

Annual Report of the Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation

9th Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society

African Methodist Episcopal Church

Mrs. Margrete Simmons, 2nd Vice-President/Commission Coordinator

Mrs. Susie J. Bonner, Episcopal WMS President

Reverend Sherita M. Seawright, Episcopal WMS Supervisor

December 2017

TO: The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate, 9th Episcopal District; The Reverend Sherita M. Seawright, 9th Episcopal WMS Supervisor; Mrs. Susie J. Bonner, Episcopal WMS President, Presiding Elders, Pastors, Ministers, Officers and Members of the WMS, Guests, my sisters and brothers.

Greetings in the Joy of Jesus the Christ!

It is with a grateful heart that I report the work completed during the past conference year and a projection of pending work in 2017-2018 Conference Year. This work was accomplished in the "trenches" at the Local Level with oversight and support of Area and Conference leaders, particularly Second Vice Presidents on all levels. Thank you for your labor of love in the vineyard as we responded to the Great Commission and addressed Connectional WMS Sustainable Development Goals.

- **Submission of *Handy Simmons Scholarship Applications*.** The Commission accepted and reviewed scholarship applications submitted by the following students:

Victoria Barnes, Northwest Alabama Conference

Roberta Benton, Northeast Alabama Conference

Joshua Bowman, Northeast Alabama Conference

Jaleesa Cole, Southwest Alabama Conference

Jordan Davis, Northwest Alabama Conference

DeMya Jolly, Northwest Alabama Conference

Keenan Pendleton, Southwest Alabama Conference

Joshua Williams, Northeast Alabama Conference

Each student met the criteria set forth by the Connectional WMS Handy Simmons Committee. After thorough evaluation by Commission members, Sister Dorothy Davis, Sister Charlie Lassiter, and Sister Rosemary Range, and Sister Cherroyle Webb, the students were ranked using the Connectional WMS criteria. The scholarship packets of each student were forwarded on May 31, 2017 got evaluation on the Connectional WMS level. We congratulate these excellent students and their parents; Mrs. Djuana D. Wilson and Conference YPD Directors, Conference WMS Presidents, Conference 2nd Vice-Presidents, as well as Area and Local WMS leaders and members for their tenacity in seeking, encouraging and supervising candidates. Special thanks to students for participating and their parents and others for keeping them on track. We will forward Scholarship announcements as soon as possible after they are received and will continuously work to improve our processes in the future. **Sustainable Development (SD) Goal 4: Quality Education**

- **Ongoing Initiatives.** *Several of the following programs are ongoing on the Conference, Area and Local levels and have been highlighted at Conference Institutes and Annual Conventions.*
 - **Adopt-a-School Program.** Each conference was asked to adopt at least one school this conference year and assess the schools' needs, provide support and report their progress and to the Episcopal District WMS. Local societies read to students, donated supplies and hygiene

items, and encouraged teachers with appreciation care packages. **SD Goal 4: Quality Education; SD Goal 5: Gender Equality (With a focus on helping to excite girls about math and science)**

- **Reading Initiative.** We Read Across America in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday and on a continuing basis. We ask that all conferences encourage reading all year including summertime, and continue as an ongoing activity, and perhaps partner with community organizations that have well established reading programs, e.g., public libraries. **SD Goal 4: Quality Education**
- **Bridging the Gap of Health Care Disparities.** We worked to heighten awareness of health concerns during the year and we will develop and/or refine our activities to consistently promote healthy lifestyles and awareness. Local societies sponsored monthly observances to increase awareness of diseases and conditions that affect our quality of life. **SD Goal 3: Good Health and Well Being**
- **Head Start Program.** We ask that conferences emphasize and build on the District WMS' current program and establish a proactive support system that parallels the adopt-a-school initiative, tailored for the Head Start level. **SD Goal 4: Quality Education**
- **Subscriptions – The Missionary Magazine; Bread For the World, and National Council of Negro Women.** We will continue to publicize and encourage participation. We worked with the Connectional Editor of the Missionary Magazine, Attorney Ida Tyree Hyche and Mrs. Dianne Battle, Database Manager and resolved concerns of any missing Missionary Magazine editions for our subscribers. We appreciate the support of these two members of the 9th Episcopal District in this endeavor. **SD Goal 2: Zero Hunger; SD Goal 3: Good Health and Well Being; SD Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities**
- **Other mission assignments and evolving activities.**
 - **Conduct institutes** at Episcopal WMS Annual Meeting and as directed. **SD Goal 4: Quality Education**
 - Promote the use of **creative arts** for enrichment and well being. Paint parties, oratorical presentations, writing, dancing, etc. **SD Goal 3: Good Health and Well Being**
 - Encourage advocacy for **improving quality of life**, especially for women and children. Emphasize living better holistically **SD Goal 3: Good Health and Well Being**

To God be the glory for the opportunity to serve in this mission capacity under the leadership of Supervisor Seawright and President Bonner. I thank God for the excellent work of Commission Members. Please join us in prayer that God will lead us to a higher level of selfless service for the Cause of Christ.

Prayerfully submitted,

Margrete Simmons

Margrete "Marge" Simmons, 2nd Vice-President/Commission Coordinator

Members: Sisters Dorothy Davis, Worship Leader; Charlie M. Lassiter, Historiographer-Statistician, and Rosemary Range, PME Director

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