



Northwest Texas Conference Lay Organization

NWTC Lay Organization Newsletter

Tenth District Annual Day of Training

Special points of interest:

- NWTC Lay Organization Annual Day of Training
- Transition of Senior Bishop McKinley Young
- What every AME member should know about the 116th Congress



Inside this issue:

- Don't Build Walls that Hurt **2**
- AME Publishing House **3**
- Transition of Bishop Young **4**
- Bishop Reid assigned to 3rd District **5**
- AME Youth to 2022 Olympics **6**
- The 116th Congress **7**
- Committees in the 116th Congress **9**

Members of the Northwest Texas Conference Lay organization met on January, 16, 2019 at Grant Worship Center, Austin, TX for the 10th Episcopal District Lay Organizations 3rd Annual Winter Retreat. Much was learned on the topic of being accountable as an officer when working in our ministry.

NWTC Lay Annual Day of Training

The NWTCLO Annual Day of Training will be held on Saturday, May 4th at 9:00 A.M. at a place to be determined. Registration is \$25.00 and can be mailed to
Mr. Vernon Clarke
1014 December Dr.,
Hewitt, TX 76643.

As always, the expectations are high and we aspire to have the most amazing training that we have ever had. Please mark your calendars and get your registration in as the event is scheduled to be one like none other. See you at the Annual Day of Training!!!

DON'T BUILD WALLS THAT HURT, BUILD BRIDGES THAT HEAL!

Statement from the AME Church on the US Federal Government Shutdown

The servant leadership of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and its Social Action Commission is appalled at US Federal Government shutdown. The unwillingness of the Senate and the President to fully reopen the government and negotiate on immigration reform is hurting government workers and making America unsafe.

We must raise the question, "Is immigration reform rooted in making America safe for all, or is it a facade for the politics and policies of white supremacy? "

There is no debating the fact that the Senate passed a bill that would have provided money for border security and kept the government open and working.

There is no debating that the President supported the bill. Then, far right reactionary commentators began to stir up the fires of fear, hate, and racial hatred. Fearful of losing his "Make America Great White Again" base the President renege on his word and shut down parts of the Federal Government. This action not only hurt eight hundred thousand government workers and their families but also makes endangers Americans.

When American taxpayers are told that their tax refunds may be late, that hurts.

When people are told that the TSA agents, who are paid to keep air travel safe for all, are not being paid, that's not safe.

When children, the elderly, families and those who count on federal food programs for food security are told that the money to fund those programs will soon run out, that hurts.

When government workers and their families are told by a billionaire President that people are not being paid to support the shut down because they agree with the wall, that's hurtful, untrue and unsafe for our democracy.

The House will send the Republican-controlled Senate many bills that will put the government back to work while leaving the door to authentic immigrant reform and "national security" open. We are asking all our African Methodists churches, ministries and organizations to join other voices for justice and healing by:

1. Organizing to help those who are suffering from the loss of financial resources to pay bills, mortgages and provide for the basic needs of their families. Food pantries, clothes closets, gift cards, and financial help with bills and human necessities is a powerful witness
2. Make calls and send emails to your Senators and representatives to tear down the walls of insensitivity and suffering and build bridges of healing that will help get the government back to work, fund the SNAP and WIC food programs, and make America safe for all Americans.
3. Continue to work on voter registration and education. The shut-down is a political and policy issue that people of faith will be able to weigh in on in the upcoming Presidential primaries and the next 2020 election cycle.
4. Partner with community organizations that tangibly help people hurt by the shutdown.
5. Pray that God will encourage, equip and empower African Methodism to tear down the walls of separation, hatred, racism, sexism, ageism and economic inequality.

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, *President, Council of Bishops*
Bishop McKinley Young, *Senior Bishop*
Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram, *President, General Board*
Bishop Frank M. Reid III, *Chair, Social Action Commission*

AME CHURCH PUBLISHING HOUSE EMBARKS ON NEW LOCATION FOR A NEW ERA

On September 25, 2018, the sale of the AME Church Publishing House, originally known as the Sunday School Union, was announced by Canadian-based commercial real estate firm Avison Young for an amount “in excess of 21 million dollars.” This transaction completed a multiple-year process to sell the building and associated properties located at 500 and 512 Eighth Avenue South and relocate the operations in the wake of rapid development in downtown Nashville—particularly the construction of the new Music City Center Convention Center and surrounding hotels.

