

**The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
The One Hundred Sixth Session
of the
Pee Dee Annual Conference
November 13-15, 2025**



**Theme: "The A.M.E. 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 District: Lancaster District

**Kenneth Monroe Transformation Center
745 Saluda Street, Rock Hill, South Carolina**

**Reverend Dr. Joel D. Miles, Host Presiding Elder, Lancaster District
Reverend Sandra Sistare, Presiding Elder, Cheraw-Bennettsville District**

**Mrs. Jean McMurray-Leake, Missionary Supervisor
Bishop Eric Leake, Presiding Bishop**

Roll Call List

Bishop Eric Leake – Mrs. Jean McMurray-Leake

Reverend Sandra Sistare

Reverend Dr. Joel D. Miles

Reverend Hardy Ballard, Jr.

Reverend Justin M. Barbour

Reverend Margie Belk

Reverend Barbara O. Benjamin

Reverend Eddie C. Boykin

Reverend Shelia Bracey

Reverend Donna C. Butler

Reverend Joshua B. Campbell

Reverend Lena R. Clark

Reverend Virginia H. Covington

Reverend Dr. William Cox

Reverend Charles D. Crockett

Reverend Darlene Cureton

Reverend Kenneth Cureton

Reverend Dr. Charles Darden

Reverend Timothy Dupree

Reverend Sandra A. Ellis

Reverend Mary L. Adams-English

Reverend Claudette Felder

Reverend Dr. Jerret Fite

Reverend Eric Franks

Reverend Shirley Gaither

Reverend Arthur L. Gilliam, III

Reverend Jerry Gordon, Sr.

Reverend Linda Hill

Reverend Elizabeth Hood

Reverend Sheresa Ingram

Reverend Michael Kelly

Reverend Dr. Paulette Leak

Reverend Delores J. Linnen

Reverend Antonio Little

Reverend Jacqueline Long

Reverend Ronnie McCrorey (*deceased*)

Reverend Lauressa C. McDow

Reverend Donald McIntyre

Reverend Larry McQueen

Reverend Calvin McWhirter

Reverend Dr. Vincent Meekins, Jr.

Reverend Ruby Miles
Reverend Ronald E. Miller
Reverend Jonathan Moore
Reverend Camille Peay
Reverend Dr. Michael Peay
Reverend Gladiola Raley
Reverend Vevalon Robertson
Reverend James Scott
Reverend David Simmons
Reverend Virginia Sloan
Reverend Mondray Stevenson
Reverend Rachelle Stevenson
Reverend Mary Stewart
Reverend Darlene E. Stuckey
Reverend Tammy Taylor
Reverend Barry Thompson
Reverend Albert Tucker
Reverend Dorothy Wallace
Reverend Kiara D. Watson
Reverend Channell Williams
Reverend James L. Williams
Sister Theresa Williams
Reverend Carolyn Wilson
Reverend Vera Witherspoon
Reverend John L. York

SUPERANNUATED MINISTERS

Reverend Dr. Sandra K. Benton
Reverend Dr. Robert E. Christian, Sr.
Reverend Willie Frances Davis
Reverend Rolly Dawkins
Reverend James E. Gordon
Reverend Robert L. Gordon, Jr.
Reverend John W. Lee
Reverend Charles Lewis
Reverend Beatrice Massey
Reverend Dennis McCleave
Reverend Princess Mickle
Reverend John M. Richardson
Reverend Cecelia Scott
Reverend Gloria Stover
Reverend April Wolfe

Thursday, November 14, 2024

8:45 AM Fireside Chat with the Bishop

9:20 AM Processional

(All ordained clergy are to be in cleric and white robes)

9:30 A.M. Intercessory Prayer – Reverend William Cox

10:00 A.M.

OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Reverend Dr. Joel D. Miles, Presiding

Opening Hymn....."The Church's One Foundation"

The Call to Worship: The Invitation.....Reverend Dr. Joel D. Miles

"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 you who 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." Let us worship God in Spirit and In Truth.

The Invocation: THE GENERAL CONFESSION (In Unison) "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 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."

