

# THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

## **BUREAU OF CHURCH GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT** **DECISION DAY 2020**

October 25, 2020

### **Theme: “A Season Ripe for Good News”**

The Book of Discipline of the A.M.E. Zion Church directs that every Sunday Church School shall emphasize “Decision Day” annually in the month of October. It further directs that each Sunday Church School should undertake an evangelistic quota for active membership. In the recent past the Decision Day Observance has also been an opportunity for the local churches to share financial gifts in support of the Bureau of Church Growth and Development. While financial gifts will be welcomed and needed during this observance, the Bureau is placing its greatest emphasis upon decisions for Christ.

This year’s theme [2020] is **“A Season Ripe for Good News”**. The Covid 19 Pandemic and Social Unrest has created a season ripe for sharing the Good News! As Christians, we believe the Spirit of Jesus lives in each of us – we celebrated that belief only a few days ago on Pentecost Sunday. When Jesus first spoke of the Spirit, he said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19)

If the Spirit of Jesus lives in us, then we are to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to captives, and to set the oppressed free. And yet, George Floyd’s gasps of “I can’t breathe!” illustrate with overwhelming clarity, that we have not done so. Like many others, I have struggled to maintain focus amid the current events. The Covid-19 pandemic and the social unrest tend to dominate our thoughts and actions. Yet we as the church are called to the ministry of evangelism that make Christian disciples in this confusing time. We are called to proclaim the Good News, the year of the Lord’s favor!

Evangelism seems to have fallen on hard times during this season. Even the word “evangelism” has negative connotations for the unconvinced. Though it literally means the telling of “good news,” our approach to evangelism rarely comes across as “good” to those who are not yet following Christ. What if we changed our approach to mirror the pattern, I often see Jesus demonstrating in Scripture, simply inviting people to “taste and see that the Lord is good”? Evangelism is a message of words, deeds, and signs.

In the gospel of John, Jesus issues an invitation to skeptics and believers: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them” (John 7:37-38). Did Jesus really mean anyone? Did He really mean the Good News is so good that anyone willing to come and drink can experience a taste of living water? What difference might it make to our evangelistic approach if we believed this? Two questions: Is our message “Good”? Is it News to the hearers? Share with us the Good News of what God is doing in your ministry!

The Annual Decision Day Observance is generally held the fourth Sunday in October. However, it may be observed any time during October or even in November, if it is convenient for the local church. During the harvest season, the constituents of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church pause to celebrate the harvest of souls (conversions, new members, re-dedications) gathered during the previous twelve months, as well as those entering the ministry or any form of Christian service. Forms have been provided to assist churches in the reporting process.



**The Bureau Church Growth and Development**  
**African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**  
 www.ameziondevelopment.org



## DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2020

### Report Form

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pastor in charge \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 Presiding Elder \_\_\_\_\_ P. E. District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Presiding Bishop \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Conference \_\_\_\_\_  
 Episcopal District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Event(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Description \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### REPORT OF DECISIONS

<u>Type of Decisions Made</u>	<u>During Decision Day Observance(s)</u>	<u>During the Year (Nov. 2019 - Oct. 2020)</u>
Conversions	_____	_____
Re-dedications	_____	_____
New Members	_____	_____
Called to Preach	_____	_____
#. of Special Services	_____	_____
Make Financial gifts to: <b>The Bureau of Evangelism</b>		\$ _____

Send to: **The Bureau of Church Growth & Development**  
**of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**  
 P.O. Box 217258  
 Charlotte, N.C. 28221-7258  
 Telephone: (704) 599-4630 Ext. 2174 Fax: (704) 688-2547

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

(Virtual Services may be adjusted)

The Organ Prelude

The Processional Hymn: #225/#648 *Marching To Zion*

The Call to Worship

Leader: But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true  
worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

People: For the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

Leader: God is Spirit.

All: And those who worship Him must worship in spirit and  
in truth.

