

7th Episcopal District WIM Holds First Virtual Retreat

The pandemic caused many events to be put on pause including the Annual Seventh Episcopal District Women In Ministry Retreat. Therefore, SED WIM determined that we could host the Retreat virtually, and the Retreat Team set out to do that and do it well. The theme for the Retreat was “Transformative Ministry: Embracing Change with Hope” and it was held on May 14 & 15, 2021. The guiding Scripture for this event was Lamentations 3:21-23, “Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (NIV) Truly, the weekend began on track with greetings from the Episcopal Leadership, Rev. Dr. Mary F. Rhodes, SED WIM president, Presiding Elder Rosalyn G. Coleman, SED WIM Consultant, Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, SED Episcopal Supervisor and of course Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate. Rev. Dr. Debora Grant Scotland from the Sixth Episcopal District preached a fiery message from the theme text to get our weekend started. Her sermon topic, “The Audacity to Hope”, inspired us to be renewed and revived in our ministries despite the many adversities we may have had over the past year.

Friday night’s activities wrapped up with a moment to meditate upon the message called “After Glow” and the “Night of Fun-Let’s Unwind” an online game of Jeopardy – Black History and the AME Church History. All enjoyed good laughter and fellowship.

Saturday morning began with Praise and Worship followed by more greetings from Episcopal leadership: Sis. Sandra Anderson, WMS President; Bro. Keith Britton, Lay Organization; and Sis. Lakesha Adams, President of MSWAWO+PK’s. Retreat participants were then treated to three very informative workshops designed to expand our knowledge and encourage our well-being.

1. Rev. Dominique Grate presented us with information in his workshop “Technology to Empower Your Ministry” that helped us understand the various social media platforms, promotional platforms and how to implement them in our churches properly.
2. The Rev. Dr. Courtney Colleton provided methods to expand our ministries for this new era of virtual and hybrid church through her workshop entitled, “Innovative Ministry Strategies”.
3. A panel including, the Rev. Lisa Spears, the Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn B. Hurston and the Rev. Dr. Tobie H. Pollock, addressed mental health and grief issues for our congregants and ourselves, providing us with resources and ideas on coping with these very challenging and trying times.

Each workshop was rich in information and encouragement and there was something for everyone.

After lunch, a Memorial Service was held to honor those Women In Ministry that passed since the Post-Conference meeting. The names were called, prayer and Scripture with encouraging words rounded out this service. Following the service, SED WIM made presentations to recognize the Annual Conference with the highest number of registered attendees (Palmetto

Conference, winner). SED WIM also recognized the oldest WIM member present and first person to register for the Retreat.

A special tribute to Bishop and Supervisor Green was presented by Presiding Elder Rosalyn G. Coleman, highlighting photos of the Women in Ministry from around the 7th District.

Bishop Samuel Green Sr. closed the weekend with an inspiring sermon given by Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., "You Ought to Tell the Lord".