

THE 189th ANNUAL SESSION  
of the  
PHILADELPHIA and BALTIMORE CONFERENCE

Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

May 22 - 27, 2018

*Courtesy Committee Members Please Join Me Up Front:*

**Mrs. Loveleen “Dee” Perkins**  
**Mrs. Pamela Riddick**  
**Ms. Emily Simmons**  
**Mrs. Jacquelyn Brown**  
**Ms. Dorothy Wright**

**Ms. Kimberly Morton**  
**Mrs. Lorraine Toler**  
**Ms. Anne Williams**  
**Ms. Mary Candi**  
**Mrs. Dema Nappier (Emeritus)**

**As We Stand on established Protocol!**

Greetings to Everyone!

Thank-you Bishop W. Darin Moore for the opportunity to stand before this august body this afternoon to give this courtesy report. I am grateful, honored and deeply humbled to do so.

The Courtesy Committee recognizes and is grateful to you for your stellar leadership as the presiding prelate of the Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference. It is clear to us that you have a defined vision for our growth, both spiritual and numerical, for our rededication and our purpose in this conference. We thank you Bishop for skillfully guiding us through the process of retooling ourselves as **The Freedom Church**, as we **Review Our Practices**, to **Reach Our Potential**.

The committee extends thanks to the annual conference committee, chaired by our very capable Presiding Elder, Rev. Rita J. Colbert, for your dedication and hard work in taking care of the intricate details, all the behind the scenes work, in preparation for this successful conference. We appreciate everything that was done to ensure that we were invited, expected, and cared for during this time. The committee thanks you for ensuring that our needs, both physical and spiritual, were addressed. Kudos to our beloved Missionary Supervisor, Mrs. Devita C. Moore, for the beautiful Prayer Breakfast, creative W.H.O.M.S. Convocation and awesome candlelight service. The spirit of love was prevalent. Your inclusiveness of past missionary supervisors in the activities of the day was noteworthy and laudable. The parade by departments highlighted the hard work of all of the missionary departments for this conference year. Outstanding work, missionaries.

The Committee is thankful for the presence and support of associating Bishop Louis Hunter (retired) and Missionary Supervisor Mrs. Ingrid Flack Hunter, Bishop Dennis Proctor, Bishop Marshall Strickland, past Missionary Supervisors Mrs. Strickland, Mrs. Georgia McNair Thompson, and Rev. Lula Williams. We are also grateful for the support of our Connectional and General Officers, past and current, and the many clergy and lay visitors from the New York, Ohio, Virginia, and New Jersey conferences that visited with us.

Bishop Moore, we are grateful for the inclusion of the Lay Academies, under the leadership of Mrs. Katherine Burrell, within the framework of the conference. The information we received at the Chew and Learn Luncheons was invaluable: African American Summit on Dementia and Until Every Child is Free: Human Trafficking – Modern Day Slavery. These topics dealt with the ills of society and its specific effect on the Black community. The statistics were astounding. Including the academies within the conference schedule signifies inclusiveness and respect for the laity.

Accolades go out to the dynamic pastor of Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church, Rockville, MD, the very capable Rev. Alyce Walker Johnson, and her team for the first-class way they hosted this conference. We thank you for the outstanding attention given to the needs of our Bishop and Missionary Supervisor, and all the needs of the conference that we don't know about that made the work of the conference appear so effortless.

The work of many made this dynamic conference come to fruition. So many of you were part of the services for this week, or you performed a supportive act behind the scenes – names too numerous to mention. But know that whatever your part – you blessed us and most importantly God knows your every contribution and He will bless you.

As we conclude this magnificent annual conference, with God in the forefront guiding and leading us to fulfill HIS plan, we must keep in mind our Quadrennial theme, **“The Freedom Church: Refocusing on our Purpose, Reviewing Our Practices, Retooling our People, Reaching Our Potential.”** The Bishop has challenged us to greatness and transformation; to access, retool and do things differently; shift. Are we ready to take up the challenge?

We are thankful for this outstanding annual conference week and **as we the committee always says, if by chance we did not thank you for something you may have done, if we forgot to call your name or give you a hug –take a deep breath – exhale** and just remember all that you do is for the Master - He is keeping track of all your good deeds and know that you will be blessed.

We are now ready to face a new conference year with God in the forefront guiding and leading us to fulfill HIS plan. Our prayer is that God will shower you and your ministry with showers of blessings and pour out His goodness upon all. God bless each of you and thank you!

Respectfully Submitted as Servants for the Lord!

**Shirley Durham Richardson, Chair**  
**Courtesy Committee Members**