



Fall Convocation

2019

November 7-9, 2019

CONFERENCE YEAR THEME:

*“Called to Make a
Difference”*

*“For many are called, but few are chosen.” ~ Matthew 22:14
“And of some have compassion, making a difference:” ~ Jude 22*

FIRST DISTRICT PLAZA
3801 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA

BISHOP GREGORY G. M. INGRAM – PRESIDING PRELATE
REV. DR. JESSICA KENDALL INGRAM – EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR
REV. DR. CHARLES H. LETT, SR. – HOST PRESIDING ELDER
REV. VERNON R. BYRD, JR., ESQ. – HOST PASTOR

The Foundation of
BISHOP GREGORY G.M. INGRAM'S SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

BISHOP INGRAM'S CREED:

I BELIEVE every person in this world is called to make a difference.

I BELIEVE God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world as a living and loving sacrifice to restore all persons to a right relationship with Him.

I BELIEVE the human mind finds the vastness of God's love incomprehensible, yet even the soul of a little child can understand and experience His love and His presence.

I BELIEVE God created every person in His image, full of possibilities and endowed with unique gifts and a place in Creation—a place no other person was created to fill.

I BELIEVE the only way to complete fulfillment—now and throughout Eternity—is through the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

I BELIEVE the highest honor of a person's life is to be called a Christian, that the Christian's supreme obligation is to be available to God and that the greatest gift one person can bestow upon another is the Gospel message of salvation.

**Bishop Ingram's Fundamental Belief System
Embraces Three Basic Principles:**

I BELIEVE God sent his Son Jesus Christ into the world because of His love for people and His desire to save us from sin.

I BELIEVE God alone fulfills because of His love.

I BELIEVE you and I must share the Good News of the Gospel because of God's redeeming love.

Bishop Ingram's Motto:

The greatest issue in the world is not so much where we are,
but in what direction we are moving.

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“The Church of My Dreams”

We are living in an age when church has, in many cases, become more about entertainment and programming and less about reverence and ministry. Flesh has replaced spirit. Pew warming has replaced service. Triviality has replaced tradition.

Rather than talking about Jesus, we must strive to live and love like Jesus. Whenever I find myself straying from these ideals, this poem helps to restore my focus, reinforces the depth of my faith and reminds me what this Christian journey is all about.

– Bishop Ingram

This is the Church of My Dreams:

THE CHURCH OF THE WARM HEART,
Of the open mind,
Of the adventurous spirit;

THE CHURCH THAT CARES,
That heals hurt lives,
That comforts old people,
That knows no division of culture or class
No frontiers, geographical or social;

THE CHURCH THAT INQUIRES
As well as answers,
That looks forward as well as backwards;

THE CHURCH OF THE MASTER,
The church of the people,
High as the ideals of Jesus,
Low as the humblest human;
A working church
A worshipping church,
A winsome church,

A CHURCH THAT INTERPRETS...
The truth in terms of truth,
That inspires courage for this life
And hope for the life to come;
A church of courage
A Church of all good men and women,
A church of the living God.

– John Milton Moore

The Bishop's Word

"Called to Make a Difference"

*"For many are called, but few are chosen." ~ Matthew 22:14
"And of some have compassion, making a difference:" ~ Jude 22*

My Dear Sisters and Brothers:

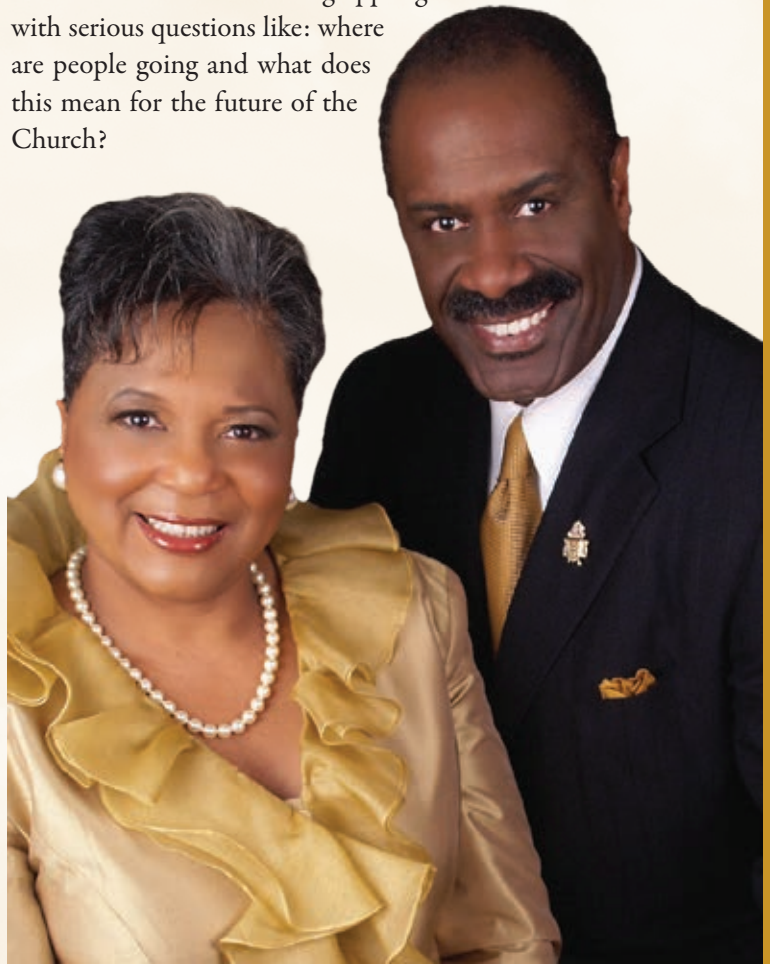
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is an age shadowed by the dark specter of uncertainty, ominous clouds of confusion, a deadly spirit of doubt, despair, and disappointment.