Founded in 1882 as the Sunday School Union by the Rev. (later Bishop) Charles Spencer Smith, MD, the AME Church Publishing House has historically been a part of the religious publishing presence along Eighth Avenue South in Nashville, Tennessee. The current edifice was erected in 1977 by the Rev. (later Bishop) Henry Allen Belin, Jr.* on property purchased from the estate of the late Ira T. Bryant, a previous publisher. At one point, there were three denominational publishing houses on Eighth Avenue: the Southern Baptist Publishing House (now Lifeway), the United Methodist Publishing House, and the AME Church Publishing House. The AME Church property was the last to be sold. The sale of the property was administered by the Connectional Board of Trustees (formerly the Board of Incorporators) of the AME, Inc., the entity that formally owns the AMEC Publishing House building and other properties administered by general officers. Ten million dollars was allocated from the sale by the Connectional Board of Trustees to Publisher Belin to purchase property and erect a new building. About the apportionment, the Rev. Belin stated, “I don’t know how that figure was arrived at. I have requested a certain amount of money [from the Board of Trustees] that will assist us in paying some long-standing debt off. And I have been informed that that will be given to us.”



The new building will be three stories, 10,000 square feet per floor, with the first floor including two separate retail spaces to be offered for lease. The lobby will be two stories to give “drama and beauty” to the building. There will be a community space on the first floor, which will also serve as a chapel along with a small banquet facility with a catering kitchen. There will be an archive/museum space and a storage and loading dock on that level as well. There will be 12 executive office suites with space to house the same general officers in the current building along with the 13th Episcopal District headquarters.

The construction of the new AME Church Publishing House building will be the first building constructed by a Connectional Department in over four decades. In an era of rapid changes in communication and information technology, the building is not only viewed as a physical renovation but as an intellectual renewal and affirmation. Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie serves as the Chair of the General Board Commission on Publications which supervises the operations of the AMEC Publishing House and made the following reflection, “We have a voice as the African Methodist Episcopal Church. We have a voice that speaks of social justice and liberation that speaks of so many different things that represent a people...countries and nations. You can’t always trust other people to represent your voice. [The AMEC Publishing House] represents our ability of not being dependent on any other entity to be able to say what needs to be said at a time it needs to be said and a way that it needs to be said that it has a global impact.”

TRANSITION OF SENIOR BISHOP MCKINLEY YOUNG

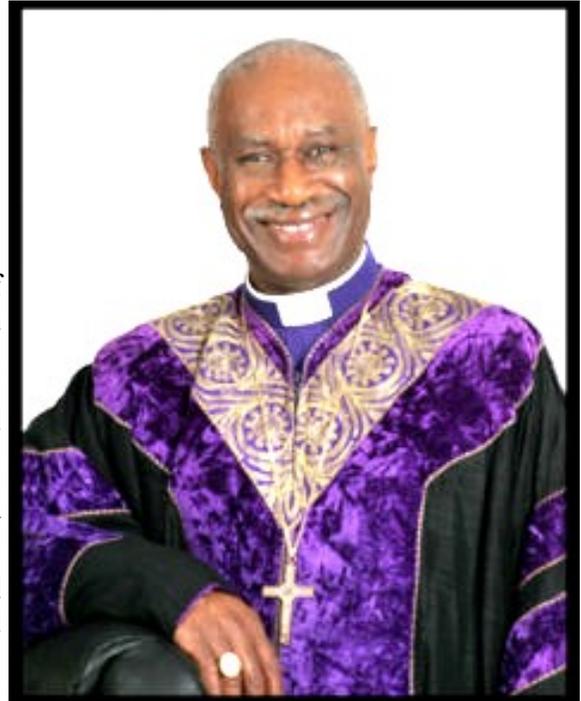
**“Servant of God well done!
Rest from thy loved employ;
The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master’s joy.”**

It is with tremendous sadness that the devoted family of Bishop McKinley Young, 74, announces his passing on January 16, 2019. Bishop Young was born November 10, 1944 in Atlanta, Georgia; he was the son of the parsonage and a product of the Public Schools of Atlanta. He received degrees from Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Georgia; Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Massachusetts; and the University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, Illinois. He holds honorary Doctorates from six institutions of Higher Education. He pastored churches in Providence, Rhode Island, Chicago and Evanston, Illinois, and Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1992 Bishop Young was elected and consecrated the 109th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

Bishop Young served as the presiding prelate of the 15th Episcopal District in Southern Africa where he led in the Centennial Celebration of African Methodism. Bishop Young provided leadership in the Ecumenical Community for over 40 years. From 1996-2000 Bishop Young served as the Ecumenical and Urban Affairs Officer for the AME Church. Where ever he served, Bishop Young's focus was on Christian Education, Ministerial Education, and Continuing Education for Lay and Clergy. Throughout his five decades of ministry, Bishop Young was an advocate for social justice, and civil rights, with an emphasis on voting rights. As a lifelong learner, Bishop Young was dedicated to higher education and served as Chair of the Board for Paul Quinn College, Dallas, Texas and Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida. At the time of his passing, Bishop McKinley Young served as the presiding Bishop of the Third Episcopal District as well as the Chancellor of Wilberforce University, and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees for Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, Ohio. In 2016 at the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the AME Church, Bishop McKinley Young was elevated to the office of Senior Bishop.

