



# General Conference Commission

## AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bishop James Levert Davis, Chair

Bishop David R. Daniels, Co-Chair † Bishop Silvester S. Beaman, Co-Chair † Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie, Co-Chair  
Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper, General Secretary † Mr. Marcus T. Henderson Sr., Treasurer

February 6, 2023

### Dear Members and Friends of African Methodism throughout the world:

We have listened attentively to numerous consultations, deliberations, and opinions on the best path forward as we continue preparation for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the AME Church in 2024. Thanks to many individuals and groups who worked through our challenges to make this possible, we can now share the plans for moving forward with you.

To the **bishops** of the AME Church who labored diligently and faithfully to ensure that we are operating within our church's written guidelines and existing laws, we express thanks for your support. To the **CFO, Mr. Marcus T. Henderson, Sr.**, the **CIO, Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper**, the **Meeting Planner, Ms. Sharon Blaylock**, and their staff for all the heavy lifting and providing accurate and fact-based information. To the **Host Presiding Prelate** of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Episcopal District, **Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr.**, and **Supervisor, Dr. Patricia Russell McCloud**; and the **good and loyal people** of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Episcopal District, we express thanks for their continuous radical hospitality and stretching themselves to meet the challenge of change and being anchors of encouragement, and support throughout this process.

To all of my colleagues who serve as commission co-chairs and subcommittee chairs of the General Conference commission, most of all, I express a special word of thanks and appreciation for your leadership, contribution, and commitment to getting the work accomplished.

To every member of the General Conference Commission for using their valuable time, talent, and wisdom in taking seriously and giving critical attention to the upcoming 52<sup>nd</sup> Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the AME Church in 2024. Further, the collective and collaborative actions, vibrancy, and strength of each group member made it easy for the General Conference Commission to share with the church at this time.

Thus, we officially announce that due to circumstances beyond the control of the AME Church, the General Conference, the General Conference Commission, the host district, the CFO, the CIO, and the meeting planner, all have found it necessary to move the General Conference from its previously planned location, which was **Cincinnati, Ohio**, to now **Columbus, Ohio**.

The rationale for moving the General Conference is as follows:

1. **The comfort of our people.** *Because many hotels have been torn down, sold, gone into receivership, or otherwise unable to accommodate us at this time. It would be challenging to place all our people in the few rooms available as a guarantee. In other words, there aren't enough rooms to accommodate our meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio.*
2. **The safety of our people.** *We have received official word that the **civic center** where our meeting is to convene will be under full remodeling construction during the initial contracted dates. Also, the streets and the mini projects of building in the downtown area will be such that our people would find it necessary to walk through much of that construction, creating a safety hazard for us.*

3. ***The economic feasibility for our people.*** *We desire to make this general conference one of the best without going into the red or by trying to make a square peg fit into a round hole. We have found that the room rates are more economical in Columbus, Ohio. Additionally, the meeting site is directly situated close to all contracted hotels would certainly be of great comfort for reaching restaurants and other amenities.*

As a result of this move, it has become necessary to change the dates of the General Conference from July 3-10, 2024, to **August 21-28, 2024**. It is stated in the Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church that we are operating within the time of what the rules of the General Conference and the General Church allow (**Section C-1 page 274** reads, "... the General Conference will be **between June 1 and August 31.**")

Each district representative to the General Conference commission is in a position to share more detailed information as much as they have been a part of the deliberations throughout this process.

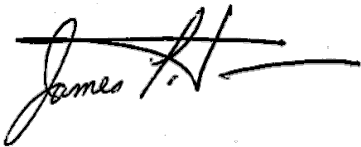
As chair of the General Conference commission, I've asked the CFO, the CIO, the Meeting Planner, and all other entities with committee responsibilities to the General Conference Commission to be in attendance and prepared during the next General Board, to give a detailed financial report, now that this change has been made.

Thank you for being patient as we work through these difficult days we are experiencing throughout the country and how they affect and impact our general conference planning and preparation.

As our theme denotes "**The Pandemics, The Promise, The Plan,**" the convening of the 2024 General Conference is an excellent opportunity to reflect and respond to the command given by Jesus to his disciples in Matthew 28:19-20. Unimagined opportunities are available in the "new normal, new environment" as challenging possibilities for reimagining, refocusing, and transforming the AME Church in a Post-Pandemic COVID-19 Derivative world. May God bless The African Methodist Episcopal Church on our journey to making a difference in the lives of others. We look forward to an awe-inspiring 2024 General Conference, in Columbus, Ohio.

Again, thanks for your support and for being the amazing people you are.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Davis", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James L. Davis  
*On behalf of the  
General Conference Commission  
African Methodist Episcopal Church*