We have gathered during this Fall Convocation at a critical and crucial time in country, the global community, and the life of the church. No one has to ask about the state of the country. Every day we are inundated by the negative and disappointing leadership in Washington. There is the frightening reality of spiritual wickedness in high places. It is no exaggeration to say that we have lost our moorings and are coming apart at the seams. It seems as though everything we believed in and worked for is going to the wolves. Just as the moral collapse that caused the rise and fall of The Roman Empire, if America is not careful the same will happen to us.

But not only this. As a nation we are currently facing one of the largest public health crises in our history, not to mention the ongoing issues of social justice, economic disparity, failing educational systems, and the tension and lack of confidence people around the world are now feeling. From the church perspective millions of used-to-be committed followers of Christ looking for more of God, are not attending church on Sunday mornings

as they used to; others are leaving; and then there is a group that has written the church off completely. All of this has institutional church leaders, pastors, and local church members grappling with serious questions like: where are people going and what does this mean for the future of the Church?



The Bishop's Word

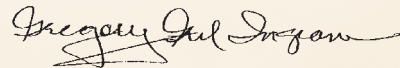
During this year's Convocation it is our challenge and hope and to address these issues in our leadership workshop, ministers' seminar, and the open forum on Friday and Saturday. We have invited some gifted church leaders to serve as our preachers and presenters on the principles and praxis of effective ministry and leadership in this present age. I am sure you are going to be blessed to hear **Rev. Dr. Lee P Washington** for the Opening Worship Service; **Rev. Conitras M. Houston** facilitating the Leadership Institute and our Friday night Praise and Worship Service preacher; Rev. Dr. Stanley Hearst II for the Noon Hour of Power; and **Rev. Dr. Wayne E. Croft** for the Closing Worship Service.

Reverend Jessica and I wish to express our profound gratitude to the Presiding Elders, Clergy, Missionaries, YPDers, Choirs, Laity, all ministries

and organizations, as well as the Host Pastor Rev. Vernon R. Byrd, Jr., Esq., his wife and partner in ministry, Rev. Dr. Melinda Contreras-Byrd and the Saint Matthew AME Church family, for you all have made a difference. We are also grateful to our outstanding office staff for their labor of love and willingness to go beyond the norm. May God richly bless each of you as you continue to put **"First Things First."**

Keep Making a Difference!

Yours In His Service,



Gregory G. M. Ingram
Bishop - First Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

First Episcopal District
FALL CONVOCATION 2019 SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

3:01 PM **Self-Help Board Meeting**
Renaissance Room

Thursday, November 7, 2019

10:01 AM **Presiding Elders' Council**
Bishop's Conference Room

Board of Examiners
Deans and Chairpersons
REV. DR. GREGORY G. GROOVER, SR.
Chairperson
Salon D (New York Room)

12:31 PM **Lunch**
(Presiding Elders, Spouses and Members
of the Board of Examiners and Governing
Board Committee)
Renaissance Room

1:31 PM **Governing Board Committee**
Salon A (New Jersey Room)

2:31 PM **Women in Ministry**
REV. DR. EMILYGAIL A. DILL
President
Salon C (Delaware Room)

4:01 PM **Board of Examiners**
All Board of Examiners Candidates
REV. DR. GREGORY G. GROOVER, SR.
Chairperson
Salon B (New England Room)

**The Rev. Dr. D. Albert Turk Ministry of
Evangelism**
All Licensed Evangelists
REV. DR. JANET J. STURDIVANT
Chairperson
Salon A (New Jersey Room)

4:31 PM **Governing Committee**
*Conference Board of Trustees Vice
Chairman, Secretary, Conference Treasurer*
Salon D (New York Room)

5:01 PM **Ministers' Spouses Dinner Meeting**
MRS. RHONDA J. MCCALL
President
Renaissance Room

Dinner Break (*on your own*)

7:31 PM **Opening Worship Service**
REV. DR. LEE P. WASHINGTON
*African Methodist Episcopal Church
Glenn Dale, MD*
Preaching
First District Choir
Ministering in Song

Friday, November 8, 2019

8:01 AM **The District in Prayer**
REV. DR. JESSICA KENDALL INGRAM
The Singing Elders in Praise
Corporate Prayers

8:46 AM **Presentation of
Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram**
REV. LAWRENCE C. HENRYHAND
The Bishop Speaks
BISHOP GREGORY G. M. INGRAM

9:01 AM **The Leadership Institute
RESHAPING MINISTRY TO
SERVE THE PRESENT AGE**
REV. CONITRAS M. HOUSTON
Senior Pastor
Trinity AME Church
Atlanta, Georgia
Special Assistant the General Secretary,
AME Church

**All Trustees, Stewards, Officers
of component groups at every level
should be in attendance**

10:31 AM **The Future of 3801**

11:16 AM **"Celebrating The Ingram Difference"**
THE PLAN FOR THE FIRST DISTRICT
RETIREMENT CELEBRATION
FOR
BISHOP GREGORY G. M. INGRAM AND
REV. DR. JESSICA KENDALL INGRAM
Rev. Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.
Rev. Orsella M. Hughes

11:46 AM 2020 Candidates Speak

First Episcopal District
FALL CONVOCATION 2019 SCHEDULE

12:01 PM **Hour of Power**
REV. DR. STANLEY HEARST II
Senior Pastor
Mt. Pisgah AME Church
Jersey City, NJ
Preaching
First District Ministers' Praise Team
Ministering in Song

1:31 PM **Lunch**
Salon A (New Jersey Room) (\$15.00)

2:31 PM **Women's Missionary Society Meeting**
First District Plaza
Ballroom

2:46 PM **Pastors' Symposium**
BISHOP GREGORY G. M. INGRAM
(All Presiding Elders, Pastors,
and Ministers)
Mt. Pisgah AME Church

