

2016-MARCH
 BOARD OF BISHOPS
 REQUESTS
 DO NOT SUBMIT

The first five whereas are read.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, The A.M.E. Zion Church does hereby establish a Bill of Rights For Ministers.

Be It Further Resolved, paragraph 242 shall be revised shall be revised to read: Bishops are set apart to serve as models of servant leadership, and must exercise their responsibilities consistent with an ethic of Christian compassion. Public or private actions or statements intended to humiliate or demean an individual are unacceptable. Recognizing that the church is to make disciple making process is best accomplished at the level of the local church, a Bishop will have support and health of the local congregation within the episcopal area as their primary concern. The administrative duties of the bishops are:

Be it Further Resolved: Paragraph 242, section 3, shall be revised to read:

- a) The Bishop shall appoint the Preachers to charges annually, such appointment shall become effective 30 days from the close of The Annual Conference, or whenever such appointment is announced.

Amendment 1

A ninety day written certification prior to the opening of the Annual Conference shall be sent to the Presiding, Pastor, minister who the Bishop is intending to change, except in extreme circumstances.

Amendment 2

Within 21 days after date of the ninety (90) day notice, a physical face to face meeting consisting of the Bishop, Presiding Elder and minister. This meeting should be held within the boundaries the Annual Conference.

Amendment 3

The letter of disposition shall be sent to the Presiding Elder and minister by the Bishop within 14 days following the physical face to face meeting. This letter must include the explanation of the decision.

Amendment 4

if the decision requires the minister to relocate their family, the Bishop must inform the minister of the relocation vicinity.

Sub-paragraph B

A pastoral appointment equal to their abilities, training, and experience, when available. The new appointment, when available shall be comparable (current standard of living) to or better than the current one, provided the pastor has not been found guilty under the Judicial Administration. The action may result in location or an appointment that reflects the Church's current standing at the time of his or her departure.

Subparagraph C

A Bishop shall not appoint any preacher to a pastoral charge who not in good standing within the annual conference who has not met all obligations and who is not a subscriber to our official periodicals. However, no pastor in good standing shall be moved without due process for failure to meet assessments that are not specifically adopted of the General, Episcopal or Annual Conference.

No traveling minister shall be denied due process when their standing is determined.

Be it Further Resolved That:

Paragraph 251, section 15 Pertaining to the duties of pastors, shall be revised to include: he and she will also develop with Board of Stewards, a tool which shall be adopted at the first quarterly conference that will evaluate the ministry.

Name	Clergy or Lay	Annual Conference	Ministers Bill of Rights
Barnett, Sr. Clifford D. Rev. Dr.	C	Cape Fear	x
Boyd, Angela W. Rev.	C	South Carolina	x
Branch, Isidoa Rev.	C	New York	x
Lipsey, Keith L. Rev.	C	Blue Ridge	x
Wimberly, Natalie R. Rev	C	Western North Carolina	x
Hines, Harry, D. Rev.	C	New York	x
Rhymer, Gwendolyn	C	Cape Fear	x
Huggins, Evalina, Rev. Dr.	C	New York	x
Joiner, Antoinette E. Rev.	C	Philadelphia/Baltimore	x
Mitchell-Martin, Rosalyn Rev.	C	Western North Carolina	x
	C	Ohio	x

Ministers Bill of Rights

Co-Charis

Claude Shuford

Medis Cheek

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SUMMIT –NOT SUBMITTED TO
GENERAL SECRETARY/AUDITOR**

#1

PASTORAL CARE DIVISION

- I. Whereas there has been limited or no direction concerning the issue of Pastoral Care for clergy and their dependent families;
- II. Whereas the issues of clergy burnout and fatigue, stress-related illnesses, emotional and psychological instability have adversely affected the church and the home;

Therefore, be it resolved that a Pastoral Care Division be established:

- 1. To develop policies and procedures for identifying and addressing emotional and psychological needs of clergy and their dependent families;
- 2. To secure independent board certified service providers and make appropriate referrals; and,
- 3. To provide exit counseling to ministers facing life transitions (i.e. retirement, sabbatical).

The establishment of a Pastoral Care Division will promote the holistic health of pastors and their families which directly influences the spiritual, emotional, physical, and social well-being of congregations.

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#2

2012 Revised Edition of the Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Page 73

Part IV The Ministry

Chapter I – Qualifications and Rules for a Preacher

Part I Call to Preach

¶188 – We regard the call to preach to be both internal and external.

Add

#3 –Whereas assessment is a contemporary method for doing the deep soul-searching that is modeled in the scriptures and is one of several ways you and the church examine your fitness and potential for effectiveness in licensed or ordained ministry in relation to your calling;

Be it resolved that in order to support and substantiate the evidence of a sound mind; prior to preaching their trial sermon, the candidate will submit to both a psychological evaluation by a licensed professional and a background check. Ref. Psalms 139; John 15; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Romans 12-15.

The outcome of the evaluation will determine whether the candidate proceeds forward in their training or is referred for further evaluation.

(We recognize that the financing of these evaluations are a local church issue, and should be either financed by the candidate, or as a shared interest of the church.)

#3

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Dr. Tracey,

As promised, attached is a list of those who participated in the drafting/review of the Ministerial Concerns' Resolutions that I sent this afternoon.

Blessings,

Frances "Toni" Draper, Co-Chair

Michael Rouse. Co-Chair

**Contributing Members
Ministerial Concerns Committee**

Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Arrington	Virginia
Rev. Cary L. Beckwith	Western New York
Rev. Angela W. Boyd	South Carolina
Rev. Carolyn D. Bratton	Western North Carolina
Rev. Dr. Heath Cheek	Philadelphia and Baltimore
Rev. Sharon Cheek	Philadelphia and Baltimore
Rev. Dr. Rita J. Colbert	Philadelphia and Baltimore
Rev. Dr. Frances M. Draper	Philadelphia and Baltimore
Rev. Dr. Rebecca Branch Griffin	Virginia
Rev. Henry D. Hines	Cape Fear
Rev. Kay M. Hines	Western North Carolina
Rev. Vanessa D. Hinton	Virginia
Rev. Reginald Jones	Conference ?
Rev. Dr. William M. Jordan, III	West Central North Carolina
Rev. Dr. William E. Kelly	Philadelphia and Baltimore
Rev. Lawrence E. Lewis	Kentucky
Rev. Dr. Valerie A. Maness	New England
Rev. Dr. Lorenza A. Meekins	Virginia
Rev. Dr. Calvin Miller	Western North Carolina
Rev. Dr. Michael Rouse	New York
Rev. Johnny L. Ruff	Western North Carolina
Rev. Robin Houston Stitt	West Central North Carolina
Rev. Darrell J. Williams	California