

## 1st AME District NGO Report, Friday, October 12, 2018

I greet you with the joy of Jesus

*"The Year of Restoration" is the 1st District's 2018 Annual Theme. Our Scripture Reference, Joel 2:25 tells us "And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you."*

The 1st Episcopal District WMS has participated in quite a few activities this past conference year; activities that will help to make this a more prosperous, unbiased and sustainable world. We have worked hard to address many of the SDG's proposed by the United Nations.

To this end "The Year of Restoration" has begun -

We attended the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations. The Session began with the NGO Commission on the Status of Women Consultation Day where the voice of the #Me Too Movement was clearly heard. The voice that says women must stand up and support each other as they speak out against domestic violence, sexual harassment and discrimination.

I will speak more about CSW later during the panel discussion.

In June we spent two days with NGO Bread for the World on Capitol Hill. The first day we participated in an Advocacy Summit for Pan African Church Leaders. We addressed the impacts of potential cuts on Pan African Communities and the importance of organizing strategies to address hunger and poverty.

Our second day in Washington DC was devoted to lobbying on Capitol Hill. We were among 300 Bread for the World activist who came to Washington, DC to ask members of Congress to support legislation that would put the United States and the world on track to end hunger. We put our faith into action and we made a difference.

Under the awesome leadership of our esteemed Supervisor Rev. Jessica Ingram the 1st District WMS are really traveling a road to restoration". A few years ago she was inspired by God to begin the Margret Peg Davis. Project Possible Initiative. The Project Possible initiative has a great impact on the SDG's. It includes but is not limited to Project LEAP (Leadership, Education, Attitude and Preparation), Philadelphia Conference: Project Skills That Propel, New Jersey Conference: Project Women In Need/WORC (Women Opportunity Rehabilitation Center), New York Conference: Project SHATTER to eradicate sexual victimization of women and children, New England Conference. These projects are ongoing and have a tremendous impact on women living in the 1st Episcopal District.

Additionally the 1<sup>st</sup> District WMS more than enough initiative continues to strive. It raised enough money to enable the 1st to give a substantial monetary donation to the Project Possible participants.

As you look at our power point presentation you will notice that Sis. Colleen Williams-Lewis, NGO Representative for the New Jersey Conference represented the NGO at the "Call to Conscience: Forward to Action Rally on Thursday, September 6, 2018 at Lafayette Park Washington DC. The Call was issued by the African Methodist Church because we are fighting against the policies and actions of #45 and Congress which seek to turn back time.

Sis. Colleen participated in the Poor Peoples March at the Statehouse in Trenton NJ. The protest was in recognition of Health Care and a Healthy Environment for all.

Sis. Evelyn Hyatt, NGO Representative for the NY Conference attended the National Voters Registration Day at York College on September 25, 2018. The 1st District NGO urges you to take responsibility and go out and vote. That is the only way we can bring about change in America. As evident on the power point slide the NY Conference WMS are very active in missions work.

Moving forward, as members of NGO CSW Forum Planning Committee we look toward designing, organizing and strategizing next year's CSW. We continue to partner with and participate in Bread for the World's letter writing campaign. We join in with Bread for the World and pray for people impacted unjustly by the criminal justice system and for Congress to support prison and sentencing reform. We encourage our Conference Branch NGO Representatives to attend Bread for the Worlds 2019 Advocacy Summit and Lobby Day. We continue to focus on helping women overcome all types of difficulties by supporting the Peg Davis Project Possible initiative.

In conclusion, we will sorely miss the leadership of Dr. Shirley Cason Reed. We wish her the best of everything in life as she continues to serve God in the tremendous way that she does. The 1<sup>st</sup> District continues to press on. We look forward to working with our new Connectional President. We thank the UN WMS NGO representatives Sis. Patricia Bradley, Sis. Jacqueline Robinson, and Alternate Rep. Sis, Carolyn Clemons for all they do.

I would like to personally thank Rev. Dr. Jessica Ingram/1st Episcopal District Supervisor, and Ms. Patricia Nira Smith/President 1st District WMS, for their continued support and guidance.

To God be the glory.

*Submitted by Francetta Hairston/1st District NGO Liaison*