

# 18<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District

## African Methodist Episcopal Church



## *Bishop's Report*

Atlanta, Georgia

"The African Methodist Episcopal Church: A Social Justice and Liberating Faith" Micah 6:8

"Vision Sees The Invisible" - Ephesians 4:11-13



The Rt. Reverend Stafford J.N. Wicker, D.Min, Presiding Prelate  
The Reverend Constance B. Wicker, D.Min., Episcopal Supervisor



# FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK

To The General Board & The Global Council of Bishop

We thank God for the opportunity to make our third Annual Report to the Bishop's Council. We remained encouraged by God's grace and mercy on the ministry of the 18th Episcopal District. The work is all divine. The relationships and bonds which are established as we continue to meet and partner in ministry with each congregation and the community we are learning the beauty and possibilities of this vast area. We count it all joy to have this experience and opportunity to serve.

This year, we continued our focus on our five priorities in the District:

1. Love the People – Be Hospitable
2. Reposition Financial: Meet All Episcopal Project Budget – Be Good Stewards
3. Build Sanctuaries and Facilities – Be Productive
4. Redirect Spiritual Engine – Be Intentional
5. Make Christian Education Accessible for Clergy and laity – Be Informed

The 18th Episcopal District is blessed with five Episcopal Projects and we have reorganized the district to ensure all projects have representation from all the Annual Conferences:

1. The Bishop's Place - a residential partnership
2. F.C. James Centre - an office complex and community empowerment center
3. Selulasandla Village - a social service agency for orphan and vulnerable children
4. M. Joan Cousin - a women and family empowerment center for AIDs and HIV families
5. Episcopal Residence - housing for the Bishop

We are honored to continue the legacy of these project and ensure their viability for years and generations to come. We believe these projects are global witness of the work the Lord has given us to share in these communities. We are focused to ensure each project receives the full support of the AME Church, the community and the government agencies. Each project represents a financial obligation to the district and the congregations.

We have learned of the amazing work of many schools connected to our local congregations. The 18th Episcopal District is critical to the education of students in Botswana, Swaziland, and Lesotho. We are working diligently to ensure effective leadership and respresnetation within these schools of AME's, professional staff, and board members. We believe the future of our church is included in the success of these schools and their leadership. We celebrate the accomplishment of the current students enrollment and the staff supporting their endeavors.

We have organized fundraisers to assist in supporting these project as well as to continue to teach our congregants the importance of faithful stewardship, tithing of time, talent and treasurers. We are estatic to report an increase in support of the work.

Finally, I am thankful to the leadership of the District, my wife, supervisor Dr. Constance B. Wicker, the Presiding Elder Council, the pastors and the ministry leaders who work diligently to advance God's work here in the 18th Episcopal District. The work is all divine.

# THE REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

The Number of Annual Conferences	5	
What is the number of circuits / churches in the District?		
Annual Conference	#Circuits/Churches	Membership
Botswana Annual Conference	26	871
Mozambique Annual Conference	0	870
Swaziland Annual Conference	36	1,893
North East Lesotho Annual Conference	22	2,092
Lesotho Annual Conference	47	4,324
Total Churches in the District	131	10,050
Total Episcopal District Membership	10,050	

The Amount of the General Budget Fund appropriated

The Episcopal District 98,626G

The Amount of the General Fund collected and sent to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the AME Church, from each of the Annual Conferences.

Botswana Annual Conference	N/R
Mozambique Annual Conference	N/R
Swaziland Annual Conference	30,714G
North East Lesotho Annual Conference	65110G
Lesotho Annual Conference	N/R
Total Episcopal District Sent	98,626G

*\*Total reflects funds from the 2016 Quadrennial Report*

If this represents an increase, the same amount, or a decrease as compared with last year's report, list the following, and give details:

What is the number of Preachers tried, suspended and expelled? SEVEN (7)

The Reverends Bennie Stegling, Tshepo David Sebakile, Tiroyaone Vincent Mobebe, Mompoti Moko-pasetso, Frank Tirelo Mothibi, Goabaone Modibe, and Kabo Kgosietsile

What is the number of Preachers transferred NONE

What is the number of new congregation organized NONE

What is the amount of development in the District 11,500,000G

What decisions and ruling have been made NONE

# 18TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT MOMENTS

