



FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# *Re-Imagining Ministry – To Serve This Present Age*

*“Therefore, seeing we have this ministry...” “...and He gave gifts unto His people...”  
“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”  
~II Corinthians 4:1a (KJV), Ephesians 4:8d (NLT), Ephesians 4:12 (KJV)*

**149TH SESSION  
OF THE**

**NEW JERSEY**

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 8-11, 2021**

**THE ATLANTIC CITY DISTRICT**  
Host Presiding Elder District

VENUE:  
FIRST DISTRICT VIRTUAL PLATFORM  
[WWW.FIRSTDISTRICTAMEC.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTDISTRICTAMEC.ORG)

---

**BISHOP GREGORY G. M. INGRAM** – Presiding Prelate  
**REVEREND DR. JESSICA KENDALL INGRAM** – Episcopal Supervisor  
**REVEREND LYNDY T. RASSMANN** – Host Presiding Elder

## THE BISHOP'S WORD

*"Therefore, seeing we have this ministry..." "...and He gave gifts unto His people..."*

*"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry*

*~II Corinthians 4:1a, Ephesians 4:8d, Ephesians 4:12*

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

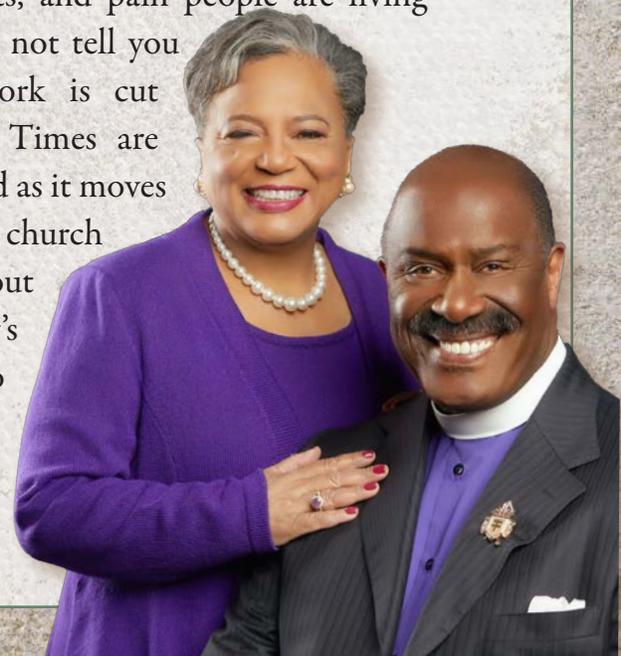
As we approach the 2021 series of Annual Conferences, this past year has been a very challenging, and yet, rewarding time for Rev. Jessica and me. An unprecedented postponement of last year's General Conference, because of the coronavirus, meant that our plans for retirement were placed on hold, but thanks be unto God, it gave us another twelve months to be with you.

We who gather at the seat of the Annual Conference, "*And see each other's face*" are privileged to be in the land of the living and can truly sing "*Glory and praise to Jesus give for His redeeming grace.*"

**Coming to The First Episcopal District has been a great privilege, honor, and joy in the Ingram ministry.** When we were assigned here, we came with the mantra, "**Called to Make a Difference.**" During the time we have been here I pray history will record that the spiritual and stewardship initiatives implemented, programs, exciting worship services, and many of you, will validate and say, "**It was so!**"

As you know, our theme this year is "**Re-Imagining Ministry.**" The word imagination comes from the root word meaning "**to image.**" Every person has the ability to imagine and it is the mark of the image of God within us. **God has created us not as machines, but men and women.** He has made us in His own image, and has given us gifts and skills and talents to make a difference in this world. **We are being stretched to expand our minds and imaginations** beyond the traditional way of doing things and to "**dream new dreams.**" Since **it does not cost a dime to dream** you'll never shortchange yourself when you stretch your imagination.

Today, the church has been summoned by God "*for such a time as this*" to address the ills, hurts, and pain people are living with. I need not tell you that our work is cut out for us. Times are changing and as it moves on, "the church must be about our Father's business" to fulfill the



## THE BISHOP'S WORD

Great Commission and to make our calling and election sure. As we come together for this year's conference, we do not have the luxury of sitting on the sidelines. The day is far spent when we can continue to do business as usual. Through imagination we have learn how to do church differently and this will be the focus of our conference. We must continue to reach out to new places of brokenness and need. We must be deliberate and passionate about our commitment to share the love of Christ in a time when people are hungry, hurting and in need of hope.

**This year's conference is the curtain call.** We are looking forward to an exciting time in the Lord. Beyond the pastoral reports and basic conference business, we anticipate and are expecting some spirit-filled worship services, and the two transformative seminars on "Reimagining Prayer" and "Tempered Resilience: How Leaders Are Formed in the Crucible of Change."