Hymn of Praise.....There is a Fountain Filled with Blood

The Affirmation of Faith.....Reverend Sheresa Ingram

Scripture.....Reverend Kiara Watson

Prayer..... Reverend Justin M. Barbour

THE PRAYER OF PARDON:**Reverend Tammy Taylor**
"Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all them 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 FOR PURITY.....Reverend Eric Franks.....Clergy and Congregation
"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 Ministry of Kindness Offering.....Finance Committee
The Ministry of Music.....Robinson AME Zion Church
Presentation of the Bishop.....Presiding Elder Sandra Sistare
Introduction of the Preacher.....Bishop Eric Leake
Ministry of Music.....Robinson AME Zion Church
Opening Communion Sermon.....Reverend Arthur Gilliam, III
Invitation to Christian Discipleship.....Reverend Rachelle Stevenson
Offering.....Finance Committee
Communion Hymn....."The Old Rugged Cross"

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Chief Celebrant, Bishop Eric Leake

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 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 blood, we may evermore dwell in Him and He is 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; grant that we, receiving these Thy creatures of bread and wine, according to Thy dear 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, for 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 Prayer of Affirmation.....Clergy and Congregation

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duties, 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, ever more 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

Closing Remarks.....Bishop Eric Leake
Benediction.....Reverend Arthur Gilliam

15 Minutes Break

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

Report of the Rules Committee.....Reverend Dr. Jerret Fite
Report of the Credentials Committee / Seating of the Delegates.....Reverend Mary English
Roll Call.....Reverend Darlene Stuckey
The Adoption of Agenda.....Bishop Eric Leake
Approval of Annual Conference Committees.....Bishop Eric Leake
Report of the Nominating Committee.....Reverend Sandra C. Sistare, Chair
Presentation and Adoption of 2024-2028 Annual Conference Budget

Treasurer's Report.....Reverend Ronald Miller
Election of Treasurer.....Bishop Eric Leake
Election of Assistant Treasurer.....Bishop Eric Leake
Home Missions Report.....Reverend Sandra C. Sistare
Election of Home Missions Treasurer.....Bishop Eric Leake

Dates to Remember

2026 Annual Conference

November 12-14, 2026

Kenneth Monroe Transformation Center, Rock Hill, SC

Christmas at the Transformation Center – December 12, 2025 – 6:00 PM

January 15-16, 2026 – Winter Convocation – Transformation Center, Rock Hill, SC
January 17, 2026 – Joint Check Up Meeting - Transformation Center – Rock Hill, SC

February 10-13, 2026 - Board of Bishops and Ministers and Lay Association, Norfolk, VA

April 17, 2026 - 2nd CheckUp Meeting – Greater Fair Plain AME Zion, McColl, SC
April 18, 2026 – Outreach Ministry – Greater Fair Plain, McColl, SC

June 11-12, 2026 Faith and Order Institute - Transformation Center, Rock Hill, SC
June 13, 2026 – Joint Check Up Meeting – Transformation Center, Rock Hill, SC

1:00 PM LUNCH

2:00 P.M. The Episcopal Address
Presiding Elder Sandra Sistare, Presiding

Opening Selection.....Lancaster District Choir
Scripture.....Reverend Antonio Little
Prayer.....Reverend Timothy Dupree
Presentation of Bishop Eric Leake.....Presiding Elder Dr. Joel D. Miles
The Ministry of Music.....Cheraw-Bennettsville District Men Choir
EPISCOPAL ADDRESS.....Bishop Eric Leake

Episcopal Address Response

PRESIDING ELDERS' REPORTS (10 min)

Reverend Sandra C. Sistare
Reverend Dr. Joel D. Miles

GREAT OFFERING

Presiding Elders' Districts

PASTORS' REPORTS (2 min)

Cheraw-Bennettsville District
Lancaster District

DELEGATES' REPORTS (2 min)

