNING HYMN ***O How I Love Jesus***

There is a name I love to hear, I love to speak its worth;
It sounds like music in mine ear, The sweetest name on earth. ***-Refrain***

O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, Because He first loved me!

It tells me of a Savior's love, Who died to set me free;
It tells me of His precious blood, The sinner's perfect plea. ***-Refrain***

It tells of One whose loving heart, Can feel my deepest woe;
Who in my sorrow bears a part, That none can bear below. ***-Refrain***

THE RESPONSIVE READING *Psalm 107:1-8* Reverend Kisha Simpson

LEADER: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

PEOPLE: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble

LEADER: And gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

PEOPLE: Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;

LEADER: Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

PEOPLE: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

LEADER: He led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.

ALL: Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. A-men, A-men.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostle's Creed Reverend Jerome Fraiser

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament Reverend Lynn Godette
New Testament Reverend Aubrey D. Godette

THE PRAYER HYMN ***O Thou, In Whose Presence***

O Thou, in whose presence my soul takes delight, On whom in affliction I call, My comfort by day, and my song in the night, My hope, my salvation, my all!

Where dost Thou, dear Shepherd, resort with Thy sheep, To feed them in pastures of love? Say, why in the valley of death should I weep, Or alone in this wilderness rove?

O why should I wander an alien from Thee, Or cry in the desert for bread? Thy foes will rejoice when my sorrows they see, And smile at the tears I have shed.

Restore, my dear Saviour, the light of Thy face; Thy soul-cheering comfort impart; And let the sweet tokens of pardoning grace Bring joy to my desolate heart.

He looks! and ten thousands of angels rejoice, And myriads wait for His word; He speaks! and eternity, filled with His voice, Re-echoes the praise of the Lord. ***Amen.***

THE PRAYER	Reverend Timothy R. Jackson
THE CHORAL RESPONSE	
THE MUSIC MINISTRY	NC Conference Mass Choir
THE MINISTRY OF KINDNESS OFFERING	Finance Committee
THE MUSIC MINISTRY	NC Conference Mass Choir
THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP	Presiding Elder Lester A. Jacobs, Jr.
THE MUSIC MINISTRY	NC Conference Mass Choir
THE SERMON	**The Rt. Reverend W. Darin Moore** *Presiding Prelate - Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District*

THE INVITATIONAL HYMN ***Take My Life, And Let It Be***

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

THE MINISTRY OF GIVING — Finance Committee

GRAND USHERS — Mrs. Delores Thomas

THE BLESSING OF THE OFFERINGS

THE COURTESY COMMITTEE REPORT — Mrs. Brenda Bryant

THE CHARGE TO MINISTERS AND LAITY

HYMN — ***A Charge to Keep I Have***

THE READING OF APPOINTMENTS — Bishop W. Darin Moore

CONFERENCE AND DISTRICT OFFICERS
MINISTERS AND PASTORS

CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE - 163RD SESSION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE CLOSING HYMN

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again! By His counsels guide, up hold you, With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again!

Till we meet!.... Till we meet! Till we meet at Jesus' feet; Till we meet!.... Till we meet! God be with you till we meet again!

God be with you till we meet again! 'Neath His wings securely hide you, Daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again!

God be with you till we meet again! When life's perils thick confound you, Put His arms unfailing round you; God be with you till meet again!

God be with you till we meet again! Keep love's banner floating o'er you, Smite death's threat'ning wave before you; God be with you till we meet again!

THE BENEDICTION — **Bishop W. Darin Moore**

Reverend Dr. Avery C. Brown, Sr.



Reverend Dr. Avery C. Brown is a Senior Presiding Elder whose experience spans multi-church operations, clergy development, congregational health, pastoral care, and strategic planning, complemented by academic and ecumenical engagement.

A committed African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church statesman, Dr. Brown, has provided pastoral leadership to York Memorial AME Zion Church, Piney Grove AME Zion Church, Saint Mark AME Zion Church and Purvis Chapel AME Zion Church. He was appointed Elder of the Washington District - Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District in 2006 and subsequently the Presiding Elder of the Beaufort District in 2008 where he continues to provide spiritual and administrative oversight for 24 churches.

Preparation and follow-through is a core principle of Dr. Avery C. Brown, and is reflected in his academic pursuits which include:

- **Doctoral Studies, Graduate Theological Foundation** — Coursework complete; dissertation in progress.
- **Th.M.** — Duke University
- **M.Div.** — Drew University
- **B.S.** — Texas Wesleyan University

Dr. Brown is also proud of being selected as Outstanding Young Men of America Basketball Letterman: Fairview High School & Texas Wesleyan University as well as Track Letterman at Fairview High School. Dr. Brown's academic appointments and professional development certificates from Duke Divinity School and international ecumenical studies are extensive.