Component Group Meetings

Christian Education
Renaissance Room

Church School
Tyree AME Church

Lay Organization
Tyree AME Church

4:01 PM **Break**
Ministers' Retreat Meeting
REV. MARK KELLY TYLER, PH.D.
Chairperson

Health Commission
REV. LISA M. WILLIAMSON, M.D.
Chairperson
Health Area

5:01 PM **Dinner Break** (*on your own*)

7:31 PM **Praise and Worship Service**
REV. CONITRAS M. HOUSTON
Senior Pastor
Trinity AME Church
Atlanta, Georgia
Preaching
First District Young Adult Choir
Ministering in Song

Saturday, November 9, 2019

8:46 AM **Praise and Worship**
REV. JUSTIN T. POWELL

9:01 AM **Serving the Present Age
Social Justice Forum**
Getting Out the Vote
The Importance of the Census
Political Involvement
Rev. Dr. Craig T. Wright,
Rev. Ray Hammond, M.D.
Rev. Dr. Mark Kelly Tyler,
Rev. Jay B. Broadnax

10:01 AM **"The BIG Picture" Updates**
(3-5 minutes each)
The Big Picture Overview –
Rev. Kevin T. Taylor
Church Growth –
Rev. Dr. Hugh B. Marriott
Mission Outreach and Disaster Relief –
Rev. Miriam J. Burnett, M.D. and
Rev. Natalie Mitchem
Information and Technology –
Rev. Maurice D. Butler and
Rev. M. Lloyd Guyton

10:46 AM **Break**

11:01 AM **Closing Worship and
Commissioning Service**
REV. DR WAYNE E. CROFT, SR.
Senior Pastor
St. Paul's Baptist Church
West Chester, PA
Preaching
First District Praise Team
Ministering in Song

Thursday, November 7, 2019
7:31 p.m.

Reverend Vernon R. Byrd, Jr., Esq.
WORSHIP LEADER

Praise and Worship.....Reverend Justin T. Powell and the First District Praise Team

Processional

Doxology

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

AME HYMN NO. 647

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Call to Worship..... Reverend Vernon R. Byrd, Jr., Esq.

Minister: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

People: For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Minister: Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek thy good.

People: Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Minister: Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. Lord I have loved thy habitation, the place where thy honor dwelleth.

People: For the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Minister: Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

All: O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.

Hymn of Celebration..... Reverend Vernon R. Byrd, Jr., Esq.

“Time Is Filled with Swift Transition”

AME HYMN NO. 513

*Time is filled with swift transition,
Naught of earth unmoved can stand,
Build your hopes on things eternal,
Hold to God's unchanging hand.*

Refrain:

*Hold to God's unchanging hand,
Hold to God's unchanging hand;
Build your hopes on things eternal,
Hold to God's unchanging hand.*

*Trust in Him who will not leave you,
Whatsoever years may bring,
If by earthly friends forsaken
Still more closely to Him cling.*

*Covet not this world's vain riches
That so rapidly decay,
Seek to gain the heavenly treasures,
They will never pass away.*

*When your journey is completed,
If to God you have been true,
Fair and bright the home in glory
Your enraptured soul will view.*

Invocation..... Reverend Marcellus A. Norris

Choral Response

“Thank You For Hearing Our Prayer”

*Thank you for hearing our prayer
Listening to burdens and cares
Lord you know just how much we can bear
Thank you, thank you, thank you, oh, thank you
Thank you for hearing our prayer*

Scripture Lesson

The Old Testament.....Jeremiah 1:4-10..... Reverend Ruth D. Van Lowe Smith

The New Testament.....Jude 17-22.....Reverend Marcus D. Briddell

PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE Reverend Lawrence C. Henryhand

“From All That Dwells”

AME HYMN NO. 69

*“From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator’s praise arise;
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung, Through every land and every tongue.”*

SUMMARY OF THE DECALOGUE

Hear what Christ our Saviour saith, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

GLORIA PATRI

*“Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”*

Ministry of Music First Episcopal District Mass Choir

Establishment of Protocol..... Reverend Jeaninne D. Wallace

Moment of Sacrificial Giving Reverend Orsella R. Hughes

Ministry of Music First Episcopal District Mass Choir

Presentation of the Bishop Reverend Dr. Silvester S. Beaman

Introduction of the Preacher Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram

Ministry of Music First Episcopal District Mass Choir

Sermon Reverend Dr. Lee P. Washington
Glenn Dale, MD

Invitation to Christian Discipleship Reverend Dr. Lee P. Washington

Ministry of Giving The Finance Committee

Ministry Highlights Reverend Vernon R. Byrd, Jr.

Benediction Reverend Sharyn Halliday

Friday, November 8, 2019
12:01 p.m.

Reverend James C. Simmons
WORSHIP LEADER

Doxology

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

AME HYMN NO. 647

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Call to Worship.....Psalm 150 Reverend James C. Simmons

Minister: Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!

People: Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Minister: Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

People: Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

Minister: Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

All: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Praise and Worship

“Lord I Lift Your Name On High”

RICK FOUNDS

*Lord, I lift Your name on high,
Lord, I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us*

*You came from heaven to earth, to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave to the sky,
Lord, I lift Your Name on high.*

Invocation.....Reverend Maxine L. Johnson

Prayer Response

“God Is Here”

MARTHA MUNIZZI

*There is a sweet anointing in the sanctuary
There is a stillness in the atmosphere
O come lay down the burdens have you carried
For in the sanctuary God is here
He is here, God is here
To break the yoke and lift the heavy burden
He is here, God is here
To heal the hopeless and bless the broken
O come lay down the burdens you have carried
For in the sanctuary God is here
Speak Lord, speak Lord
Speak Lord, speak Lord*

Scripture..... *Matthew 5:13-16*..... Reverend Marti Robinson, Esq.