Cheraw-Bennettsville District
Lancaster District

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT TRAINING

Mr. Al Crawford

Recognition of Visitors and Announcements

Closing Prayer

5:00 PM DINNER (Welcome Program) Lancaster District

Thursday Evening, November 13, 2025 – 7:00 PM

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WORSHIP SERVICE

Reverend Dr. Michael Peay, Presiding

Call to Worship

InvocationReverend Dr. Charles Darden

Ministry of Music.....Clinton College, Rock Hill, SC

ScriptureReverend Dr. Paulette Leak

PrayerReverend Sandra Ellis

Ministry of Music.....El Bethel AME Zion Church

Report of the CED Conference DirectorMrs. Brenda Chisholm

Greetings, Dr. Pamela Wilks.....Clinton College President

Presentation Special Education Committee.....Mrs. Vivian McBride

Ms. India Chisholm

Presentation of the Bishop.....Reverend Dr. Joel D. Miles

Introduction of the Preacher.....Bishop Eric Leake

Ministry of Music.....El Bethel AME Zion Choir

SERMON.....Reverend Jonathan Moore

Invitation to Christian Discipleship.....Reverend Dr. Vincent Meekins

Offering.....Finance Committee

Recognition of Visitors and Announcements

Closing Remarks.....Bishop Leake

Benediction.....Reverend Jonathan Moore

Friday, November 14, 2025

8:00 am Missionary Supply Department Prayer and Praise Gathering

9:00 am - Breakfast

9:45 am Missionary Convocation

Mrs. Jean McMurray-Leake, Presiding

District President Reports

Cheraw-Bennettsville DistrictMrs. Vanessa Pegues

Lancaster District.....Ms. Lyndell Elam

Exploring the Theme:

Mrs. Angela Davis-Baxter

Convocation Offering

Missionary Benediction: *“God be merciful unto us and bless us and cause His face to shine upon us and give us peace.”* Amen (Psalm 67:1)

CONFERENCE BUSINESS

- Admissions Committee Report.....Reverend Claudette Felder
- Conference Studies Report.....Reverend Dr. Paulette Leak
- Committee on Holy Orders.....Reverend Dr. Joel D. Miles
- Conference TrusteesReverend Sandra C. Sistare
- State of the Church Report.....Reverend Dr. Jerret Fite
- State of the Country ReportReverend Jonathan Moore
- Department of Evangelism.....Reverend John York
- Audit Committee.....Reverend Dr. William Cox

LUNCH: Home Mission Queen’s March

The Memorial Moment

Reverend John York, Presiding

Call to Worship

ScriptureReverend James Scott

PrayerReverend Virginia Covington

Roll Call of the Deceased

Recognition of Visitors and Announcements

The Lay Hour

Report from Lay Council President, Mrs. Elvira Faulker-Mcilwain

The Disciplinary Questions and The Passing of Character

THE SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS

Reverend Leconte Nedab, White Hill A.M.E. Zion Church, York. SC

DINNER

Friday Evening November 14, 2025 – 7:00 PM

MISSIONARY SERVICE

Missionary Supervisor Jean McMurray Leake, Presiding

The Processional

Missionary Stoling Ceremony

Call to Worship.....Reverend Darlene E. Stuckey

Invocation.....Mrs. Deborah Cox
 Scripture.....Mrs. Vanessa Pegues
 Prayer.....Mrs. Lyndell Elam
 Introduction of the Preacher.....Bishop Eric Leake
 Music Ministry.....North Corner AME Zion Choir
 Presentation of the Bishop.....Reverend Dr. Joel D. Miles
The Sermon.....Reverend Vera Witherspoon
 Invitation to Christian Discipleship.....Reverend Donna Butler
 Offering
 Remarks.....Mrs. Jean McMurray-Leake
 Remarks.....Bishop Eric Leake
 Recognition of Visitors and Announcements

Missionary Benediction: *“God be merciful unto us and bless us and cause His face to shine upon us and give us peace.”* Amen (Psalm 67:1)

Saturday, November 15, 2025

9:30 A.M. Intercessory Prayer – Reverend Dr. William Cox

10:00 A.M.