Presiding Elder Avery C. Brown's ministry is reflective of the Scripture; "Pay careful attention to yourself and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood." Acts 20:28

Reverend Dr. Sybil Kearse



Rev. Dr. Sybil Kearse, originally from Brooklyn, New York, is an ordained Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and serves as Pastor of Wayne Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Kinston, North Carolina, within the Washington District of the North Carolina Conference, Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District. Her ministerial journey has included service as an Associate Minister, Steward Board member, and Supply Pastor.

Dr. Kearse holds an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Colorado Technical University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Fayetteville State University. She earned both her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Liberty University's John W. Rawlings School of Divinity, completing her doctorate with a concentration in Church Revitalization. While studying within a predominantly conservative evangelical environment, she embraced the opportunity to bring the lived experience and perspective of a Black woman preacher and pastor to spaces where those voices have historically been underrepresented. She is also a graduate of the inaugural Compelling Preachers Cohort.

Beyond the pulpit, Dr. Kearse is bi-vocational, balancing pastoral ministry with a professional career while also serving as a published author, entrepreneur, and licensed financial professional. She hosts Morning Manna, a daily praise and devotional gathering where the Gospel is proclaimed, lives are encouraged, and individuals have come to Christ and rededicated their lives. Her ministry remains committed to strengthening the Church, bridging generations, developing disciples, and equipping believers to live transformed lives for the Kingdom of God.

Senator Kandie D. Smith



Senator Kandie D. Smith is a public servant, entrepreneur, educator, consultant, and community advocate whose career has been grounded in leadership, service, and building meaningful relationships.

Senator Smith currently represents North Carolina's 5th Senate District, including Edgecombe and Pitt counties. She previously served two terms in the North Carolina House of Representatives and nearly a decade on the Greenville City Council, where she made history as the first Black woman to serve as Mayor of Greenville, North Carolina. In addition to her legislative service, Senator Smith is a small business owner, consultant, business coach, trainer, and substitute teacher. Through her consulting and training work, she travels nationally providing professional development and leadership training in areas including crisis management, leadership, and implicit bias. Her work reflects her belief that leadership is about developing people, building relationships, and creating opportunities for others to succeed.

Senator Smith is also an active member of the Greenville North Carolina Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., where she was initiated in Spring 2005. A former chapter president and current Social Action Co-Chair, she remains engaged in civic education and community involvement, helping make complex issues accessible and encouraging others to become informed and engaged in their communities.

Long before public service became her profession, Senator Smith was a student-athlete at Charleston Southern University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology with a

minor in Communications while competing in track, cross country, and basketball. Her years at CSU were shaped by academics, athletics, friendship, mentorship, perseverance, and personal growth—experiences and relationships that continue to influence her Nato approach to leadership and service.

Senator Smith takes particular pride in being part of the historic class that graduated during the transition from Baptist College to Charleston Southern University. For her, being a Buccaneer is more than a part of her past; it remains a meaningful part of who she is. Through public service, professional leadership, and community engagement, Senator Kandie D. Smith continues to carry forward the values of service, perseverance, leadership, and relationship-building that have defined her journey. She remains grateful for the people and experiences that shaped her life, and especially for the foundation Charleston Southern University provided as she answered the call to serve

Reverend Dr. Nathaniel B. Cox



Dr. Cox was born in Orange County NC and raised in Laurinburg, NC. He is an alumnus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke in Pembroke, NC; with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Philosophy and Religion. He received his Masters of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, NC.

In May 2026, Dr. Cox earned his Ph.D. in Rhetoric from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His dissertation, "The African American Pulpit and the Reconstruction of Narrative Ground in the Black Community," examines how Black preaching helps rebuild a shared story that grounds identity, meaning, and hope within the African American community.

Dr. Cox organized and pastored Resurrection A.M.E Zion Church, for over 10 years. He served as Pastor of Matthew Chapel A.M.E Zion Church during the 2016-2017 conference year. In the fall of 2017, he was appointed as the Pastor of the Trinity A.M.E Zion Church of Pittsburgh, PA. But in the fall of 2021, Pastor Cox was appointed by Bishop Kenneth Monroe, Presiding Prelate of the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal district, as the new Pastor of Grace AME Zion in Raleigh NC.

Dr. Cox currently serves on the connectional board for Church Growth and Development as the chair of the church planting committee. He also serves alongside his wife as the advisors to the YACM steering committee for Christian Education.
It is his desire to see the lives of the people of God set free by the power of God. Dr. Cox believes that signs and wonders follow them that believe; as a result, many lives have been transformed and renewed by the power of the anointing of Christ, our Lord.

