



*52<sup>nd</sup> Quadrennial Session ~ General Conference  
Legislation Development and Summit*

*Sponsored by  
The International Ministers and Lay Association &  
The Connectional Lay Council*

*Of the  
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH*

*April 13 – 14, 2023*

*Theme: “A Changing Church, But An Unchanging God.”*

*Steele Creek AMEZ Church  
1500 Shopton Rd. ~ Charlotte, NC 28217  
The Reverend Dr. Monte Witherspoon-Brown, Host Pastor*

*The Reverend Dr. Andrew Smoke, Host Presiding Elder*

*The Reverend Erich Shumake, Legislative Summit Liaison  
Dr. Yvonne Tracey, Consultant*

*The Reverend Dorothy Patterson, Executive Director  
International Ministers and Lay Association*

*Mr. Joseph King Davis, International President  
Connectional Lay Council*

*The Reverend Dr. Anthony Witherspoon, President  
International Ministers and Lay Association*

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*Theme: "A Changing Church, But An Unchanging God."*


Dear Sons and Daughters of Varick:

The International Ministers and Lay Association in collaboration with the Connectional Lay Council are excited that each of you has joined us at the Steele Creek African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church for the Legislative Summit. The Summit is designed to serve as a special legislative prelude to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 2024. The purpose is instructional pertaining to the legislative process, and the development of pertinent legislation which will help to strengthen our beloved Zion. The goal is to make significant progress in helping to craft legislation, in the same spirit that Apostle Paul directed the church in Cornith in 1 Corinthians 14:40, "but all things should be done decently and in order." We anticipate a productive summit as we build consensus, collaborate and work through compromises resulting in proposed legislation that will transform and sustain Zion.

The Legislative Summit will be A-Political as committees will deal with every major aspect of the church, including brief presentations on General Conference Rules, Roberts Rules of Order, legislation geared towards our Children and Youth, Millennials and Young Adults, Social Justice and the role and responsibilities of potential delegates.

Your presence this week is indicative of your love for The Freedom Church for God has called us collectively and collaboratively at this very critical moment for the good of Kingdom Building. May our efforts be pleasing to the Almighty God and impact our Zion perpetually.

In His Service,



Mr. Joseph King Davis  
International President  
Connectional Lay Council



The Reverend Dr. Anthony Witherspoon  
President  
International Ministers and Lay Association



# Order of Worship for Legislative Summit

Thursday April 13, 2023  
9:00 AM



Worship Leader	The Reverend J. Martin Boulter, Sr.
Call to Worship	The Reverend J. Martin Boulter, Sr.
Invocation	The Reverend Dr. Monte Witherspoon-Brown
Selection	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing #29
Scripture	Mr. Jerry McCombs
Prayer	Mr. William Manning, Sr.
Introduction of the Preacher	The Reverend Dr. Anthony Witherspoon President International Minister's & Lay Association African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Selection	Steele Creek African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
The Sermon	The Reverend Dr. Moses E. Thompson Pastor of Lee's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Canton, Mississippi Presiding Elder, Jackson-Panola District, South Mississippi Conference
Invitation to Christian Discipleship	The Reverend Erich Shumake
Ministry of Kindness Offering	Ms. Leondras Davis & Mr. Ervin Reid
Offertory Prayer	The Reverend Dr. Myrtle Bowen
Announcements/Remarks	Mr. Joe Davis, International President Connectional Lay Council, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  The Reverend Dorothy A. Patterson The Reverend Erich Shumake The Reverend Dr. Anthony Witherspoon
Benediction	The Reverend Dr. Moses E. Thompson

Insurance \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Part IX-Temporal  
Economy  
The General Admn. Boards  
-Part 2**

Connectional Budget \_\_\_\_\_  
-Connectional Claimants \_\_\_\_\_  
-Allocation/Apportionment \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Part IX-Temporal  
Economy  
The General Admn. Boards  
-Part 3**

