



## 2020 AME Church General Conference to Convene in Orlando

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Over 25,000 people from around the world will gather in Orlando, Florida, July 8-15, at the West Concourse of the Orange County Convention Center for the 51st Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church— the world's oldest Protestant denomination established by persons of African descent.

Anticipating the 2020 General Conference, Bishop John F. White, Chair of the General Conference Commission states, "The General Conference is an opportunity for us to come together and to be able to vision, plan and strategize how we can continue to grow the kingdom of God under the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Our legacy is great, but our future is even brighter and bigger because we're still called to be God's sons and daughters, to make a difference."

Since 1816, the AME Church has convened every four years to review and change the denomination's laws and policies, receive reports from its agencies, and elect denominational leadership. Additionally, there are economic/community development, financial literacy, and youth empowerment seminars for the wider community. The guiding theme and scripture for the 2020 General Conference is "From Legacy to Mission: A Call to Prophetic, Educational, and Social Engagement" based on Matthew 25:34-40.

"We strive to have a balanced agenda that includes worship and work; prayer and program; critical conversations and debate," says Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie, Chair of the General Conference Program Committee. "We call it a General Conference, but it really is a family reunion, and as such, there will be something for everyone in Orlando in July 2020."

In addition to the business sessions, plans for the 51st Quadrennial Session include presentations from dynamic and internationally known preachers, a Gospel Music Concert celebrating Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), a Gala Banquet and other activities. All worship services are open to the public with registration or day passes required for other events. Orlando last hosted the AME Church General Conference in 1992.

The 11th Episcopal District of the AME Church led by the AME Church's Senior Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr. will host the General Conference. "As a native Floridian, hosting the General Conference is a once in a lifetime experience," Bishop Richardson states. "There will be much to see and much to learn from a church that is 200 years old, a denomination that just celebrated its bicentennial and already four years into its third century. "

**For more information about the 2020 AME Church General Conference:** [www.ame-church.com](http://www.ame-church.com) (AME Church website) [www.ame2020.org](http://www.ame2020.org) (11<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District hosting website).

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*The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church is the world's oldest Protestant denomination established by persons of African descent. Founded by Bishop Richard Allen, its roots are in the Free African Society formed in 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It currently has 2.5 million members in 5000 congregations in 40 countries on five continents divided into 20 Episcopal Districts. The AME church has consistently advocated for the civil and human rights through social improvement, religious autonomy, and political engagement.*