As we continue to make the case of *Re-Imagining Ministry: To Serve This Present Age*, Rev. Jessica and I want each of you to keep the faith, be encouraged, and believe, as we collectively work to make this a better church, that God is going to do a new thing in our midst.

If we had a thousand tongues to sing, it would not be enough for us to express our profound gratitude and appreciation for the leadership, support, love, encouragement, and prayers we received from Presiding Elders, Pastors, Missionaries, YPD'ers, laity, Young Adults, Evangelists, Component Groups, Members, Churches, the amazing Tech Team and our tremendous Staff, for how you have made a difference in our lives. Leaving you will be bittersweet, and we ask your prayers as we make adjustments to the next phase of our journey. As we depart, we encourage you to do the following:

***Keep Making a Difference!***

Yours In His Service,

*Gregory G.M. Ingram*

Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram  
118th Bishop  
African Methodist Episcopal Church

*Rev. Jessica*

Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram  
Episcopal Supervisor

## 2021 NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### DAILY SCHEDULE

#### Thursday

- 8:31 a.m. Women's Missionary Society  
Conference Branch Annual Meeting
- 12:00 noon Break
- 1:31 p.m. The Ministry of Evangelism
- 2:31 p.m. Break
- 2:46 p.m. Praise and Worship (Conference Music Ministry)  
Roll Call  
Presiding Elders' Summary Reports  
Board of Examiners  
Ministerial Efficiency  
Board of Trustees
- 5:01 p.m. Dinner Break
- 7:01 p.m. Opening Worship Service  
Annual Sermon: *Rev. Anthony Mitchell, Preacher*

#### Friday

- 8:31 a.m. Praise and Worship
- 8:46 a.m. Reading of the Minutes
- 9:01 a.m. **"Re-Imagining Your Prayer Life"**  
*Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram*
- 9:41 a.m. Seminar I: "Tempered Resilience:  
How Leaders Are Formed In the Crucible of Change"  
by Ted Bolsinger  
*Rev. Dr. Charles A. Boyer, Presenter*
- 10:46 a.m. Break
- 11:01 a.m. Pastoral Reports

## 2021 NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### DAILY SCHEDULE

- 11:46 a.m. Break
- 12:01 p.m. Hour of Power  
*Rev. Linda S. Ellerbe, Preacher*
- 12:46 p.m. Lunch Break
- 2:01 p.m. Seminar II: Health and Healing in a Pandemic  
*Rev. Natalie Mitchem, Presenter*
- 2:31 p.m. Presiding Elders' Support Committee
- 2:36 p.m. **The Ingram Retirement Celebration Update**
- 3:01 p.m. Memorial Service  
Statistical Report  
Resolution
- 3:31 p.m. Disciplinary Questions
- 3:36 p.m. General Conference 2021 Update  
*Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram*  
*Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram*
- 4:01 p.m. Break
- 7:01 p.m. Lay Witness Worship Service  
*Sister Jamesha J. Williams, Speaker*

#### Saturday

- 9:01 a.m. Conference YPD Worship and Workshop  
*Rev. Michael E. Bell, Jr., Preacher*
- 6:01 p.m. Christian Education Worship

#### Sunday

Morning Worship with your local church

- 2:01 p.m. Conference Church School  
*Brother Samuel Jones, Superintendent*
- 3:31 p.m. Closing Worship and Commissioning Service  
*Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram, Preaching*

149TH SESSION OF THE

NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Thursday, April 8, 2021

7:01 p.m.

REVEREND JAMES COAXUM III, PH.D.

Worship Leader

### THE DOXOLOGY

**“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP.....Rev. James Coaxum III, Ph.D.

Minister: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord,  
our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

**People: For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be  
a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of  
wickedness.**

Minister: Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek thy good.

**People: Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the  
courts of our God.**

Minister: Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. Lord I have loved thy habitation,  
the place where thy honor dwelleth.

**People: For the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before  
Him.**

Minister: Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable  
in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

**People: O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.  
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.**

149TH SESSION OF THE

NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE

THE HYMN OF PRAISE..... Music Ministry

“And Are We Yet Alive”

AME HYMN NO. 304

And are we yet alive, And see each other’s face?  
Glory and praise to Jesus give For His redeeming grace.

Preserved by power divine To full salvation here,  
Again in Jesus’ praise we join, And in His sight appear.

What troubles have we seen, What conflicts have we passed,  
Fighting’s without, and fears within, Since we assembled last.

But out of all the Lord Hath brought us by His love;  
And still He doth His help afford, And hides our life above.

