



169<sup>th</sup>  
SESSION OF THE  
**NEW ENGLAND**  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 11-12, 2020

**SAINT PAUL**  
**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

37 Bishop Richard Allen Drive  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

**VENUE**  
**FIRST DISTRICT**  
**VIRTUAL PLATFORM**

*Called to Make a  
Difference*

*In The Midst Of A Crisis*

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

**Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram** – Presiding Prelate  
**Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram** – Episcopal Supervisor  
**Reverend Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace** – Host Presiding Elder  
**Reverend Ellis I. Washington** – Host Pastor

*“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.*

Without question, this is an unprecedented time in our lives. We don't have to be clairvoyant to know that tremendous uncertainty, apprehension and fear have taken up residency in our psyche. There is no avoiding the fact that the people of the world have been thrust into one of the most troubling periods in the history of humankind, all because a pneumonia of unknown cause reared its ugly, devastating head in Wuhan, China, on December 31, 2019, then quickly and surreptitiously crept around the globe, seeking whom it could devour.

With the advent of the novel coronavirus, everything around us has shifted. Life as we once knew it has been thrown into a frenzy. Everything that was, is no more. COVID-19, the name given to the frightening new disease, has created unimaginable stress on public health worldwide and strain on the global economy. Its impact has been far-reaching, compromising every aspect of our lives, especially physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, financially and spiritually.

As difficult as it might be to comprehend, life as we once knew it is on the verge of being supplanted by a new reality. The certainty that this new way of living is on the horizon has been corroborated by Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger, author of *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. Dr. Bolsinger says, “We must view the coronavirus not as a blizzard, but as an ice age, in as much as we will never return to life as ‘normal.’” His words are sobering, to say the least.

While we may not want to admit it—or accept it—we are in the throes of a moment in history whose impact is going to be difficult to measure and impossible to forget. The collateral damage this insidious pandemic has had on our lives and our local churches is enough to take our breath away.

But I encourage you to continue to breathe in faith, in spite of it all. I implore you to continue to take the breath of life—and of hope—that the virus wants to rob you of. We must never forget that we serve a God who is able to do things that abundantly exceed whatever we can think or imagine. We serve a God who will empower us to persevere in the face of an untenable crisis, but only if we trust Him—and obey Him.

Trusting and obeying in the mist of this debilitating COVID-19 outbreak is not going to be easy. But trust and obey we must. We can do it, through the power the Holy Spirit who indwells us. Rest assured, Rev Jessica and I feel your pain, for we, too, have experienced losses of every stripe due to this dreaded disease.



Nevertheless, I am persuaded that we of the First Episcopal District can cope with this crisis if we, collectively, look to the hills from whence cometh our help. My Bible tells me that my help cometh from the Lord, the immovable and immutable source of my, your—and our—strength.

That truth of Scripture gives me hope that, eventually, all will be well. Altered, but nonetheless well. Different, yet manageable. Novel, but doable, through Christ.

Together, we're going to make it. I firmly believe that God will mitigate the effects of the virus, but in His own time. In the meantime, we have work to do. We must continue to fulfill our calling to serve the needs of our congregations and communities. We will gain insights on how to stay focused and effective in the midst of this pandemic through worship and workshops scheduled for this Annual Conference.

Rev. Jessica and I don't have answers for all the questions we've been asked about the current state of things. Indeed, we have a lot of questions of our own. But, through prayer and supplication, we've asked God to give us some words to share during our time together that will calm fears, bring peace and restore the joy of the Lord, which is our strength. Although it will be a virtual experience for the first time in history, I am confident that, if we activate our faith, answers will come, our purpose during the pandemic will emerge and our way forward will be made clear.

As you are aware, the Annual Conference in African Methodism serves as an opportunity for us to come together to give an account of our stewardship over the past 12 months. It also is an opportunity for each of us to become keenly aware of the areas of

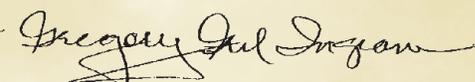
our lives that warrant our attention to bring about needed improvements. It is our hope that this revamped, video Annual Conference will be as informative and inspirational as they were when we met face-to-face. As always, the schedule includes workshops and seminars designed to enhance your spiritual growth and development.

Rev. Jessica and I are standing on tiptoes in anticipation of a mighty move of God. We are believing that, when the Saints of the First come together on one accord, God will pour out His Spirit and empower us to do even greater works than we could ever ask or imagine to expand His Kingdom and enlarge our territories. In so doing, the FIRST, indeed, will show itself to be FIRST in every way throughout all of African Methodism.