Gloria Patri

*“Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”*

Introduction of the Bishop Reverend Suzanne Moshett

Introduction of the Preacher Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram

Ministry of Music First District Pastors Ensemble

Sermon Reverend Dr. Stanley Hearst II
*Senior Pastor
Mount Pisgah AME Church
Jersey City, NJ*

Invitation to Christian Discipleship Reverend Dr. Stanley Hearst II

Ministry of Giving The Finance Committee

Offertory

“All Things Come of Thee”

Ministry Highlights Reverend Vernon R. Byrd, Jr., Esq.

Doxology

Benediction Reverend Jennie Lee

Friday Evening
WORSHIP SERVICE

Friday, November 8, 2019
7:31 p.m.

Reverend Ron McCune
WORSHIP LEADER

Praise and Worship.....Reverend Paul J. Thomas
and the First District Young Adult Choir

Doxology

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”
AME HYMN NO. 647

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Call to Worship..... Reverend Ron McCune

Leader: Lord God,
You spoke into darkness and chaos and then there was light,
You imagined this earth in its complexity and beauty and called it into being,
You created humanity in Your own image and gave us a home to live in.

People: God, we believe You can do miracles.

Leader: Lord God,
You walked with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego through the fiery furnace,
You shut the mouths of lions and kept Daniel safe.

People: God, we believe You can do miracles.

Leader: Lord God,
You calmed a storm and Your disciples with quiet authority, You transformed
a boy’s picnic into a meal for a multitude, You healed a woman from years of
bleeding and rejection.

People: God, we believe You can do miracles.

Leader: Lord God,
You watched a paralyzed man being lowered through the roof and helped him to
his feet,
You called Lazarus from the tomb and restored him to life,
Jesus suffered a horrendous crucifixion in order to defeat sin and death and give us
life.

People: God, we believe You can do miracles.

Friday Evening
WORSHIP SERVICE

Leader: Lord God,
We hear and read stories of miracles in our midst and our world - stories of You healing the sick, setting prisoners free, releasing drug addicts from addiction, providing the right amount of money at just the right time.

People: God, we believe You can do miracles.

Leader: Lord God,
You revealed that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God, You built Your church and the gates of Hades have not prevailed against it.

People: God, we believe You can do miracles.

Leader: Lord God,
You called us for a time such as this, a time that is full of crisis and chaos, and because we believe Your Word, we will do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with You our God, because ...

All: God, we believe You can do miracles.

(By Reverend George E. Britt)

Song of Celebration..... Reverend M. Lloyd Guyton

“We’re Blessed”

FRED HAMMOND

*Since thou has walked uprightly
As a light in a dark land
Since thou has placed in thy heart
All the Lord’s commands
He’s set thee above nations
And cast thine enemies away
He’s standing up within thee
So let me hear you say*

(Chorus)

*We’re blessed in the city
We’re blessed in the field
We’re blessed when we come and when we go
We cast down every stronghold
Sickness and poverty must cease
For the devil is defeated
We are blessed*

Friday Evening
WORSHIP SERVICE

*Thou believest in God only
Put no confidence in man
Everything that does concern thee
You've placed it in His hands
Though a host rise up against thee
To try and spoil the day
They'll rush in one road to harm thee
But they'll flee seven ways*

(Bridge)

*We know that God's word
His Word is truth and righteousness
We are his children
And with our hearts we do confess*

(Special Vamp)

*Late in the midnight hour
God's gonna turn it around
It's gonna work in your favor*

Invocation..... Reverend Deborah K. Blanks

Choral Response

“Praise Him”

NEW JERSEY MASS CHOIR

*Praise Him, praise Him
Praise Him, praise Him
Jesus blessed savior
He's worthy to be praised
From the rising of the sun
Until the going down of the same
He's worthy, Jesus is worthy
He's worthy to be praised
Glory, glory
In all things give Him glory;
Jesus, blessed Savior
He's worthy to be praised
God is our rock
Hope of salvation
A strong deliverer
In Him will I always trust*

Friday Evening
WORSHIP SERVICE

Scripture..... *Romans 8:18-28*..... *Reverend Dr. Ann Marie
Bentsi-Addison Posey*

Ministry of Music First District Young Adult Choir

Moment of Sacrificial Giving Reverend Dr. Kim W. Anderson

Presentation of the Bishop Reverend April Martin

Presentation of the Preacher Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram

Ministry of Music First District Young Adult Choir

Sermon Reverend Conitras M. Houston
*Senior Pastor
Trinity AME Church
Atlanta, Georgia*

Invitation to Christian Discipleship Reverend Conitras M. Houston

Ministry of Giving The Finance Committee

Ministry Highlights Reverend Vernon R. Byrd, Jr., Esq.

Benediction Reverend Conitras M. Houston

Saturday, November 9, 2019
11:01 a.m.

Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram
WORSHIP LEADER

Praise and Worship.....Reverend Justin T. Powell

Doxology

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

AME HYMN NO. 647

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Call to Worship.....Reverend Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace

Litany of Empowerment

Leader: I am a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Ghost Power. The die has been cast; I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made: I am a disciple of Jesus Christ I won't look back, let up, slow down, back up or be still

People: **My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I am finished and done with low-living, sight-walking, small-planning, colorless-dreaming, mundane-talking, cheap living, cloudy visions and dwarfed goals**

Leader: I no longer need preeminence, position, promotions, plaudits or popularity. I do not have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on the Lord, run with patience, lift by prayer and labor by Holy Ghost power

People: **My face is set. My focus is fixed. My goal is heaven. My road is narrow. My way is rough. My guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, lured, tempted, ignored, detoured, deluded or delayed.**

Leader: I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity

People: **I won't give up, shut up or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up and worked up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, teach till all know and work till the end. And when Jesus comes, He will have no problem recognizing me, because He will remember that I was the one He empowered to make a difference.**

Hymn of Celebration..... Reverend Dr. Janet J. Sturdivant

“High and Lifted Up”

JOE PACE

High and Lifted Up In all the earth is who you are (Repeat 3x)

Lord We Exalt Your Name, Lord We Exalt Your name!

