



*Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Seventh Episcopal District
New York-Washington Region
Ministers' Spouses, Widows, & Widowers*



To: Bishop James B. Walker, First Lady Delois Walker and members of the 150th Session of the New York - Washington Region Annual Conference. I present my report as President of the New York - Washington Region Ministers' Spouses, Widows and Widowers.

As we have reached the end of another conference year, it was truly blessed for all of us as we experienced the comforting presence and guidance of the Lord and His provision for every step of every day! We have welcomed new spouses, utilized modern technology to contact members reminding and informing them of financial obligations, duties, encouragements, bereavements, illnesses and schedule of dates on all levels of the CME church for the year. Our spouses have not only been active in their local churches, but also on the District, Region levels as well as in their communities. Heartfelt thanks to our District Presidents for their time, ideas, input and enthusiasm. District activities included:

Washington-Virginia - President, Gwendolyn Agee, – this was their third year in doing outreach with different shelters in each of the three zones. Zone 1 partnered with N Street Village which empowers homeless and low-income women of Washington, D.C., and were recipients of bath towels, wash cloths and travel size toiletry items. Zone 2 partnered with Village Homeless Out Reach for Personal Empowerment (H.O.P.E.) donating a “House Warming Basket”. Zone 3 partnered with Tri County Community Action Agency which supports victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault donating to them household and hygiene items. This year we also blessed the Women Shelter’s for Mother’s Day. Sister Agee, thank you for your remarkable leadership during the last 4 years. Congratulations to Sister Aquanda Watts, spouse of Rev, Wendall Watts of St. James in Lynchburg Virginia who was elected President of Washington/VA. District. **New York-New England - President, Rev. Geraldine McCullough** – opened their District Conference with a luncheon. The theme was “Renewing Our Commitment to God in Word and Deed”. Their speakers were young adults Sis Hannah T. Brown and Bria N. McCullough. They partnered with a local school, Capital Prep Harbor and blessed a local Women’s Transitional House, Refocus Ministry, with items and monetary gifts. **Philadelphia President, Romaine Dillahunt** – partnered with New Beginnings donating items to individuals who transition into new apartments.

Henry C. Bunton Scholarship Fund – This year the Henry C. Bunton Scholarship will again continue in the form of a direct fundraiser entitled “Lighting the Pathway to Pastoral Education”.

There are three levels of giving; the Silver level – any donation up to \$20, the Gold level - \$25, and the Platinum level - \$35. We also have a certificate for churches donating any amount above the Platinum level.

Our goal for 2018 is set again at \$10,000. Last year over \$5,000 was raised strictly through pledges. We ask that you prayerfully consider planting seeds into one of the most important initiatives of the C.M.E. Church - educating preachers, ministers and pastors.

Barbara H. Sommerville Scholarship - This annual award, which alternates within the two regions, will see the recipient come from the Carolina region.

The Ocie Harriet Hoyt Child Care Ministry - Last year our children's ministry was modified to adjust to Bishop Walker's Conference format. We truly thank Sister Regina Geams of New Bethel C.M.E. of Rochester, NY for volunteering her time to take care of the children. Our theme for the child care, “Little Kings and Queens”, is emblematic of who the ministry is named after. Services will be provided at the Annual Conference this year.

Social Concerns - Some of our focuses will continue to be in the areas of Health and Wellness, care givers for family members and voting. We encourage healthy eating, spiritual meditation, exercise and some personal 'me' time. The spouses support and encourage each other and celebrate praise reports such as new grandchildren, children studying abroad, graduations, enrollment in college, anniversaries and restored health.

The spouses are grateful to the conference host pastors Rev. Alfred S. Parker Jr. - Mt. Zion C.M.E. and Rev. Tiggs E. Washington - Williams Temple C.M.E. and church families for their cooperation and support to make our conference activities a success. We are also thankful to Bishop Walker and First Lady Delois Walker for their continued support. As President, I encourage our spouses to P.E.P. it up – Purpose, Encourage and Pray! Finally, I am especially grateful to each and every spouse, widow and widower for their teamwork and look forward to greater accomplishments in our Zion this upcoming conference year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gwenette B. Jones

Sis. Gwenette B. Jones

Region President