Then let us make our boast Of His redeeming power,  
Which saves us to the uttermost. Till we can sin no more.

Let us take up the cross Till we the crown obtain;  
And gladly reckon all things loss, So we may Jesus gain.

THE INVOCATION ..... Rev. Richard F. Norris II

THE SCRIPTURE .....II Corinthians 4:1-9..... Rev. Melvin E. Wilson

THE WORSHIP THROUGH DANCE ..... First Episcopal District Dance Ministry

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP ..... Rev. Lynda T. Rassmann

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER..... Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram

149TH SESSION OF THE

NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE**

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

THE SERMON ..... Rev. Anthony Mitchell  
*Union Chapel AME Church*  
*Newark, New Jersey*

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP ..... Rev. Anthony Mitchell

THE WORSHIP IN STEWARDSHIP  
AND SACRIFICIAL GIVING

THE MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS ..... Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram

THE BENEDICTION.....Rev. Dr. Eric R. Billips, Sr.

2021 NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**NOON HOUR OF POWER**

Friday, April 9, 2021

12:01 p.m.

**REVEREND EYESHA MARABLE**

Worship Leader

THE SONG OF PRAISE

THE ASCRIPTION ..... Rev. Eyesha Marable

THE INVOCATION ..... Rev. Eyesha Marable

THE SCRIPTURE ..... *Ephesians 4:7-13* ..... Rev. Eyesha Marable

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER ..... Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram

THE SONG OF PRAISE

THE SERMON ..... Rev. Linda S. Ellerbe

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP ..... Rev. Linda S. Ellerbe

THE WORSHIP IN STEWARDSHIP AND SACRIFICIAL GIVING

THE MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS ..... Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram

THE BENEDICTION ..... Rev. Linda S. Ellerbe

# MEMORIAL SERVICE

Friday, April 9, 2021

## VIDEO PRELUDE

## THE CALL TO CELEBRATION

**Leader:** We have come to celebrate the lives of those who have made their transition and we remember them. The scriptures are true, “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die.”

**People:** They have fought the good fight. They have finished their course.

**All:** With thanksgiving we cherish their memories and bless God for the strength to carry on.

THE SCRIPTURE .....John 14:1-6

## LET THE CHURCH SING

## THE INVOCATION

**Bishop:** Members of the Conference,  
Since last we met, in His own way and for His own purpose, God has called from labor to reward persons whom we pause to remember today in this memorial service.

**The Secretary of the Conference:**  
Bishop, members of the conference, we pause and thank God for the following persons who have fulfilled their call to the Christian Witness. (The Names \_\_\_\_\_ )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

(Secretary Reads Report)

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

Friday, April 9, 2021

### **Memoir Committee:**

Beloved these are they who have bared their burdens in the heat of the day and who have made their transition from labor to reward. The scriptures are true, *“blessed are they who die in the Lord for they shall rest from their labors and their works do follow them.”* We praise God that they are now no longer members of the Church militant, but they have been called to the Church triumphant.

**WE HAVE THIS TREASURE** – Memoir Committee Member

A Special Tribute and Acknowledgement of the Coronavirus Deceased Immediate Family Members of the First Episcopal District

**PLAY REEL OF NAMES (Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford)**

### **First Prayer for the Immediate Family of the Deceased ... Rev. Ray A. Hammond, M.D.**

We gather here, O God, to give honor to whom honor is due. We thank you for and celebrate the lives of our fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, husbands, wives, grandparents and children whose earthly lives were lost in the midst of this pandemic called COVID-19. When last we assembled we could not know how long this plague would last. When last we met we prayed that this storm would pass over quickly and that was not to be. And so, they are gone but not forgotten.

How could we not say “Thank You” for those who gave birth to us, raised us, nurtured us, led us to You by word and deed, taught us when we were unknowing, caught us when we were unsteady, prayed for us, stayed with us, and loved us when we didn’t love ourselves? How could we not say “Thank You” for their faithful service at home, in the ‘hood, at the church, and in your Kingdom—the places and spaces where they were the Word made flesh, the examples of what it meant to be loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, generous, faithful, gentle, and disciplined. They were not perfect— far from it; but at their best, O how they let their lights shine and brought glory to you.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

Friday, April 9, 2021

And how could we not say “Thank You” for the hope we have in you—our resurrection hope for that great “getting’ up morning”, for that gathering of people from every tribe and language and people and nation around the throne of God; that new Heaven and that new Earth where the wicked shall cease from troubling and the weary shall be at rest, where all the saints of the ages will sit at God’s feet and be blest; our resurrection hope to see these loved ones again—healed, whole, transformed and at peace; and together with you, O God, we shall all be reunited for the ages to come. This is our prayer in this memorial moment, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

### **Second Prayer for the Immediate Family of the Deceased ..... Ms. Deanna Sinclair**

In this memorial moment, we pray for those who are left—bereft of a loved one’s companionship, partnership, and counsel; struggling to make ends meet; hurting in ways they had never imagined; wrestling with the questions of “Why me?” “Why now?” and “Why this way?” We pray for spouses and partners, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, daughters and sons, and grandchildren, for whom this may be the first real encounter with death.