“The Christian Education Hour”

(Pastors and Ministers are expected to be present)

Installation of Youth Council Officers

Remarks

The Youth President

Remarks and Closing Prayer

Bishop Eric Leake

BREAK

Closing Worship Service – 12:30 PM

Reverend Dr. Joel D. Miles, Worship Leader

(All ordained clergy are to be in cleric and black robes)

The Processional.....“All Hail The Power of Jesus Name”
 The Call to Worship.....Reverend Dr. Joel D. Miles
 The Invocation.....Reverend Ronald Miller
 The Hymn of Praise.....“God of Grace, God of Glory
 The Affirmation of Faith.....Reverend Barbara Benjamin
 Scripture.....Reverend Delores J. Linnen
 Prayer Hymn.....“I Need Thee Ev’ry Hour”
 Prayer.....Reverend Claudette Felder
 The Ministry of Kindness Offering.....Finance Committee

The Ministry of Music.....Steele Hill AME Zion Church
 Presentation of the Bishop.....Reverend Sandra C. Sistare
 The Ministry of MusicSmithville AME Zion Church
 The Preached Word.....Bishop Eric Leake
 Invitation to Christian Discipleship
 Offering.....Finance Committee
 Announcements and Recognition of Visitors

 Report from the Courtesy CommitteeSister Cynthia Miller
 Remarks.....Mrs. Jean McMurray-Leake, Missionary Supervisor
 The Report of the Finance Committee
 The Charge and The Reading of the Appointments
 Closing Hymn....."Take the Name of Jesus With You"
 Benediction.....Bishop Eric Leake

Annual Conference Offerings

Lay Convocation Registration	\$10.00
Communion Offering	\$125.00
Annual Sermon Offering	\$125.00
Education Night Offering	\$125.00
Missionary Night Offering	\$125.00
Christian Education Saturday Offering	\$10.00
Closing Worship Offering	\$125.00
The Great Offering	\$100.00 or above

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE REQUIREMENTS

All Ministers, Lay Delegate, and Conference/Districts Officers are required to be in attendance for the opening of the Annual Conference and to remain until the closing of the Conference. All General Claims, Registrations, Offerings, and other Funds are to be reported to your Presiding Elder prior to the opening of the Annual Conference. All Pastors, Conference Ministers, Lay Delegates, Conference and District Officers, are required to register for Periodicals, Registration, and Support of the Conference.

All Ministers are required to be robed for the Thursday morning service (white robes) and Saturday for the Reading of the Appointments (black robes). All members of the conference are urged to support Home Missions. All funds raised for Home Missions will be used to help churches make repairs and renovations as well as support ministers experiencing financial crisis. Statistical Reports are to be turned in, to your respective Presiding Elder on the first day of the Annual Conference. Before ministers are admitted to the Annual Conference, they must pay

\$35.00 for a criminal background check and complete a Criminal Background Check form. All persons are urged to make a sacrificial contribution to the Great Offering following the Episcopal Address. These funds will be used to operate and liquidate the mortgage of the Conference Center. A special THANKS to each of you for your support, dedication, and prayers for the Pee Dee Annual Conference.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOARDS AND COMMITTEES 2025-2026

ADMISSIONS: Reverends Claudette Felder, Chair; Rev. Sandra C. Sistare, Jonathan Moore, Lena Clark, Justin Barbour, Virginia Covington, Ronald Miller

APPORTIONMENT: Bishop Eric Leake, Reverends Dr. Joel D. Miles, Rev. Sandra C. Sistare, Dr. Michael Peay, Rev. Ronald Miller, Ms. Kay Strong, Mr. Curtis Hubbard, Mr. Darian Archie

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Reverends Dr. William Cox, Chair; Dr. Paulette L. Leak, Tammy Taylor, Mr. Darian Archie

BUDGET: The Reverends Sandra Sistare, Chair; Dr. Joel D. Miles, John York, Ronald Miller, Ms. Kay Strong

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: The Reverends Dr. Michael Peay, Chair; Reverends Kiara D. Watson, Mondray Stevenson, Channell Williams, Mrs. Brenda Chisholm, Mrs. Tina Johnson, Mr. Thomas Horton, Mrs. Vonda Stevenson, Mrs. Ann Davis, Ms. Vandalyn Avery, Sister Cynthia Miller

