

# Thank You!

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: **September 8, 2020**

TO: **Second Episcopal District Family**

FROM: **James Levert Davis, *Servant Bishop***

SUBJECT: **HISTORIC VIRTUAL 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SERIES**



Dear Second Episcopal District (SED) Family,

Arelis and I express a huge thank you to all who participated in our **historic VIRTUAL two-day Annual Conference series** beginning July 20, 2020, with the Virginia Annual Conference and closing with the Western North Carolina Conference, August 4, 2020. Likewise, another first-ever - our **One-Day SED Virtual Planning Meeting**, Friday, August 21, 2020. You made us proud, both by your attendance and valuable input into the projected plans for the 2020-21 Conference Year and the Work Plan of Quadrennial 2020-2024.

In spite of the circumstances, COVID-19 provided time for reflection and opportunities for families, communities, and the REAL church to rise to the challenges. We applaud you for being the resilient people of God. Your bold demonstrations that although the doors of the church are closed; but the Word of God reaches not only across America; but all across the world. Your creative use of the technology utilizing conference calls and social media platforms, such as Facebook, YouTube, Zoom, Webinars; and financial giving platforms, demonstrate that we do “Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight.” I urge you to continue the practices that will help keep your church family, your families, and yourselves as safe as humanly possible.

Thank you, again, again and again, Pastors/Clergy, Components & Ministries in Action, Lay—Youth, Young Adults and Adults, The Faith and Fairness in Justice Task Force, SED Affiliated Organizations, our Worship Service Preachers, Speakers, and other Worship participants, Visitors, The SED Support Team and American Technologies; and of course our Presiding Elders. You all are the cornerstone of what we do and what we will continue to do. We want to leave a Kingdom legacy of spirituality as well as an economic stability model for generations to follow. **THANK YOU!**

The Platforms presented by the SED's Components and Ministries in Action for the 2020-2021 Conference Year; were very impressive. Their commitment and enthusiasm for the work are evident. I am convinced that we are in a strong position to continue the course we have established for equipping and engaging our congregations and community for local and global impact.

**Further, I am over the top excited and humbled by the number of volunteers** who have been motivated to share their gifts and talents in service to God and humankind through the SED. This is truly an example of outstanding leadership of which we are fortunate and blessed to have in our midst. As requested, they have identified the areas in which they wish to work. As we move forward in organizing for the year, we will share with the appropriate Components and Ministries in Action the names and interest areas of the volunteers.

As we face crises after crises of global proportions, never before witnessed in our lifetime, we want to build into all of our decisions, a guarantee that they will produce incredible experiences. We want to be **certain that we are responding to the urgency that is confronting us today** to ensure a thriving future tomorrow. **To name a few:**

- **Remaining vigilant to COVID-19 Pandemic.** Although many states have opened, remember the Stats for Blacks/African Americans /People of Color. We continue to pray for the more than 190,000 families who have lost loved ones to the Coronavirus.
- **Prioritizing our focus** - First and foremost our priority as already demonstrated is to meet the immediate needs of people in the **SED**, in such occurrences as natural disasters and those in need of congregational under girding when there are emergency needs within the District family.
- **Standing in solidarity for gender equality-** Bigotry is thinking one person is superior to another because of their gender, race, sexuality, religion, or classism, ageism, and other “isms.” This is not a path toward healing and unity. We must work together to achieve a culture where everyone's human rights to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” are respected. We join with others in support of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI).
- **Meeting The Census Deadline** – September 31, 2020 – We are urging everyone to complete their Census application. Our communities stand to lose thousands and thousands and even millions of dollars for essential community resources if we are not counted.

- **Participating in the 2020 Election – GOAL: Everybody involved.** Find your place and work diligently to ensure that everyone—you, your family members, church members, others that you know – are **registered** and **vote** by the method selected/on **November 3, 2020.**
- **Providing Support to organizations and institutions** that are on the front-line fighting against racism, bigotry, violence, and subjugation against Blacks and People of Color, a battle in our nation that has lasted for far too long.
- **Ongoing Thursday Webinar Zoom experiences.** Please visit the website for calendar and events ([www.ame2.com](http://www.ame2.com)) We will post as soon as the schedule is complete.
- **Launching New QUADRENNIAL Theme 2020-2024: “The REAL Church – RISING TO THE CHALLENGE.”**
- **Utilizing effective and efficient** hybrid technological strategies and other methodologies for reaching the masses whether virtually or in-person for local and global engagement.
- **Expanding Global Community Connections/Outreach** – The Great Commission mandates that we reach out to a world no longer bound by borders. Our responsibility is to meet the needs of our brothers and sister globally as well as locally.

As Chief Pastor, I am praying always for the success of our Leaders and Co-leaders in all of our churches and communities throughout the SED for the best Conference Year ever! With God’s help and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, The **REAL Church** will emerge victoriously. There is no doubt, the SED is equipped for the journey forward!

**In the Spirit of The REAL Church - Rising to the Challenge**



# Election Information

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## ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES

- **Link to state NCDP slate.**  
<https://slate.ncdems.civicengine.com/s/?bid=6209275&et=bmq9LsvoDYag3P8w4G8RCeFM>
- **Andre Johnson** is seeking re-election to Maryland's Harford County Council
- **Robert Wallace** - Mayor of Baltimore City

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