



Left: Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr. at the University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, WA) Race & Pedagogy Conference with President Ronald Thomas and Dr. Cornel West.



**“Together We Can”**

## The Ninth Episcopal Connection

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### Dedication Service for Cummings-Park CME Church

The Dedication Service for Cummings-Park CME Church will be held on Sunday, Octo-



ber 22, 2006. Cummings Park was named after the late Bishop James L. Cummings. Mrs. Norma Jean Cummings will be the guest speaker at the morning worship service. Bishop Henry M. Williamson will be the guest speaker at the worship service at 3:30 p.m. Rev. Jocelyn Singletary is the pastor.

## The Bishop's Corner

### “From Good to Great: The Jesus Challenge”

### Reflections on the General Conference

The 36th Session of the General Conference of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church was held June 26-July 3 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Our new quadrennial theme, **“From Good To Great: The Jesus Challenge,”** represents a call to leadership development, disciple-making and church growth.

Highlights of the General Conference:

Two new bishops were elected, **Thomas L. Brown, Sr.** and **Kenneth F. Carter.**



Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr.



Bishop Kenneth W. Carter



Senior Bishop William H. Graves

**Bishop William H. Graves** was installed as the Senior Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

### Ministry to Men



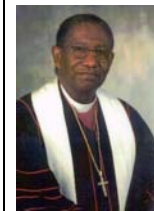
Mr. Leo Pinkett

**The Ministry to Men Department** was created. **Mr. Leo Pinkett** of the Sixth Episcopal District was elected the General Secretary, and **Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr.** was appointed as the department's chair. This department is responsible for developing and promoting throughout

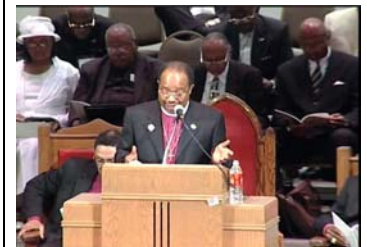


Bishop & Mrs. Henry M. Williamson, Sr.

the Church an effective ministry for males of all ages.



**Bishop Paul A. G. Stewart, Sr.**, the presiding prelate of the Third Episcopal District, was installed as the Chairman of the College of Bishops.



Bishop Williamson delivering the Episcopal Address at the General Conference.

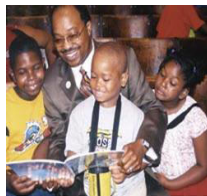
**Sunday School motto:** *We want to make our Sunday School a school that teaches, a school that reaches every available home, a school that lives, a school that gives to make God's kingdom come.*

## ***Our Goals and Objectives for the Quadrennium***

**"From Good to Great: The Jesus Challenge"** is a compelling theme for us to lead, train, recruit and disciple our pastors, ministers, lay, missionaries, children, youth and young adults.

If we are to begin to move from Good to Great, we must:

- Become Christ-centered through Bible study.
- Implement a leadership development process for the clergy and lay.
- Recruit and train leaders.
- Increase our membership by 10,000 new disciples.
- Plant new churches.
- Strive to be a prophetic witness that claims the gospel and challenges our members to be vulnerable to the Holy Spirit.
- Develop economic development partnerships
- Establish Ministry to Men departments in our local church, District and Annual Conference, and Male Emphasis Sundays each month that lift up our men and boys to ensure that the males in our local church and community are honored.
- Strengthen the District Conferences in all Regions with standard training sessions that occurs for two days, Thursday through Saturday.
- Spend the first 90 days after the annual conference raising our annual assessments. This will allow us to spend more time carrying out needs meeting-ministries in our churches.



*Bishop Williamson  
Founder & President*

### **One Church One School**

**11th Annual  
Partnership  
Conference**

**Chicago, IL**

***Theme: Church School  
Partnerships, Bridging the  
Gap from Good to Great***

**Thursday, October 19, 2006  
and Friday, October 20, 2006**

Hilton Hotel Oak Lawn  
Cicero & 94th Street  
Oak Lawn, Illinois

**Dynamic Speakers,  
Youth Performances**

**Workshops: Professor B Math,  
Health, Black History, Hip Hop,  
NCLB Act**

**Lifetime Achievement  
Awardees:**



**Dr. Elnora P. Hamb**  
President of the  
Women's Missionary  
Council C.M.E. Church



**Dr. Elnora D. Daniel**  
President of Chicago  
State University

**Special Guests:**



*L-r: Bishop Tom Benjamin, Light of the  
World Christian Church; CME Bishop  
Paul A.G. Stewart ; Bishop Thomas L.  
Brown; and Bishop Ronald M. Cun-  
ningham—Religious Leader of the Year.*

