WE’RE AME STRONG!
WE WILL MAKE IT THROUGH THIS TOGETHER!

The Council of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church want to express its deepest concern for the safety and health of our membership during this global health pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus or COVID-19. This disease has disrupted our lives in multiple ways, threatening our physical, spiritual and economic health.

In light of the aggressive nature of this virus, there will be adjustments to already scheduled Connectional and Episcopal District meetings to minimize the risk of exposure for attendees, staff and other participants. This involves logistics, hotels, long- and short-term travel as we comply with new federal and local government directives.

What you can expect:

• Episcopal District and affected Connectional officers are formulating contingency plans. They will make any necessary updates and announcements concerning postponements or cancelations available to their areas.

• Connectional auxiliaries are encouraged to look for alternative ways to continue their ministries if it becomes necessary.

Local congregations are encouraged to make or engage their emergency plans for distant worship and learning opportunities. Let’s keep the Connection connecting! We live in an enhance technological age. Use digital platforms to stream worship services, convene meetings, lead prayer services and Bible studies. Utilize conference calls as another option. Use the Class
Leader System or other means to encourage each other. **We will get through this if we stick together!**

Google is making the professional version of Google Hangouts Meet available for free as a tool to livestream services for churches.

Dr. Miriam Burnett and the AME Health Commission has been monitoring closely this evolving crises. Pertinent information has and will continue to be disseminated through Dr. Jeffry Cooper, Chief Information Officer. Read updates on the AMEC International Health Commission website at [www.amehealth.org](http://www.amehealth.org) and its social media platforms. If you have questions for our AME Medical Director, email them to chamec@gmail.com.

Given the current guidance on COVIC-19, the Council of Bishops encourages its global membership to act responsibly. The Bible encourages us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Let’s love our neighbor by washing our hands often, using hand sanitizers when necessary and disinfecting personal and public touchable surfaces before and after services and/or events.

Let’s love our neighbor by coughing appropriately in our elbows and practice social distance guidelines. This means no hugging, hand holding, cheek kissing or any high fives to keep the most vulnerable among us safe. This may be difficult for some but for the moment, it is a healthy necessity.

Finally, the Council is calling the church to prayer collectively and individually. We are admonished that “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14 NRSV) Lord, heal the land!

We will make it through this together! We’re AME Strong! Our perseverance is rooted in the grace of God. Our resilience is empowered by the Holy Spirit. We’re durable disciples of Jesus Christ, who do more than pick up the pieces and move on during uncertain times or during catastrophic events.

The Council of Bishops

Bishop Adam. J. Richardson, Senior Bishop
Bishop Harry Seawright, President
Bishop Michael Mitchell, Secretary
Bishop E. Anne Henning-Byfield, Assistant Secretary