Bishop Young is survived by his wife Dr. Dorothy Jackson Young, his children Karyn (Ron) Young- Lowe, Deana (Julius) McAllister, Jr., Andrea (Roderick) Jones and Stephanie Lynn Young, and his grandchildren Jennifer Renee and Jessica Christine Lowe, Julius Harrison III, Colin McKinley Young, Dylan David Jeremiah McAllister, Peyton Leigh, Noah Parker, and Miles Owen Jones, two brothers Lonnie H. Young and Rev. Roland Young. Services were held on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at Wilberforce University. Final services were held on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at Big Bethel AME, Atlanta, GA.



Bishop Frank Madison Reid III assigned to the Third Episcopal District

On Saturday, January 26, the Council of Bishops of the AME Church has assigned the Right Reverend Frank Madison Reid III, the 138th Elected and Consecrated Bishop of the AME Church as the Presiding Prelate of the Third Episcopal District. This assignment is effective immediately under the provisions of the *Discipline* governing Episcopal Vacancies (page 171).



Bishop Reid succeeds Senior Bishop McKinley Young who died on Wednesday, January 16, 2019.

The Third District encompasses the states of Ohio, West Virginia and the Western part of Pennsylvania. Bishop Reid is married to Episcopal Supervisor Marlaa Reid and currently serves as the AME Church Ecumenical Officer. He will maintain both assignments until the 2020 General Conference.

Please continue to pray for the Young family, the Reid family, and the Third Episcopal District during this season of transition.

AME Young Adult Trains to Compete in 2022 Winter Olympics

AME Young Adult Trains to Compete in 2022 Winter Olympics

By Mrs. Jeanne Arrondondo, 13th Episcopal District

Ms. Karmin Shute, a member of St. John AME Church in Nashville, Tennessee, is on course to compete in the 2022 Winter Olympics for the USA. She started her athletic career as a sophomore in high school. Initially, she only participated in cheerleading but eventually transitioned into track. Her father, Dr. Marcus Shute, Sr., a former accomplished track athlete, served as her coach.

She competed in track on the collegiate level at Birmingham-Southern College for four years while earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a minor in Psychology. Her collegiate track career ended with her becoming a four-time All-American in the 60, 100, and 200 meters indoor and outdoor.

After missing her graduation to attend the NCAA D3 Nationals, she was unsure if she wanted to continue her track career. However, there was always the lingering question of competing in the Olympics. Her dreams were answered when she was invited to attend the USABS 2018 Rookie Push Camp. After attending the 10-day long camp, she was named the 2018 Rookie Push Champion for Women's Skeleton.

She currently trains at the Olympic Training Center (OTC) in Lake Placid, New York, for the USA Bobsled and Skeleton (USABS) Bobsled Team. During USABS training, housing and food are covered by the organization; however, travel expenses are not. If you'd like to support Ms. Shute, please visit her GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/KarminShuteIsSlidinginto2022>.



What Every AME member Needs to Know About the 116th Congress

(Washington, DC) It's a New Day..... In the US House of Representatives and US Senate. Today, we assume that you may not remember or be aware of how the actions of the elected representatives in US government will impact your lives from 2019 – 2021. For every member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, we want to highlight ways that we have historically and can, in the future, minister to the whole people of God and serve humanity. So, we start with a brief historical perspective.

Members of the AME Church were among the first African-Americans elected to serve in the United States Congress during the post-Civil War Reconstruction period in the 1860-1870s including the first African-American Senator Hiram Rhodes Revels, Jr. of Mississippi and Representative Richard Harvey Cain of South Carolina, later elected a Bishop in the AME Church. The forty-eight years ago (1971) when 13 members of African descent serving in the US House of Representatives established the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) no AMEs were in the group. Among the current CBC members, five are members of the AME Church: Representatives James Clyburn (D, SC-7), Alcee Hastings (D, FL-20), Gregory Meeks (D, NY-5), Terri Sewell (D, AL-7), Val Demings (D, FL-10)

At 8:00 am on January 3, 2019 the 1,847 seat Warner Theater in Washington, DC was filled for the ceremonial Swearing-In of CBC members to the 116th session of the US Congress. We were about to “see with our own eyes” 55 fellow Americans elected to serve as legislators for 2019 – 2021. 57 persons of African descent (Representing every region of the country, over 78 million people in 28 states and US territories) now make policy including nine new members in the class of 2019 (Representatives Bill Hurd (R, TX-32) and Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) are African-American, but do not participate with the CBC).

Their collective caucus signals a new day in public policy for all people, but especially those whose voices are unheard, whose needs continue to be unmet, and their rights are sup-



pressed/ignored. Finally, their legacy of working to insure equal access and equity for all people continues.