Reverend Pia Jessup



Rev. Pia Jessup, a native of White Oak, North Carolina and a gift of the foster care system, is the daughter of the late Charlie and Betty Jessup as the middle child of two brothers: Michael D. Bethune and Cyncere (Pronounced “Sincere) Jessup.

After graduating from The University of NC at Charlotte in 2005 with a Bachelor’s of Arts in Psychology, she worked for The Baptist Children’s Home working with Developmentally Disabled Adult women. During her time there, she saw the connection of optimal health care and mental health working in tandem with one another. She enrolled at The University of NC at Pembroke to pursue the Bachelor of Science in Nursing in the fall of 2005 and graduated from their four-year program in two years. Throughout her collegiate education, Rev. Jessup remained dedicated to church and community and answered the call to preaching ministry in April 2006.

Her spiritual journey led her to Hood Theological Seminary after the completion of nursing school in the fall of 2009 and graduated with a Masters of Divinity in May 2012. Rev. Jessup has served as the youngest female pastor in the Cape Fear Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church receiving her first pastoral appointment to the Jericho AME Zion Church in Kinston NC. She has preached and served in the capacity of youth Pastor and Senior Pastor of several congregations within Zion.

Currently, Rev. Jessup serves as middle school science teacher at Emereau Bladen Charter School in her native Bladen County. She a recent graduate of Fayetteville State University and recipient of two full scholarships: The HBCU STEM Scholars Program as well as being named as a prestigious NC Teaching Fellow Scholar at FSU a Master’s in Teaching concentrating in Middle Grades Science.

Her relentless dedication to social justice and community service is evident in her work as a member and Chair of the Social Action Committee of the Whiteville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as well as Chief Judge for her local voting precinct.

THE RIGHT REVEREND W. DARIN MOORE



Bishop W. Darin Moore is a native of Mt. Vernon, NY and began his college education at Livingstone College, graduating from Purchase College, in Purchase, NY with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. Theological studies were done at Yale University Divinity School obtaining the M.Div. from United Theological Seminary. He received his Doctor of Ministry Degree from UTS as well as an honorary Doctorate from Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina.

Pastoral assignments for Bishop Moore have included Clarksville and Morning Star AME Zion Churches, Monroe, NC; Mt. Olivet AME Zion Church, Greensboro, NC; and Jones Tabernacle AME Zion Church, Indianapolis, IN. While in Greensboro, he served on the Commission for the Greensboro Coliseum and the County Commission on Children and Youth. In Indianapolis, Bishop Moore served two terms as President of the Board of Directors for the Greater Indianapolis Church Federation and was the Presiding Elder of the Indianapolis District for the AME Zion Church. He became the pastor of his home church, Greater Centennial AME Zion Church in 1993 and served faithfully until his election as a Bishop.

In July, 2012 Bishop Moore was elevated to the episcopacy from Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church, Mt. Vernon, NY as the 99th bishop in succession. During his tenure as pastor of Greater Centennial the congregation grew from a few hundred to more than 6,500 members.

Bishop Moore was elected President of the Mount Vernon Board of Education. Additionally, he served as President of the United Black Clergy of Westchester, the Founding Chairperson for Save Our Seed Ministries, and a member of the Westchester County African American Advisory Board. He is Founder and the past President of the Greater Centennial Community Development Corporation and past President of Greater Centennial Homes where he led in the construction of the James Varick Homes for 1st time home buyers, construction of the Zion Court Apartments, and a $12 million substantial renovation of Greater Centennial Homes.

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Twice, he has been selected as the Morning Preacher for the Hampton Ministers' Conference, an annual gathering of more than 10,000 ministers and musicians from around the country, he has been inducted into both the Morehouse College MLK Board of Preachers and the inaugural class of the Bishop Alfred G. Dunston College of Preachers at Livingstone College. Bishop Moore's sermons have been published in *The African American Pulpit Forum* and the *Balm in Gilead Journal*. He is the author/editor of two books.

Bishop Moore is a Past Chair of the National Council of Churches, USA, Chair of the Hood Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, Vice Chairman of the Livingstone College Board of Trustees, and a member of the World Methodist Council. He also serves as Chairman of the Restructuring Commission and the Connectional Budget Board of the AME Zion Church.

Bishop Moore is the Presiding Bishop of the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District, which includes the Albemarle, Cape Fear, Central North Carolina, North Carolina, and Virgin Islands Conferences.

A loving husband to Devieta C. Moore, devoted father to Daron (Elaina), Dana (Kevin), and Dion. He and his wife are proud grandparents of five, Jayli, Creed, Kevin, Carter, and Dailyn.

Bishop Moore uses as his theme:

"It's our **OUTREACH** that validates our **UP REACH**!"

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