

New York Conference W.M.S.
30th NGO (Non Governmental Organization) Conference
Theme: “Human Rights Matter to God”
October 11 – 12, 2018 Embassy Suites Washington, D.C.

Scripture: Proverbs 31:8-9 (NLT)

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.

The conference opened with a welcome by our International President, Dr. Shirley Cason Reed followed by a prayer by our Alternate U.N. Representative, Evangelist Carolyn Clemons. Morning glory is what we call devotion. Host Bishop James L. Davis and Supervisor Arelis Beevers Davis welcomed us followed by greetings from Supervisor Fugh, Ms. Wanda T. Ringgold, Connectional YPD Director, and Mr. Robert Nicholas, AME Sada.

Topic: Highlighting the 10th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On Thursday, the program began with our moderator, Patricia Bradley, who is the U.N. Representative. She introduced the presenter, Ambassador Keith Harper, nominated by President Obama to serve as the Representative of the United States to the United Nations Human Rights Council on June 4, 2014. He is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and is also an attorney. His focus is on Native American affairs and litigations. He represents 500,000 individual Indians and served from the case inception as class counsel in the landmark Indian trust funds lawsuit, *Cobell v. Salaza*.

Following Mr. Harper, we moved on to the topic of **Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr. and Civil Rights Movement as Human Rights Movement**. This was chaired by First Vice President Deborah Taylor King. She asked that we go in prayer by taking a knee; which most of the NGO's gathering did.

Topic: Faith, Human Rights and Response to HIV

Presenter Jason Sigurdson is the Senior Policy and Strategy Advisor with the U.S. Liaison Office of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). The plan is to unite the world against AIDS and support countries to advance the vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS related deaths. December 1, 2018 is World AIDS Day.

Topic: Saving Women's Lives—addressing Global Maternal Mortality and Morbidity

Presenter Sarah Craven represents the United Nations Population Fund's Washington, D.C. office. She envisions a world where every pregnancy is wanted and every child can live to their full potential. She also presented to us a kit similar to the Mama Kit for safe delivery (safe delivery cost is \$5).

Topic: Decent Work—Labor Rights are Human Rights

Kevin Cassidy is the Director of International Labor Organizations USA (ILO). He deals with peace and security. He explained that no country can take land from another which started after World War II to ensure rights and keep the peace. The AME church is in the forefront of human

rights and social justice by standing up for religious rights by walking out of St. George. The AME church currently represents 32 countries, 5 nations, and 20 Episcopal districts.

AME Sada

Robert Nicholas proclaimed that the Sara Francis Davis Clinic is going strong as they just purchased an ambulance that will transport 2 patients and 12 passengers.

Fistula Project

This project is ongoing—we were asked to observe Fistula Sunday on Mother's Day 2019. Funds raised in the amount of \$1,150.25 should be sent to the New York Conference President, Mrs. Mary Davis.

Bread for the World

Dr. Angelique Walker encouraged us to continue the letter writing campaign to congress and set aside a Sunday to pray to end hunger by 2030. In 2017 New York Conference delivered over 300 petitions on Lobby Day to Senators Kirsten Elizabeth Gillibrand and Charles Schumer and also to Congressman Gregory Meeks office. The plan is to attend Lobby Day 2019.

Liaison Reports Districts 1-12 & 19

Critical in Canada District 4 is domestic violence, unreported deaths, and missing women. South Africa District 19 reported that men believed that if they have sex with young girls they will be cured of HIV/AIDS.

Vespers Worship Service

The worship service took place at Campbell AME Church, Washington, D.C. Presiding was Evangelist Carolyn Clemmons who is the Alternate UN Representative. The preacher was Elder Granville William Reed IV, the minister at Word of Grace Fellowship Ministries in Waldorf, Maryland. He is also the son of our International President, Dr. Shirley Cason Reed.

This marks the close of 8 years of outstanding N.G.O. Presidential Service of Dr. Shirley Cason Reed. We will never forget her as President of WMS and the N.G.O. Conference. A plaque was presented to her by First District N.G.O. Liaison, our own Francetta Hairston on behalf of the liaisons.

Dr. Reed thanked us for coming; we will be honored by a new WMS President at the next NGO Conference in 2019.

To God be the glory! Thank you First Vice President of the First Episcopal District Sister Tina Hines, Sister Jennifer Zimmerman, Jamaica Area Chairperson, and Sister Lynn Amanugi, Nora F. Taylor acting First Vice President for attending this year's NGO Conference. Special thanks to New York Conference President, Sister May Davis. This truly is a great experience to hear other NGO liaisons give their reports and know we must be about our Father's business.

Peace be with you all!

Evelyn Hyatt
New York Conference
NGO Liaison