Rev. Jessica and I wish to express our profound gratitude to the presiding elders, pastors, missionaries, YPDers, laity, choirs, ushers, ministries and organizations for your unwavering support and involvement over the last eight years. All of you, in ways large and small—but always meaningful—have helped us make a difference in fulfilling our mission and ministry here. Additionally, we are ever so grateful to our loyal, committed and dedicated office staff for their labors of love and willingness to go above and beyond whenever needed.

***Keep Making a Difference!***

Yours In His Service,



Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram  
118th Bishop  
African Methodist Episcopal Church

2020 New England Annual Conference  
*Daily Schedule*

**Thursday, June 11, 2020**

- 1:31 p.m. The Ministry of Evangelism  
2:31 p.m. Break  
2:46 p.m. Praise and Worship  
Roll Call  
Presiding Elders' Summary Reports  
Ministerial Efficiency  
Board of Trustees  
Board of Examiners  
5:01 p.m. Dinner Break (cook your own dinner!!)  
7:01 p.m. Opening Worship Service  
Annual Sermon: *Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace*

**Friday, June 12, 2020**

- 8:31 a.m. Praise and Worship  
8:46 a.m. Minutes  
9:01 a.m. *Canoeing the Mountains:*  
Rev. Ellis I. Washington  
10:01 a.m. Pastoral Reports  
11:31 a.m. Memorial Service  
Statistics  
Disciplinary Questions  
12:31 p.m. Break  
1:31 p.m. Closing Worship Service

# Opening Worship Service

Thursday, June 11, 2020

7:01 p.m.

**Reverend Ellis I. Washington**

Worship Leader

## DOXOLOGY

### **“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”**

*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 ..... Rev. Ellis I. Washington

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 had 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.

**People: 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.**

# Opening Worship Service

HYMN OF PRAISE..... Rev. Marcus T. McCullough

**“And Are We Yet Alive”**

AME HYMN NO. 304

*And are we yet alive, And see each other's face?  
Glory and praise to Jesus give For His redeeming grace.*

*Preserved by power divine To full salvation here,  
Again in Jesus' praise we join, And in His sight appear.*

*What troubles have we seen, What conflicts have we passed,  
Fighting's without, and fears within, Since we assembled last.*

*But out of all the Lord Hath brought us by His love;  
And still He doth His help afford, And hides our life above.*

*Then let us make our boast Of His redeeming power,  
Which saves us to the uttermost. Till we can sin no more.*

*Let us take up the cross Till we the crown obtain;  
And gladly reckon all things loss, So we may Jesus gain.*

INVOCATION..... Rev. Viola P. Morris-Buchanan

SCRIPTURE ..... *Jude: 17-25* ..... Rev. Howard M. Jenkins, Jr.

WORSHIP THROUGH DANCE ..... First Episcopal District Dance Ministry

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP..... Rev. Ray A. Hammond, M.D.

PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER..... Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

SERMON..... Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace  
*Presiding Elder  
Boston-Hartford District*

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP ..... Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace

OFFERING ..... The Finance Committee

OFFERTORY..... **“All Things Come of Thee, O Lord”**

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BENEDICTION ..... Rev. Daylan K. Greer, Sr.

# *Closing Worship and Commissioning Service*

Friday, June 12, 2020

1:31 p.m.

**Reverend Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.**

Worship Leader

## DOXOLOGY

### **“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”**

*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.*

LITANY OF EMPOWERMENT .....Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram

**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.**

# *Closing Worship and Commissioning Service*

OPENING HYMN ..... *“Amazing Grace”* ..... Rev. Steven A. Cousin, Jr.

INVOCATION..... Rev. Pedro A. Castro, Jr.

SCRIPTURE ..... *Romans 5:1-8*..... Rev. Iona A. Smith Nze

PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP..... Rev. Dr. Richard W. Clarke

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

EPISCOPAL SERMON..... *“Standing In Grace”* ..... Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram  
*Presiding Prelate, First Episcopal District  
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP ..... Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram

OFFERING ..... The Finance Committee

OFFERTORY..... *“All Things Come of Thee, O Lord”*

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

# The Commissioning and Appointment Service

INVOCATION..... Rev. Dr. Theodore Hickman-Maynard

HYMN OF ENCOURAGEMENT..... Rev. Dr. Sandra G. Whitley

## **“Go Preach My Gospel”**

AME HYMN NO. 220

*Go, preach My Gospel, saith the Lord, Bid the whole Earth My grace receive,  
Explain to them My sacred Word. Bid them believe, obey and live.  
I'll make My great commission known, And ye shall prove My Gospel true,  
By all the works that I have done, And all the wonders ye shall do.*

READING OF APPOINTMENTS ..... Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram

WORDS OF THANKS AND

CLOSING PRAYER.....Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram

## **“Be Blessed”**

*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.*

BENEDICTION ..... Rev. Alvin T. Riley, Jr.