**To Register,  
Contact 773-651-0071**

### **Annual Conferences Formats**

**Tue: Musical Concert\***

**\*For Oklahoma, Northern  
California and Southern  
California Regions**

Wed: Communion Service

Thu: Women in Ministry Day

Fri: Lay & Ordination Day

Sat: Christian Education Day

**Special Dates**

#### **Mid-Winter Councils**

Arizona-New Mexico Region  
November 9-11, 2006

Oklahoma Region  
November 16-18, 2006

Alaska-Pacific Region  
November 30-December 2, 2006

Northern/Southern California  
December 7-9, 2006

**Other Dates**

**Men's Retreat (Southern CA)**  
September 15-16, 2006

**CME Convocation**  
September 26-29, 2006  
Houston, TX

**National Lay Ministry Day**  
October 8, 2006

**OCOS Conference**  
October 19-20, 2006 Chicago, IL

**CME Church Anniversary**  
December 16, 2006

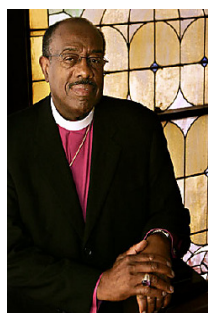
**Phillips School of Theology  
Founders' Day/Pastor's Conf.**  
January 8-11, 2007 Atlanta, GA

**2007 Ninth District Spring  
Convocation**  
March 27-30, 2007 Oklahoma

## IN THE NEWS

### News around the Connection and Regions

#### Bishop Graves Appointed to the Tennessee Valley Authority



**Senior Bishop William H. Graves** of Memphis, the presiding prelate of the First Episcopal District, was confirmed as a member of the Board of Directors

of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for the remainder of a 5-year term expiring next May. The TVA is the largest power company in the nation. Congratulations are extended to Senior Bishop Graves on his new appointment!

#### Retired Senior Bishop Marshall Gilmore and Bishop Charles Helton Honored at Retirement Service



l-r: Retired Senior Bishop Marshall; Retired Bishop Charles L. Helton.

Nearly 2,000 people gathered in Cook Convention Center during the General Conference to witness the Service of Retirement for Senior Bishop Marshall Gilmore, 41st Bishop of the CME Church, and Bishop Charles L.

Gilmore. Bishops Othal H. Lakey and Thomas L. Hoyt gave moving statements of appreciation for Bishop Helton. Both Bishops Gilmore and Helton gave reflections and thanks for their ministry in the CME Church. There were many expressions of love and appreciation from clergy and laity given to both Bishop Gilmore and Bishop Helton.

Congratulations, Bishops Marshall and Helton for a job well done!

#### Pastor Paul Everett Appointed Director of Congregational and Pastoral Care

Rev. Paul Everett, pastor of First CME in Anchorage, Alaska, was appointed the director of Congregational



and Pastoral Care for the Ninth District. Rev. Everett is available to lead workshops on how to effectively provide congregational and pastoral care. Rev. Everett is the sole chaplain with the Veteran's Administration in Alaska, and recently awarded the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Chaplaincy.

**A Warm Welcome to  
Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Bobby Best  
Pastor and First Lady  
Greater Cleaves CME  
Oklahoma City, OK**

#### Presiding Elders of the Ninth Episcopal District

##### Alaska-Pacific Region

**Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr.**

Alaska District

Oregon-Washington District

##### Arizona-New Mexico Region-

**Rev. William W. Dorn, Jr.**

New Mexico District

**Rev. Hurley Grissom**

Arizona District

##### Oklahoma Region

**Rev. Richard O. Laskey**

Muskogee District

**Rev. Dr. Stacey Cole**

Tulsa District

Oklahoma Region

##### Northern California Region-

**Rev. Lawrence P. Lakey**

Oakland District

San Francisco District

##### Southern California Region-

**Rev. James C. Raymond**

Los Angeles District

##### **Rev. Napoleon Goshay**

Los Angeles/San Diego District

Bishop and Mrs. Williamson would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers and prayers during the passing of his uncle, **Lawrence Williamson**, in Mercer, TN. Mr. Williamson was the Steward Board Chairman and a life-long member of Jones Chapel CME Church.



Miles Memorial CME Church

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF THE NINTH DISTRICT REGIONS

### Alaska-Pacific

The celebration of the new building of the Miles Memorial CME Church kicked off the annual conference. Miles Memorial, under the leadership of Rev. David C. Isom, held two dedication services on Sunday, July 30, 2006. Bishop & Mrs. Henry M. Williamson, Sr., Bishop and Mrs. Dotcy I. Isom, Jr., and Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr. were present along with local community leaders and Alaska-Pacific congregations. Bishop Isom was the guest speaker for the Service of Holy Communion. Rev. Paul Everett led informative sessions on congregational and pastoral care. The Lena Jones Rice \$100 Missionary March was led by Mrs. Mattie Powell, the Conference President, and Rev. Tawana Wilson delivered the sermon. The Lay worship service, began with the 100 Men in Black march. Rev. Peris J. Lester was the speaker. Bishop Williamson ended the conference with the Commissioning Service and the Reading of Appointments.

### Arizona-New Mexico

This conference was hosted by the Phillips Chapel Church of El Paso, Texas, under the leadership of Rev. Michael Grady. Highlights of the meeting were the ecumenical service and the Lay banquet, under the direction of Mrs. Rosemary Hill, Lay Leader, where we were welcomed by Mayor John Cook. Mayor Cook also entertained us as he sang and played on his guitar. The Lena Jones Rice \$100 Missionary March was led by Ms. Nancy

Jones, the Missionary President. The Rev. Michael Grady delivered a dynamic Ordination sermon on Thursday. Outstanding Presiding Elders reports were received from Rev. William Dorn and Brian Reese.

### Oklahoma

The Christ Temple CME Church, Pastor Dr. Stacey Cole, hosted our conference at the Doubletree Inn Conference Center. The Conference opened on Tuesday night with a great concert by the Oklahoma Mass Choir. Bishop Nathaniel Bond was the guest preacher for the Service of Holy Communion. Thursday was the Women in Ministry Day with the Lena Jones Rice \$100 marchers led by Mrs. Eloise Lee. The Ordination sermon was delivered by Rev. John DeRon Johnson, pastor of Phillips Temple, Los Angeles. Thursday night the Lay Department, under the leadership of Mr. Cliff Harris, featured an outstanding banquet and the 100 Men and Boys in Black singing.

### Northern California

The annual conference was hosted by Missionary Temple CME Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. LeRoy Johnson. The Communion and Ecumenical Service was held on Monday night at Beebe Memorial with guest preacher Rev. Gordon Humphreys, Jr. A concert was held on Tuesday night by the Northern California Choir. A highlight of the annual Lena Jones Rice March was the speaker, Mrs. Patricia Redds! On Thursday evening, the MTM marchers were a highlight of the Lay Banquet.

Rev. Gary Collins, pastor of Carter Tabernacle CME in Orlando, Florida, preached the Ordination Service and was the instructor for the Bible study session on *Good to Great Leadership*. The closing sermon was given by Rev. J.J. Jackson, pastor of Israel Chapel CME in Greensville, North Carolina.

### Southern California

Southern California Region's annual conference was hosted by Hays Tabernacle CME Church under the leadership of Rev. Joseph C. Gardner, Sr. The conference opened on Monday night with the communion message being delivered by Bishop T.G. Benjamin, Jr., of Light of the World Christian Church of Indianapolis, Indiana. On Tuesday evening, the Southern California Conference was magnificent under the leadership of Mr. Everett Baines. The Wednesday evening the Lena Jones Rice \$100 Missionary March was led by the President, Mrs. Alfreda Davis. Dr. Princella Brady-Lee of Chicago, IL was the speaker. AME Bishop T. Larry Kirkland gave the ordination sermon on Thursday. We had a surprise visit from Bishop E. Lynn Brown of the Second Episcopal District. The Lay Banquet was led by Mr. D. Bruce Levingston. Rev. Peris J. Lester, I was the speaker and welcomed Bishop Williamson back to the 9th District. Special guest was the mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa. The closing service was preached on Friday morning by Rev. Karen Walker-McClure the pastor of Russell Chapel CME Church in Columbia, Missouri.