The leadership of the House of Representatives rests with the Democrats (aka the “majority” party) so AMEs in House Leadership are leading the House. Notable are:

House Majority Whip– Rep James E Clyburn. He is the highest ranking African American lawmaker in Congress and number three in House leadership.

Chief Deputy Whip– Rep Terri Sewell

AMEs are among the CBC chairs of the 28 sub-committees and details will be forthcoming.

Finally, a key role as Interim Director of the CBC is filled by AME's Dr. Elsie Scott. She returns to insure the viability of this organization after having previously served for several years and taking the CBC to new levels of engagement.

Their collective voices will be heard as visionaries and their individual cries as prophetic leaders signaling their Calling for such a time as this. We urge you to make the special effort to reach out, congratulate them, and affirm the partnership that the AME Church has in key issues such as Voting Rights, 2020 Census, Climate Change, Economic Justice, Civic Engagement, Affordable Healthcare, Mass Incarceration, and Public Education.

Tell them “we got your back”! Find specific ways we can be supportive. “Stay woke”. Don't wait for them to come to you – let them hear from you.

We're on the web at <http://www.nwtclo.org>

Committees in the 116th Session of Congress

The Congressional Black Caucus elected as its chairperson for the 116th session (2019-2021) Rep Karen E. Bass (D, CA-37). Eight AME Churches in the Los Angeles area are in her Congressional District giving the AME Church direct access to Congresswoman Bass in her tenure as CBC chair. Having served as the first Black female Speaker of the California State Assembly, she is prepared to negotiate on behalf of the CBC and the people whose voices have been muted to date. In her acceptance speech, she emphasized the partnership in the year of the 400-year anniversary of our ancestors' arrival on these soils. She noted the amazing resilience of our people, "finding a way out of no way" and suffering while others take credit for our work. To mention a few efforts led by CBC "hidden figures", she listed the creation of thousands of Black owned businesses, end of Apartheid, Affordable Care Act focus on health disparities, financial aid for students attending HBCUs, and finally the fact that a former CBC member was elected President of the USA. The goal is to move the needle forward with governance, resistance, and end hateful leadership. Chairwoman Bass pledged to provide hope by keeping the public informed of the work of the CBC as it makes a course correction.

Remembering the words of the Episcopal Salutation to the *Discipline* from 1976-2008: "Let us affirm again. That the AME Church must fully identify with the poor and the oppressed in their struggle for human dignity. That this participation in human development is not optional, nor is it an addendum to an already crowded agenda. It must be the very heart of the life and work of our church".

Stay tuned for Action Alerts and Issues Briefings from your Social Action Commission. Be poised for ACTION. You must continue to be and/or become the community education gurus, informing our community stakeholders. You must consider public service (as elected officials, commissioners and key administrators). #WeAreAMEs
Committees Chaired by CBC Members

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform— Rep Elijah E. Cummings (MD-7)

The Committee's government-wide oversight jurisdiction and expanded **legislative** authority make it one of the most influential and powerful committees in the House. The Committee serves as Congress' chief investigative and oversight committee, and is granted broad jurisdiction. The chairman of the committee is one of only three committee chairmen in the House with the authority to issue **subpoenas** without a committee vote or consultation with the ranking member.

Science, Space and Technology Committee— Rep Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30)

It has jurisdiction over non-defense federal scientific **research** and development. Specifically, the committee has partial or complete jurisdiction over the following federal agencies: **NASA, the Department of Energy, EPA, ATSDR, NSF, FAA, NOAA, NIST, FEMA, the U.S. Fire Administration, and USGS.**

Committee on Education and the Workforce— Rep Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA-3)

The Committee on Education and Labor oversees federal programs and initiatives dealing with education at all levels—from preschool through high school to higher education and continuing education. *The purpose is to ensure that Americans' needs are addressed so that students and workers may move forward in a changing school system and a competitive global economy. while insuring access to good public education & equitable distribution of resources*

Committee on Homeland Security— Rep Bennie G. Thompson (MS-2)

Homeland Security is the largest agency in federal government to reveal who is benefitting from contracts. It conducts oversight and handles legislation (and resolutions) related to the security of the United States. The committee may **amend, approve, or table** homeland security related bills. It also has the power to hold hearings, conduct investigations, and **subpoena** witnesses. Additionally, the committee has authorization and policy oversight responsibilities over the **Department of Homeland Security.**

Committee on Financial Services — Rep Maxine Waters (CA-43)

Empowered to subpoena tax returns and financial records of the US President, the **Committee on Financial Services**, also referred to as the **House Banking Committee** and formerly known as the **Committee on Banking and Currency**, is the **committee** of the **United States House of Representatives** that oversees the entire **financial services** industry, including the securities, insurance, banking and housing industries. The Financial Services Committee also oversees the work of the **Federal Reserve, the United States Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission** and other financial services regulators.