

152nd Session of the Pittsburgh- West Virginia Annual Conference of the
African Methodist Episcopal Church

The State of the Church Literary Report

To: Bishop Frank M. Reid III

Episcopal Supervisor Marlaa' Reid

September 16, 2019- September 21, 2019

The Church of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ is still thriving in this new millennium, but yet has challenges that must be addressed and carried out for the kingdom of our risen Lord. We, as the people of the church, are facing a decline in membership and commitment. We are losing the Z-Generation, as they call themselves, the ages between 18 and 45. Their lack of church commitment and attendance is just about non-existent. Their sense of belonging to the body of believers does not appeal to them. Their focus is no longer the church, but themselves.

The church must find ways to present Christ to the Z-Generation. We must become technologically savvy, which means to present Christ

through social media to this generation. The church must continue to address the social, economic, and political plights as we did between the '50s and '70s, such as racism and numerous other social injustices. It is imperative that the church continues to preach the uncompromising gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We the representatives must study the word of God. We must interpret with clarity and conviction so that the word transforms and convicts us to be doers and hearers of the word.

Furthermore, the African Methodist Episcopal Church needs younger upcoming clergy persons who will love God's people, and serve with humility. It is the recommendation of this community that we continue to motivate and encourage our congregates to remain politically involved. Secondly, we as representatives and carriers of the gospel need to preach and teach holistic ministry addressing the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and political needs of humanity. Lastly, we need to encourage our young people, or the Z-Generation, to pursue the spiritual vocation of ministry, so that the legacy of Richard Allen can continue to flourish.

Committee Members: Reverends Barrett H. Spencer, Chair, Kary Williams, Darian Banks, Geoffrey Tate, Oliver Banks. Laypersons: Sara Lane, Rosalind Fisher, Annette Hubbard, and Carolyn Webster.

Humbly Submitted,

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