Bureau of Church Growth  
And Development \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Board of Lay Activities \_\_\_\_\_  
-Connectional Lay Council \_\_\_\_\_  
Disciplinary Concerns \_\_\_\_\_  
(Polity, & Protocol) \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Part X-Temporal Economy  
Standing Committees  
Part I**

Discipline Codification \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline Compilation \_\_\_\_\_

**Part X-Temporal Economy  
Standing Committees  
Part 2**

Restructuring Commission \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

IMLA President and Executive Director

**Ad Hoc: Resolutions Review  
Committee**

Upon request:  
Review/Consult on  
Resolutions, presented  
By individuals on site

## RECOMMENDED STRUCTURE OF LEGISLATION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

AMEZ Book of Discipline Categories	AMEZ Book of Discipline	Consultants	Ministerial & Lay Co-Chairs
<b>Part IV-The Conference</b>			
	General Conference	_____	_____
	Connectional Council	_____	_____
	Quarterly Conference	_____	_____
	Other	_____	_____
<b>Part V-The Ministry</b>			
	Qualifications, Rules & Reception	_____	_____
	Deacons & Elders	_____	_____
	Local Deacons & Elders	_____	_____
	Bishops	_____	_____
	Presiding Elders	_____	_____
	Pastors in Charge	_____	_____
	Other	_____	_____
<b>Part VII-The Judicial Admn.</b>			
	Judicial Council	_____	_____
	Other	_____	_____
<b>Part VIII-Temporal Economy Local</b>			
	Benevolences and Support Of Ministry	_____	_____
	Church Property	_____	_____
	Other	_____	_____
<b>Part IX-Temporal Economy The General Admn. Boards</b>			
	Board of Records, Statistics And Archives	_____	_____
	-Historical Society	_____	_____
	Board of Communications	_____	_____
	Board of Christian Education	_____	_____
	-Schools & Colleges	_____	_____
	-Church School Literature & Other	_____	_____
	Zion Benefits	_____	_____
	-Retirement Benevolence -Fund	_____	_____
	-Relief for Window & Widowers	_____	_____
	-Property & Casualty	_____	_____

**52<sup>nd</sup> Quadrennial Session General Conference**

**Legislation Development and Summit**

Sponsored by

The International Ministers and Lay Association & The Connectional Lay Council

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

*Thursday April 13, 2023 – Friday, April 14, 2023*

Steele Creek AME Zion Church

1500 Shopton Rd., Charlotte, NC

*Program Timeline (Subject to Changes)*

*All Activities (excluding Breakfast) Steele Creek AME Zion Church*

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Thursday, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 am	<i>Breakfast – On Own</i>
	8:30 am – 8:50 am	<i>Registration</i> Location: Lobby Area
	9:00 am – 10:00 am	<i>Opening Worship Service</i> Location: Chapel Chaplains: Rev. J. Martin Bouler, Sr., IMLA
	10:00 am -12:00 Noon	<i>Organization of Working Legislation Committees</i> <i>Committee Work</i>
	12:00 noon	<i>Lunch</i>
	1:00 pm -5:00 pm	<i>Committees at work – Assigned Areas</i>
	5:00pm – 6:00pm	<i>First Legislation Committees Report-Out (20 mins per)</i>
	6:00pm	<i>Dinner</i>
Friday, April 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am – 9:00 am	<i>Breakfast – On Own</i>
	9:00 am – 12:00 Noon	<i>Committees at work – Assigned Areas</i>
	12:00 Noon – 12:30pm	<i>Break</i>
	12:30 pm - until	<i>Committees at work – Assigned Areas</i> <i>Final Legislation Committees Report-Out (20 mins per)</i> <i>Other Legislation Matters</i>
		<i>Expressions of Appreciations &amp; Benediction</i> Rev. Dr. Anthony N. Witherspoon, President International Ministers and Lay Association

Rev. Erich Shumake, IMLA Legislative Committee -Chair, International Ministers and Lay Association

Rev. Dorothy A. Patterson, Executive Director, International Ministers and Lay Association

Mr. Joseph King Davis Jr., International President, Connectional Lay Council

Rev. Dr. Anthony Witherspoon, President International Ministers and Lay Association