The Invocation

The Hymn of Praise: #29/#29 *Come Thou Fount*

The Responsive Reading: [AMEZ Hymnal] p. 96, 43<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
Morning or [Bicentennial] p. 76, 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday Morn. - Kingdomtide

The Apostles' Creed: #657/#705

The Gloria Patri: #641/#703

The Lesson from the Holy Scriptures

The Call to Prayer: #404/#256 *More Love to Thee*

The Pastoral Prayer

The Choral Selection

The Ministry of Kindness Offering

The Announcements

The Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

The Hymn of Preparation: #205/#433 *I Am Thine O Lord*

The Preaching of the Gospel

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

The Hymn of Invitation: #185/#415 *Just As I Am*

The Recessional Hymn: #252/#287 *Take the Name of Jesus With You*

The Benediction

**(Hymn numbers are from the AME Zion Church Hymnal, followed  
by the AME Zion Church Bicentennial Hymnal)**

### The Sinner's Prayer

Lord Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner. I turn from my sins and my  
unrighteousness, and I turn to you. I believe that You died for my sins and  
rose from the dead for my justification. I place my trust in You as my  
personal Savior, and I receive You into my heart as Lord and Master of  
my life. Help me to follow You as I accept your free gift of eternal life.  
Amen.

(Please use the appropriate forms to report the number and the nature of  
the decision made for Christ. These should include any conversions, re-  
dedications, new members, and those answering the call to the gospel  
ministry or Christian service.) Send all correspondence to:

### The Bureau of Church Growth and Development

*African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*

*P. O. Box 217258*

*Charlotte, N.C. 28221-7258*

*Telephone: (704) 599-4630 Ext. 2174*

*Fax: (704) 688-2547*

**Make Gifts Payable to The Bureau of Evangelism**

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*African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*

[www.ameziondevelopment.org](http://www.ameziondevelopment.org)

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# THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH **BUREAU OF CHURCH GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT** **DECISION DAY 2020**

Sponsored by

**The Bureau of Church Growth and Development**  
The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Theme:

**“A Season for Good News”**

*Sharing the Good News of Christianity*



*That All May Know Jesus the Christ*

Sunday, October 25, 2020



# Spiritual Emphasis Week

January 3-9, 2021



**“A Week of Prayer, Praise, and Proclamation”**

[www.ameziondevelopment.org](http://www.ameziondevelopment.org)

Sponsored by

## **THE BUREAU OF CHURCH GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  
Charlotte, North Carolina

**Dr. Otis T. McMillan, Director**

Spiritual Emphasis Week offers an opportunity for each local church to begin the year on a high spiritual note. The entire membership should be encouraged to participate as the church gathers Sunday through Friday for prayer, praise, and proclamation of the word. This annual event should climax with the clergy and laity of the Presiding Elder District coming together for a special District service. The suggested theme and daily sub-themes for Spiritual Emphasis Week 2020 are as follows:

### **PROPOSED THEME: Sharing the Good News of Christianity in Every Season**

**SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 3:1-17; 4:1-8**

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Sunday	Jan. 3, 2021	Sharing the Good News in Perilous Times	2 Timothy 3:1-9
Monday	Jan. 4, 2021	Sharing the Good News in Face of Opposition	2 Timothy 3:10-13
Tuesday	Jan. 5, 2021	Sharing the Good News from Sound Biblical Truth	2 Timothy 3:14, 15
Wednesday	Jan. 6, 2021	Sharing the Good News that will Transform Lives	2 Timothy 3:16, 17
Thursday	Jan. 7, 2021	Sharing the Good News Diligently and Conscientiously	2 Timothy 4:1-4
Friday	Jan. 8, 2021	Sharing the Good News Faithfully in Word, Deed and Sign	2 Timothy 4:3- 5
Saturday	Jan. 9, 2021	Sharing the Good News with Eternity in Mind	2 Timothy 4: 6-8

