



December 5, 2018

To the Faith Community of African Methodism:

When I learned from the Reverend Doctor Jamal Harrison Bryant that he was leaving Empowerment Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore, MD., I was shocked and surprised. I received this stunning information when he called me at 10:00pm on Friday, November 23, 2018, while I was out of the country. His words were, *“I wanted to let you know that I have been offered and I’ve accepted the appointment to become Senior Pastor of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, GA.”* He said, that this move was orchestrated by God’s calling on his life to GO. As Dr. Bryant’s words sank in, and by all accounts, I felt as any human; and that is being momentarily selfish, because I did not want to lose him. I prayed. And my words to him were, you are leaving with my blessings and we wish the very best for you. We celebrate your accomplishments and your dedication.

Dr. Bryant’s opportunity to serve one of the largest Black churches in the nation, comes as a compliment to the AME Church. Dr. Bryant’s ministry journey at Empowerment Temple AME Church, his vision, dreams, creativity, and leadership, were supported unconditionally by the AME Church. In addition to his Holy Spirit given gifts and his innate abilities and talents, whatever his achievements that have brought him to this day, could not have been without the platform provided through the nurturing, training, development and exposure of his nuclear family and the denominational AME Church family. We can boast in the fact that from infancy to the present day, Dr. Bryant was able to parlay those skills and knowledges in the AME Church with the united support of the entire African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is encouraging to know that the world is looking to the AME Church to produce leaders that will appropriately respond to the problems in our larger society.

Since its inception, the AME Church has been widely recognized. Our historic beginnings reflect that the AME denomination has many “firsts”. The denomination is noted as a breeding ground for developing the very best and brightest minds in the country. It is not surprising (small wonder) that one with AME roots would be selected from among approximately 200 persons as the pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church.

Further, the AME Church was among the first denominations in the United States founded on racial rather than theological distinctive and has persistently advocated for the civil and human rights of African Americans through social improvement, religious autonomy, political engagement economic development; and for justice and equality for all humankind.

We are most grateful to Dr. Bryant and can never thank him enough for all he has done to advance God’s Kingdom at Empowerment Temple AME Church. As Dr. Bryant leaves a community of faith called Empowerment Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore, MD, and transitions away from Empowerment Temple to become full-time pastor of the historic New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, GA, we can never say thank you enough for all you have done.

And as Empowerment Temple shifts to another pastor, you can be assured that the AME Church is committed to providing the same kind of support system that Dr. Bryant received from the entire AME Church.

We are prayerfully leaning on the Holy Spirit to guide us in our deliberations on the one who will come, serve and guide Empowerment Temple AME Church as it moves upward and onward in the name of Jesus for such a time as we are experiencing in our communities, our nation and our world.

As Bishop of the Second Episcopal District, I am humbled, honored and privileged to be in position to appoint the one who will come, one who is God-sent, as pastor of Empowerment Temple and will take the people to even greater heights in the Name of Jesus. Pray with and for me; and for all who are involved in this crucial undertaking. Pray that the Holy Spirit counsels, guides and directs whomever God has chosen as His voice for continuing to grow the saved, winning souls for Christ and changing the local community and communities worldwide through Empowerment Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church in the historic community of Baltimore, Maryland.

In the Name of Him to who does all things well, I remain



James Levert Davis
Servant Bishop

SECOND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1134 11th Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20001 † P.O. Box 34247, Washington, DC 20043 (*Mailing Address*) † 202-842-3788 (*Office*)
Baltimore Conference † North Carolina Conference † Virginia Conference † Washington Conference † Western North Carolina Conference
jld123bishop@yahoo.com † www.ame2.com