Oh Lord we praise you! 3x Oh Lord!

High and Lifted up! (Repeat)

Invocation..... Reverend Dr. Larry E. Dixon

Choral Response

“Give Thanks”

BISHOP T.D. JAKES

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the holy one

Give thanks, for he has given Jesus Christ, his son (Repeat)

And now, let the weak say I am strong

Let the poor say I am rich, because of what the Lord has done for us (Repeat)

Give thanks

Scripture *Isaiah 61:1-10* Reverend Charles F. Boyer

Ministry of Music First Episcopal District Choir

Sacrificial Moment..... Reverend Winton M. Hill III

Ministry of Music First Episcopal District Choir

Presentation of the Bishop Reverend Dr. Faye Banks Taylor

Introduction of the Preacher Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram

Ministry of Music First Episcopal District Choir

Sermon Reverend Dr. Wayne E. Croft, Sr.

Senior Pastor

St. Paul's Baptist Church

West Chester, PA

Closing
WORSHIP SERVICE

Invitation to Christian Discipleship Reverend Dr. Wayne E. Croft, Sr.
Ministry of Giving The Finance Committee
Closing Song Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram

“Be Blessed”

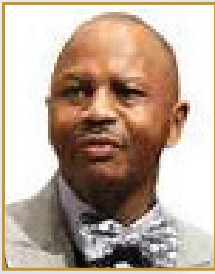
BISHOP PAUL S. MORTON

*Be blessed my brother,
Be blessed my sister,
Be blessed wherever this life leads you,
Let me encourage you,
Let me speak life to you,
You can depend on God to see you through,
You can depend on me to pray for you*

Chorus:

*I pray for you,
You pray for me,
And watch God change things.*

Closing Prayer Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram
Benediction Reverend Dr. Wayne E. Croft, Sr.



About Our Opening Service Preacher

REVEREND DR. LEE P. WASHINGTON

Steadfast and daring in his refusal to accept mediocrity in ministry, the Reverend Dr. Lee P. Washington served the Reid Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church, located in Glenn Dale, Maryland as its biblically based and Holy Spirit-led Senior Pastor for 36 years until his recent retirement. His extraordinary vision, unconventional leadership, and prophetic calling manifested daily miracles in the life of the church. In 1989, led Dr. Washington Reid Temple from its Northeast Washington, D. C., location to Lanham, Maryland. At that time, the church membership numbered only 300 worshipers. Guided by his pragmatic approach to ministry and a simple theme, "Have Faith in God," which he received by revelation, the membership grew to over 1,500 within three years.

By 2001, under God's guidance and Dr. Washington's leadership, the Reid Temple AME Church congregation acquired 32 acres of land in suburban Glenn Dale, Maryland. There, it built the spacious, ultra-modern sanctuary and educational worship complex that today houses most of the church's multifaceted services, programs, and ministries. In December 2004, Dr. Washington led the first services at the Glenn Dale campus.

He is frequently quoted on issues related to the "mega-church" phenomena and has been featured in the Washington Post, Washington Times, Bowie Gazette, PG Post, and Washington Informer newspapers. He has given numerous radio and television interviews and has been honored on many occasions as "Pastor of the Week" and "Pastor of the Month."

In 2006 under Dr. Washington's leadership, Reid Temple became "One Church in Two Locations" with the opening of a second worship location. The expansion location was dubbed "Reid Temple North." Montgomery County, they determined, was an ideal site for expansion, offering a strong and growing African American population base, and in great need of Christian witnessing and Kingdom building. The Reid Temple North campus is conveniently located in an emerging commercial district off Colesville Road in Silver Spring serving the multiple spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of its congregation.

Easter Sunday of 2015 marked the return of Reid Temple AME worship services to Washington, D.C. After 25 years, the Washington, D.C. location, Reid DC, welcomed record numbers of worshipers. Services were first held at the E Street Cinema, then at Howard University Theater and as of January 2017, services are now held at 6pm on Saturdays at New Bethany Baptist Church.

Dr. Washington is a gifted preacher and teacher. His dynamic and life changing sermons can be heard every Saturday morning on WPRS 104.1FM and WYCB 1340AM. He has been featured in Upscale magazine, which identified him as a "national spiritual leader." The Afro-American newspaper called him "one of the top preachers in the Washington (DC) Metro area."

Dr. Washington received his Doctor of Ministry and Master of Divinity degrees from Howard University, his Bachelor of Science degree in the behavioral and social sciences from the University of Maryland-College Park, his Associates degree from the Community College of Baltimore, and his general business degree from Cortez W. Peters Business College in Chicago. He is the author of *Identifying Conflict Management Strategies in a Black Church* (Vantage Press, 1987) and a contributing author to the *African American Devotional Bible* (Zondervan, 1997). He has authored the following booklets: *From Membership to Discipleship*, *From Membership to Fellowship: Reid Temple, The Commission System for Corporate Churches*, *The Reid Temple Stewardship Manual*, and *The Discipleship Development Manual*.

Dr. Washington is the recipient of the National Business Honor Society Award, an Outstanding Young Man of America award, the Henry Maynard Preaching Award, the Howard University Excellence in Ministry Award, the Second Episcopal District Living Legend Award in Ministry, the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps' Martin Luther King, Jr., Award, the A.M.E. Department of Worship and Evangelism's Soul Winner's Award, and the Spirituality and Medicine Award from Howard University Hospital. He is listed among the *25 Outstanding Preachers of Washington (DC) and Maryland*, *50 National Spiritual Leaders*, and *Who's Who Among Business Executives*.

Dr. Washington chaired the Board of Examiners for the Washington Conference of the A.M.E. Church. He has served the A.M.E. Church as Northeast Regional Director of Evangelism, Director of Ministry Beyond the Sanctuary (for the Washington, D.C., Conference), Director of the Annual Conference Institute, Dean of Christian Education Institute, Second Episcopal District, Director of Evangelism, and Director of Stewardship. He also has been an elected delegate to the last five General Conferences.

Dr. Washington is married to Anna Brooks Washington. They have two sons, Levon Lee and Brooks Paul Washington.



About Our Young Adult Noon Hour of Power Preacher

REVEREND DR. STANLEY HEARST II

Reverend Dr. Stanley Hearst II serves as pastor of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church in Jersey City, NJ. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Rev. Hearst is the son of Brenda Hearst and the Reverend Dr. Stanley Hearst, Sr. – Pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Moorestown, New Jersey. A graduate of Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Rehabilitation Services, he received his Master of Divinity Degree from Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, OH, and his Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. He is also in the process of completing his fourth unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA, where he serves as a Chaplain Resident.

In 2008, at the age of 25, Stanley Hearst II, courageously responded to the Lords cry in Isaiah 6: *“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”* He preached his initial sermon on October 15, 2008, and was licensed by Presiding Elder Joseph D. Patterson. Passionate, Powerful, and Prophetic; he is undoubtedly a fresh and much needed voice to this present age.

In 2010, Rev. Hearst was appointed the youth minister of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania’s largest A.M.E. Church -- St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church -- by its pastor, The Reverend Roland C. McCall. During his time of service, Rev. Hearst reestablished Youth Emphasis Sunday, established a Wednesday Night Bible Study and created ministries that target teenage girls and pre-teen boys. In addition to his responsibilities as the Youth Minister, Rev. Hearst taught the Men’s Bible Study and the Young Adult Church School Class.

Before moving to Ohio to complete Seminary, Rev. Hearst was employed in the mental health and social service arena, working as a Consultation and Education Specialist; In-Home Protective Services Caseworker and social worker with various youth agencies; including the Philadelphia Public School System. Rev. Hearst also developed and implemented a Summer Youth Enrichment Program at Waters Memorial A.M.E. Church, Philadelphia, PA.

At the 196th Session of the Philadelphia Annual Conference, Rev. Hearst was elected and ordained an Itinerant Deacon in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. On May 30, 2012, Rev. Hearst was appointed the pastor of St. Paul AME Church, Waynesboro, PA, by Bishop Richard Franklin Norris. While only there a year, St. Paul saw an increase in conversions, membership, giving, and the renovation of the parsonage that was unoccupied for five years. At the 197th Session of the Philadelphia Annual Conference under the leadership of Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram, Rev. Hearst was

elected and ordained an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. On June 15, 2013, Bishop Ingram appointed Rev. Hearst the pastor of Historic Jones Tabernacle AME Church, Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Hearst’s pastoral tenure is credited with the spiritual, financial, and administrative resurgence of Historic Jones Tabernacle. While there, numerous renovations were completed within the historic edifice. The Historic Jones Tabernacle family also hosted the 2014 Philadelphia Annual Conference Advent Service, and the 2015 West Main--Line District Church School Convention. New ministries were birthed in the church including the Social Media & Web Ministry and National Prayer Line, along with the revival of dormant ministries, including the Social Action Ministry, Class Leaders Council, Women’s Ministry, and the Lay Organization, which had over 50 members by the end of his administration. Most importantly, during his four-year tenure, many people of all ages were saved, joined the church, and were baptized into the family of God.

While serving in the Philadelphia Annual Conference and West Main--Line District, Rev. Hearst served as a member of the Board of Examiners, Annual Conference Finance Committee, Assistant Secretary of the Philadelphia Annual Conference, Registrar of the Ministerial Institute, and Instructor in the Ministerial Institute. Rev. Hearst also served as West Main--Line Chair of Finance and a member on the West Main--Line Committee on Ministerial Orders.

While serving at Jones Tabernacle, Rev. Hearst met the then Melanie Bryant, at the First District Fall Convocation. She was singing in the Young Adult choir, and after the worship service they connected reciting lyrics to a popular song. Some months later a friendship formed, and Rev. Hearst and Sis. Bryant worked together in ministry feeding the hungry around Thanksgiving 2014. God had more than a friendship in the plans, and on May 6, 2017 they were married at Mt. Tabor AME Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. While he loves serving as a pastor, Rev. Hearst thanks God for the answered prayer in the person of Mrs. Melanie Bryant--Hearst, and he knows that his first ministry is to his family, and then the church.

Each day Rev. Hearst strives to live his favorite Scripture, **“He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)?”** This Scripture has driven Rev. Hearst to passionately, consistently, and prophetically speak truth to power concerning issues of Social Justice like the mass incarceration of African American males. Rev. Dr. Stanley Hearst II is simply a servant seeking to do the work of the Lord.



*About Our Leadership Institute Presenter
and Friday Evening Worship Service Preacher*
REVEREND CONITRAS M. HOUSTON

A true woman of God, **The Reverend Conitras M. Houston** strives for excellence in ministry through the Word of God, the Work of God, and the Will of God. She sincerely loves God and God's people; therefore, she professes boldly the words of 1 Corinthians 2:9 "...no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him!"

Pastor "C," as she is affectionately called, is the daughter of Bonita Houston and Harold Houston, Jr. and is the proud beloved sister of Harold Houston III and Brian Collier. In May of 2002, Pastor "C" accepted the call into the ministry and was subsequently admitted for training under the African Methodist Episcopal Church's Board of Examiners. She delivered her initial sermon and was licensed to preach in December of 2002. Bishop William P. DeVaux ordained Pastor "C" as an Itinerant Deacon in May of 2005 and an Itinerant Elder in May of 2008, both at the Atlanta-North Georgia Annual Conference.

Just shy of her ordination as an Itinerant Deacon, Pastor "C" graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interpersonal & Organizational Communications with a minor in Spanish. While a student at UNC, Pastor "C" constantly pursued excellence in ministry and academia. To pursue her fluency in Spanish, she studied in at The University of Seville (La Universidad de Sevilla) Seville, Spain throughout the summer of 2004.

With all of her many campus obligations, Pastor "C" never took her focus off the work God has called her to do. In September of 2003, God gave Pastor "C" the vision to start a Bible Study based ministry, which she named "Saturdays In Christ." "Saturdays In Christ" was an officially recognized campus organization on the campus of UNC- Chapel Hill with "Expansions" that included a Mime & Dance Ministry, a Spoken Word Ministry, as well as a Praise & Worship Team. On any given Saturday afternoon, Pastor "C" would consistently lead a Bible Study session for over 50 of her peers. Whenever weather prohibited Pastor "C" and her fellow

Tar Heels from leaving campus for Sunday worship, they would gather together as Pastor "C" offered a sermon and led an upwards of 100 of her peers in worship.

When Pastor "C," returned to Atlanta, GA in 2005, she quickly expanded her work of "Saturdays In Christ" into an annual performing arts conference known as "Spirit Movers for Christ". It is through "Spirit Movers for Christ" that Pastor "C" shared her passion for mime, dance, and drama with over 100 children over the course of five days and concluded the intense week with a gospel stage production. Pastor "C" now hosts "Spirit Movers for Christ" in three different cities within the state of Georgia. In 2014, she and the Spirit Movers team were invited to expand their reach to the state of Arizona. Pastor "C" believes that music opens the hearts of young people and inspires them to be who they are truly created to be—Spirit Movers for Christ is one of the vessels God has equipped her to use to impact our world.

In February 2007, Pastor "C" was the youngest among only twelve recipients of Delta Sigma Theta's Pinnacle Leadership Award. This prestigious award is presented by their Fortitude Educational and Cultural Development Foundation to honor, recognize, and celebrate local African-American women who make contributions to society and impact the lives of others—women who have achieved success in a chosen field and who personify the highest standards of service, leadership, and character. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

In May of 2008, Pastor "C" completed her studies at Emory University's Candler School of Theology earning a Master of Divinity Degree. During her time at Candler, Pastor "C" continued to strive towards excellence by being among only six students to be admitted into the Master of Divinity Thesis Program. She was also afforded the honor of preaching in one of the Fall 2007 Chapel services with an audience of faculty, staff, and students from the entire Emory University community.

Pastor "C" also believes in being a vital resource to her surrounding community. For this reason, she introduced Gabriel's House, Inc. to the community of Fairburn, GA in the Fall of 2008. Gabriel's House serves as a youth center and preserving agent for the entire community—instilling values of self-worth through performing arts, life skills training, and academic enrichment.

Pastor "C" is grateful for the opportunities that she has been given to serve the Lord's people. After humbly serving as the Youth Pastor and Assistant Pastor of St. John A.M.E. Church in Fairburn, GA for five years, Pastor "C" served as the Pastor of St. Luke A.M.E. Church in Athens, GA until April 2011. In May of 2012, she was appointed as the Senior Pastor of the Greater Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church in Columbus, GA. Under her leadership, Greater Ward Chapel grew tremendously in membership, as well as ministry. The sanctuary and other areas of the facility were renovated debt-free, a community development center serving school-aged children was initiated, the surrounding community was served, and much more. In October 2016, after faithfully serving over four years in Columbus, GA, Pastor "C" was appointed as the first female and 38th pastor of Trinity A.M.E. Church in Atlanta, GA where she now serves a Quality-Rated Early Learning Center and a vibrant, growing congregation. Already, the congregation is increasing in membership and ministry with Pastor "C" as an enthusiastic and spiritually grounded leader. Pastor "C" is truly passionate about the work God has sent her to do—not only at Trinity but also around the entire world. For this reason, Pastor "C" continues to travel preaching and teaching the Good News while mentoring and encouraging Christians of all ages within the United States and abroad.

Beyond all of the technical information, the Reverend Conitras M. Houston loves the Lord. Since childhood, she has always pursued a walk with Christ. Pastor "C" is known for the following quote: "Since God is a God of excellence, God's children SHALL excel!"



About Our Closing Service Preacher

REVEREND DR. WAYNE E. CROFT, SR.

The Reverend Dr. Wayne E. Croft, Sr., serves as the Senior Pastor of the St. Paul's Baptist Church in West Chester, PA. Prior to this assignment, he served The Church of the Redeemer Baptist in Philadelphia for a total of 20 years. Dr. Croft is the founder of the Redeemer Renaissance Community Development Corporation, a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and NAACP, as well as President of the NAACP West Chester Branch, Vice-President of OIC Chester County and has been inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers of Morehouse College.

He is also a prolific writer. The African-American Pulpit Journal published his sermons; The Promise Guaranteed, A Candidate for the Hall of Faith and his article entitled What Does it Mean to Preach Biblically Today. He is the author of the book *Unexpected Calls to Unexpected Places*, *Pretty Poison: Seven Deadly Sins* and a forthcoming book, *There's A Bright Side Somewhere: The Motif of Hope in African American Preaching During Slavery and Post-Civil War*. Dr. Croft is also a contributor to the books *From One Brother to Another: Voices of African-American Men, Volume 2* and *Athens & Oxford Sermons, Volume 10*. He has published three articles in the Past Master section of *Preaching Magazine*; "John Jasper: Preaching with Authority", "E. K. Bailey: Expositor of the Word", and "Gardner C. Taylor: Poet Laureate and Dean of Preachers", as well as a book that chronicles his journey to serve as Pastor of the St. Paul's Baptist Church.