CONFERENCE EXAMINERS: Reverends Dr. Paulette L. Leak, Chair; Dr. Michael Peay, Dr. Jerret Fite, Reverend Darlene Stuckey

CONFERENCE TRUSTEES: Reverends Sandra C. Sistare, Chair; Dr. Joel D. Miles, Dr. William Cox, Arthur Gilliam, III, Linda Hill, John L. York, Mr. Darian Archie

CONFERENCE WORKERS: Mrs. Brenda Myers and Ms. Margaret Belk

COURTESY: Sister Cynthia Miller, Chair; Mrs. Rosetta McIntyre, Mrs. Cornelia Tucker, Mrs. Barbara Boykin, Mr. Robert L. Benton, Reverend Virginia Covington, Mr. James Johnson

CREDENTIALS: The Reverend Mary English, Chair; James L. Williams, Mrs. Deborah Cox, Mrs. Omerea Gordon, Mr. Thomas Horton

EVANGELISM: Reverends John York, Chair; Mary Stewart, Rachelle Stevenson, Charles Crockett, James L. Williams, Dr. Charles Darden, Donna Butler, Sandra Ellis, Deloris J. Linnen, Crystal Crockett, Loretta Barnes

FINANCE: Reverends Dr. Jerret Fite, Chair; Dr. William Cox, James L. Williams, Linda Hill, Mrs. Elvira Faulkner-McIlwain, Mrs. Omerea Gordon, Mrs. Tammie White, Mr. Curtis Hubbard

HOLY ORDERS: Reverends Dr. Joel D. Miles, Chair; Rev. Sandra C. Sistare, Barbara O. Benjamin, Hardy Ballard, Virginia Covington, Charles Crockett, Arthur Gilliam

HOME MISSIONS & CHURCH EXTENSION: Reverends Virginia Covington, Chair; Mrs. Linda Campbell (Conference President); Reverends Sandra Sistare (Treasurer), Antonio Little, Dr. William Cox, Ms. Margaret Belk, Ms. Elvira Faulkner-McIlwain, Mrs. Maggie Dunham, Mr. Darian Archie

LAY ACTIVITIES: Reverends Ronald Miller, Chair; Ms. Elvira Faulkner McIlwain, (Conference President), Ms. Lula Mungo, Ms. LaQuisha Bell, Ms. Kathleen Malloy, Mr. Fred Witherspoon

MUSIC: Reverends Sheresa Ingram, Jerry C. Gordon, Sr.

NECROLOGY: Reverends John L. York, Chair; Donald McIntyre, James Scott, Tammy Taylor, Virginia Covington, Ms. Eunice Walton, Ms. Annie Adams

PERIODICALS: Reverend Darlene Stuckey and Mrs. Jackie Harris

PRAYER MINISTRY: Rev. Dr. William Cox, Conference Prayer Coordinator and District Prayer Coordinators

RULES: Reverends Dr. Jerret Fite, Chair; Sandra Ellis, James Scott, John Richardson, Mrs. Rosetta McIntyre, Ms. Beulah Dunson, Mrs. Karen Proctor, Mrs. Tammie White

STATE OF THE CHURCH: Reverends James Williams, Chair; Dr. Jerret Fite, Dr. William Cox, Mrs. Tina Johnson, Ms. Brenda Chisholm

STATE OF THE COUNTRY: Reverends Jonathan Moore, Chair; Claudette Felder, Eric Franks, Donald McIntyre, Eddie Boykin, Jerry C. Gordon, Mrs. Linda Campbell, Mrs. Jackie Harris

USHERS: Mr. Darian Archie, Chair; Mr. Eddie McGill, Ms. Bernice Price

WOMEN'S HOME AND OVERSEAS MISSIONARY SOCIETY: Mrs. Jean McMurry-Leake, Missionary Supervisor, Lyndell Elam, Vanessa Pegues, Cynthia Jones, Karen Proctor, Cindy Gaddy, Barbara Boykin, Omerea Gordon, Ms. Beulah Dunson, Dorethea McDuffie, Kay Strong, Odessa C. Funderburk, and District Officers