

## Special Resolution of the 163<sup>rd</sup> Session of the New England Annual Conference • Apr 9-12, 2014

We, the Special Resolution Committee give praise to our Sovereign God and Our Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank our Episcopal team—the Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District, Rt. Rev. Gregory G.M. Ingram, and our Episcopal Missionary Supervisor, the Rev. Dr. Jessica K. Ingram—for their priestly and prophetic presiding over their second New England Annual Conference; and we pay tribute to Presiding Elder Herbert L. Eddy and the Rev. Amelia Eddy, to the Rev. Richard Clarke and the Bethel-Norwalk church family, who have so graciously hosted this Conference, as we request permission on the closing day of this 163<sup>rd</sup> session of the New England Annual Conference to submit to you the following Special Resolution:

Whereas, the Conference began on Monday, April 7, 2014 with a Noon worship service at which the Rev. Craig Robinson powerfully preached “When Ministry Makes You Sing the Blues”, followed by afternoon workshops on Evangelism by the Rev. D. Albert Turk and worship at 7:00 pm with the Rev. Angelo Dawson preaching masterfully on the subject “I Am Contagious” (Jude 24:25) and...

Whereas, Conference momentum continued to build on Tuesday, April 8 as the Women’s Missionary Society met in their resplendent white to take care of Kingdom business, including the election of officers and they were blessed with a word from the Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram, entitled “It’s Time to Cross the Kidron”(John 18:1,2)—a word that reminded us that just as Jesus chose to cross the Kidron, even though that crossing took him into a deep valley, through a brook filled with all kinds of obstacles and up to a city where great trials awaited him, we too must lay aside ineffective old ways and start doing our business in God’s church in God’s way; and...

Whereas, the Annual Conference was officially opened on Wed, April 9, 2014 by Bishop Ingram, with a Roll Call and Organization of the Conference, a review of our Guideposts and Priorities for this Quadrennium, and an urgent plea from our Episcopal Leader “to take the information back to the 90% of the church members not here at Conference” because “we are not doing business as usual” ; and..

Whereas, our Opening Worship Service was filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit in song, in prayer, and in a delectable sermonic entrée from a Master Chef, the Rev. Dr. Alvan N. Johnson, who challenged us with the subject “Rare, Medium or Well Done” (1 Sam 3:1) as he reminded us that when the Word is rare the Church’s work is medium, mediocre, and half-baked and when the Word is well done, that Word is transformative; and...

Whereas in our afternoon session the Board of Examiners presented outstanding candidates for continuation, promotion, or ordination as Deaconesses, Deacons and Elders, both Local and Itinerant (including the posthumous ordination of a faithful minister of the Gospel, Licentiate Sandra Ridley); and the faithful and fearless leader for 31 years of the Boston-Hartford District gave his report of his labors, followed by committee and pastoral reports, and...

Whereas, the Lay Night Service was stirred by the singing of the Sons of Allen, words of exhortation from Bro. Nicholas Clark Durham (“Winning One for Jesus: Each One, Reach One in Spite of the Challenges”) and words of celebration spoken on behalf of the incomparable Bro. Curtis Wells, past President of the New England Conference Lay Organization, and...

Whereas on Thursday morning Bishop Ingram called upon the Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram to present a workshop on “Spiritual Formation - A Journey in the Experience of Prayer” and she challenged each of us to reorder our priorities; stop being spiritual imposters; spend separated time with God as a crucial part of our personal spiritual development; decrease the clutter in our lives; and commit ourselves to a prayer journey that allows us to discover who we really are in Christ, and...

Whereas we were blessed with additional Committee and Pastoral reports (during which Bishop Ingram encouraged all churches to become more seriously and collectively engaged in voter registration, education and mobilization) as well as an update on the First Episcopal District Headquarters Renovation Project, after which our hearts were set on fire during the Noon Hour of Power by the preaching of Reverend Stephen Lewis who told us about “Something Good from the Hood” ( John 1: 43-51), and...

Whereas, on Thursday afternoon having served for 10 years as Conference Christian Education Director, Sis. Glorine Townsend gave her last report and was commended by the Conference with rousing applause for her service; and in addition to the stirring reports from committees and congregations, Bishop Ingram was

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commended for his commitment, through his exhortation, example, and writings to building the Stewardship Ministry of the Church, and...

Whereas the Thursday evening Ordination Service was blessed with a word entitled "Build a Ministry Defined by the Master" from Bishop John Hurst Adams, 87<sup>th</sup> elected and consecrated Bishop of the AMEC; and that word declared that we must pay heed to the seriousness of the call to preach; the firstness of Jesus in our hearts; the "we-ness" of our faith; and the need for great faith if we would have God do great things through us, and...

Whereas our concluding Business Session on Friday morning was made special by the official commendation and acclamation, on the eve of his retirement, of the Rev. Donald Luster for 52 years of ministry; and...

Whereas that very special moment was followed by the exciting news of plans for the Bicentennial General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; by an official greeting from the Norwalk Chief of Police, Thomas E. Kulhawik; by information about Power Sunday to be held on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2014—a Sunday on which our goal is to bring in 700 new members from the 550 churches in our First District, by expressions of appreciation to our Bishop, Episcopal Supervisor, Presiding Elder and Boston-Harford First Lady, as well as our Host Pastor and Host Congregation; and finally by the closing of the Business Session; and...

Whereas Friday evening reminded us what an incredible blessing the young people of the New England Annual Conference are, as youth from across the Conference, hosted by the Department of Christian Education, demonstrated their excellent stewardship of their gifts in mime, liturgical dance, original spoken word pieces, songs of praise, and instrumental praise on violin and keyboard; and as we honored The Youth of the Year, Bro. Gekari Lowe-Hargrove and the runner-up, Sis. Chelsea E. Grown; and...

Whereas, our final day, Saturday, was blessed with a Young People's Division of the Women's Missionary Society that was taking care of Kingdom business, and a Closing Service in which our Presiding Prelate preached prophetically on the subject "Sleeping on the Job" (Matthew 26:36-46), after which appointments were read and the Conference was closed...

Be it resolved that the Daughters and Sons of Allen in New England will leave this high place and return to our valleys of service with a new determination to "make disciples of all people," to be even better stewards of all that God has entrusted to us, and to make a Kingdom difference for a God of justice and a God of love.

Respectfully submitted by The Special Resolution Committee:

Sis. Juliann Butler

Sis. Phyllis Counts

Rev. Ray Hammond, Chair

Rev. Theodore Hickman-Maynard

Rev. Alvan N. Johnson

*Rev. Reginald Mitchell*  
*Rev. Irma Theodorux*