Dr. Croft has served as Dean of the Pennsylvania Eastern Keystone Baptist Association. He has also served as the Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics at Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University in Philadelphia and now serves as The Jeremiah A. Wright, Sr. Associate Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics in African American Studies at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Dr. Croft has distinguished himself as a pastor, writer and scholar, having earned an Associate degree from Pinebrook Junior College and graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Trinity College earning a Bachelor of Arts degree. He received the Master of Divinity degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (now Palmer Theological Seminary), Master of Theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and graduated with distinction from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey earning a Doctor of Ministry degree. He also earned a Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy degree from Drew. He is the first person to earn both a Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Philosophy from Drew University. Dr. Croft is married to Dr. Lisa L. Croft, a family physician and they have three children, Darlene (William), an attorney in Charlotte, NC; Wayne, Jr., a recent graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA; Candace Nicole, a student at Spelman College, Atlanta, GA; and a granddaughter, Patterson.

First Episcopal District and Connectional AME Church

2019-2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 7-9, 2019

Fall Convocation

ADVENT SERVICES

New Jersey Annual Conference

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Delaware Annual Conference

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Western New York Annual Conference

Friday, December 6, 2019

Philadelphia Annual Conference

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Bermuda Annual Conference

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

New York Annual Conference

Thursday, December 12, 2019

New England Annual Conference

Friday, December 13, 2019

January 6, 2020

Bishop Ingram's Birthday

January 17-19, 2020

43rd First District WMS

Ruth Henderson Hughes Learning Experience

Hershey Lodge
Hershey, PA

February 6-8, 2020

Founder's Day

February 21-22, 2020

First District Lay Mid-Year Meeting

Sheraton Hotel
Stamford, CT

2020 Annual Conference Series

BERMUDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 3-8, 2020

March 3: The Ministry of Evangelism Day
March 4: Women's Missionary Society Day
March 5: Opening Worship and Communion Service
Lay Witness Night
March 6: Youth Night
March 7: Ordination/YPD
March 8: Conference Church School
Closing Worship Service - 3:31 PM

BERMUDA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE – HOST

Delaware Annual Conference

March 17-22, 2020

March 17: The Ministry of Evangelism Day
March 18: Women's Missionary Society Day
March 19: Opening Worship and Communion Service
Lay Witness Night
March 20: Youth Night
March 21: Ordination/YPD
March 22: Conference Church School
Closing Worship Service - 3:31 PM

DELAWARE MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE – HOST

New Jersey Annual Conference

March 23- March 29, 2020

March 23: The Ministry of Evangelism and WIM Day
March 24: Women's Missionary Society Day
March 25: Opening Worship and Communion Service
March 26: Lay Witness Night
March 27: Youth Night
March 28: Ordination/YPD
March 29: Conference Church School
Closing Worship Service - 3:31 PM

ATLANTIC CITY DISTRICT – HOST

New England Annual Conference

April 14-19, 2020

April 14: The Ministry of Evangelism Day
April 15: Women's Missionary Society Day
April 16: Opening Worship and Communion Service
Lay Witness Night
April 17: Youth Night
April 18: Ordination/YPD
April 19: Conference Church School
Closing Worship Service - 3:31 PM

SAINT PAUL AME CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE,
MA – HOST

First Episcopal District and Connectional AME Church
2019-2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

New York Annual Conference

April 27- May 3, 2020

- April 27: The Ministry of Evangelism Day
- April 28: Women's Missionary Society Day
- April 29: Opening Worship and Communion Service
- April 30: Lay Witness Night
- May 1: Youth Night
- May 2: Ordination/YPD
- May 3: Conference Church School
Closing Worship Service - 3:31 PM

BRIDGE STREET AME CHURCH, BROOKLYN, NY – HOST

Western New York Annual Conference

May 12-16, 2020

- May 12: The Ministry of Evangelism Day
- May 13: Women's Missionary Society Day
- May 14: Opening Worship and Communion Service
Lay Witness Night
- May 15: Ordination
Youth Night
- May 16: YPD - 8:45 AM-12:00 Noon
Conference Church School
Closing Worship Service - 2:01 PM

BETHEL AME CHURCH, BUFFALO, NY – HOST

Philadelphia Annual Conference

May 18-May 24, 2020

- May 18: The Ministry of Evangelism and WIM Day
- May 19: Women's Missionary Society Day
- May 20: Opening Worship and Communion Service
- May 21: Lay Witness Night
- May 22: Youth Night
- May 23: Ordination/YPD
- May 24: Conference Church School
Closing Worship Service - 3:31 PM

MOTHER BETHEL AME CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, PA – HOST

June 11, 2020

Bishop and Rev. Jessica's 43rd Wedding Anniversary

June 18-20, 2020

Planning Meeting

Celebrating The Ingram Difference

**Retirement Celebration for
Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram and
Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram**

July 8-15, 2020

51st Quadrennial Session of the General Conference

Orange Convention Center
Orlando, FL

“Called to Make a Difference”

First Episcopal District Leadership

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Music Department
Presiding Elders' Council
Self-Help, Inc.
Social Action

Sons of Allen
The Ministry of Evangelism
Women in Ministry
Women's Missionary Society
Young People's and
Children's Division

The Bishop's Cabinet, Connectional Officers, and Leaders FROM THE FIRST DISTRICT

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Notes and Reflections

Lined writing area consisting of approximately 20 horizontal dotted lines for notes and reflections.

Notes and Reflections

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*“Call
Do*

Notes and Reflections

Handwriting practice lines (dotted lines on a blue background) for notes and reflections.

Script to Make a Difference

THE BIG PICTURE

THE TEN GUIDEPOST PRIORITIES

- Church Growth and Evangelism
- Stewardship and Fiscal Responsibility
- Education
- Church, Community and Civic Involvement
- Membership and Discipleship
- Health and Wellness
- Spiritual Formation
- Information Technology/Communication
- Mission Outreach and Disaster Relief
- Youth and Young Adults



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