Holy Spirit, be their Paraclete, their Comforter, their Advocate, their Helper, their Friend as they journey down this toilsome way called Grief. Jesus help them hear your invitation to “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28 NRSV) O God, be their bridge over troubled waters, their rock in a weary land, their shelter in the time of storm. Lighten their burden with memories of joys shared and obstacles overcome. Raise up the resources, of every kind, that they need in this hour. Let them know that you are near to the broken-hearted. And quicken our hearts, lest we forget—after the eulogy is spoken, the loved one is laid to rest, and the repast is over—that they will need our care, comfort, and calls for months and maybe years to come.

Emmanuel, God with us—please be with them. Emmanuel, give us wisdom, compassion and courage to go the distance with them. Emmanuel, hear our prayer, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Friday, April 9, 2021

**STATEMENT BY BISHOP GREGORY G.M. INGRAM AND  
REV. DR. JESSICA KENDALL INGRAM**

SONG OF CELEBRATION ..... *“My Tribute!”*  
By Rev. Andraé Edward Crouch

THE BENEDICTION

**Special Acknowledgements**

The Memoirs Committee would like to express their gratitude and appreciation to Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond for the prayers, Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, Rev. Dawn S. Christopher, Miss Deanna Sinclair and all the members of the Memoirs Committee in the various Annual Conferences.

149TH SESSION OF THE

NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**CLOSING WORSHIP AND  
COMMISSIONING SERVICE**

Sunday, April 11, 2021

3:31 p.m.

**REVEREND DR. RONALD L. SLAUGHTER**

Worship Leader

THE DOXOLOGY

**“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

THE LITANY OF EMPOWERMENT ..... Rev. Dr. Ronald L. Slaughter

**Leader:** I am a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Ghost Power. The die has been cast; I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made: I am a disciple of Jesus Christ I won't look back, let up, slow down, back up or be still.

**People:** **My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, colorless-dreaming, mundane talking, cheap living, cloudy visions and dwarfed goals.**

**Leader:** I no longer need preeminence, position, promotions, plaudits or popularity. I do not have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on the Lord, run with patience, lift by prayer and labor by Holy Ghost power.

**People:** **My face is set. My focus is fixed. My goal is heaven. My road is narrow. My way is rough. My guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, lured, tempted, ignored, detoured, deluded or delayed.**

## CLOSING WORSHIP AND COMMISSIONING SERVICE

**Leader:** I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

**People:** **I won't give up, shut up or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up and worked up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, teach till all know and work till the end. And when Jesus comes, He will have no problem recognizing me, because He will remember that I was the one He empowered to make a difference.**

THE OPENING HYMN ..... Music Ministry

THE INVOCATION ..... Rev. Dr. W.G. Carmon, Sr.

THE SCRIPTURE ..... *Jude 20-25* ..... Rev. Dr. Stanley Hearst, Sr.

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP ..... Rev. Winton M. Hill III

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

THE EPISCOPAL SERMON ... ***"Now, Unto Him That Is Able To Keep You From Falling"***

Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram  
*Presiding Prelate, First Episcopal District  
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP ..... Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram

THE WORSHIP IN STEWARDSHIP AND SACRIFICIAL GIVING

THE MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS ..... Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram

**THE COMMISSIONING  
AND  
APPOINTMENT SERVICE**

THE INVOCATION .....Rev. Dr. Robert C. Wade

THE HYMN OF ENCOURAGEMENT ..... Music Ministry

**“Go Preach My Gospel”**

AME HYMN NO. 220

*Go, preach My Gospel, saith the Lord, Bid the whole Earth My grace receive,  
Explain to them My sacred Word. Bid them believe, obey and live.  
I'll make My great commission known, And ye shall prove My Gospel true,  
By all the works that I have done, And all the wonders ye shall do.*

THE READING OF APPOINTMENTS ..... Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram

THE WORDS OF THANKS AND

CLOSING PRAYER ..... Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram

**“Be Blessed”**

*Be blessed my brother,  
Be blessed my sister,  
Be blessed wherever this life leads you,  
Let me encourage you,  
Let me speak life to you,  
You can depend on God to see you through,  
You can depend on me to pray for you.*

*Chorus:*

*I pray for you,  
You pray for me,  
And watch God change things.*

THE BENEDICTION ..... Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram