



James L. Davis, Servant Bishop

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“... For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

2 Corinthians 4:18 (ESV)

Dear Kingdom Citizens,

The 2016 General Election, including the election of the next president of the United States of America is now behind us. Nevertheless, many members of our churches and communities may still be reeling from the negative tone and discourse that preceded—and now follow. What should be our response as Citizens of the Kingdom that is above all kingdoms and all governments?

First, we must consider that any kind of leadership transition can bring its own anxiety. At times like this, and particularly as we work toward a bright future for our nation, we as the church of God, must engage in serious prayer to prepare and fortify ourselves for the work that lies ahead. We are Kingdom Citizens. We act differently. We are they, who have Christ living in us through the power of the Holy Spirit. We understand who controls our nation and this entire vast universe.

Second, it is imperative for us to remember that the election is, indeed, a display of democracy in action. Many voices in our nation have been heard. However, the outcome of any election is also a reminder to us that other voices are often not heard, and that each of us has a role in standing up for those who do not have a powerful voice in our church, in our community, in our nation and around the world. This is the spirit upon which the AME Church was founded. We have a legacy of demonstrated strength in the face of oppression and opposition.

As our nation adapts to a new administration in the free world, so must we, as Kingdom Citizens and sons and daughters of Richard Allen's rich heritage, realize that this is a time for us to be in serious prayer and work harder as never before, to achieve excellence in our churches and communities. We must help, fresh winds blow across this nation and the world by getting involved in the real issues that confront us today and in the future.

We as a church, must trust God to lead us even though we might be unable to see the pathway in front of us. We trust Him to be all-knowing, all-loving, and all-powerful. We must believe He does all things well. As Paul wrote, *“Everything that does not come by faith is sin”* (Romans 14:23). That's why God leads us through the dark. Because it's only in the darkness do we learn to walk by faith. If we work as our forefathers and foremothers did, we will emerge from the darkness into the light.

Kingdom Citizens know that God and God alone, has the final say in each of our lives. We understand that God desires to raise up Godly Kingdom People who can represent His interest in the earth. Thus, He has called each of us to be His representatives.

SECOND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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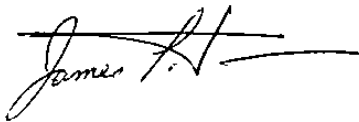
Third, during this period of transition in our nation, may every action taken by each of us at home, church and community be guided by our 2nd Episcopal District Quadrennial Theme: **Christ Centered Principles 4 Purposeful Change**, which leads to #REAL (*Restoring Hope, Empowering the People, Advancing the Kingdom and Leaving a Legacy*).

With hope and faith in the strength of our church and nation, let us come together to pledge to work toward the common good, “*one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*” As we begin this next chapter for our nation, let’s come together as Kingdom Citizens, pledging to do the best we can to strengthen our church, the nation, and our community around the globe.

Fourth, as we step boldly and with confidence in the future that God has planned for us, His Holy Spirit will counsel, comfort, guide, and teach each of us day-by-day. Just as God said to Aaron in preparing to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land, I say to you, “*This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*” (Joshua 1:9).

Finally, Kingdom Citizens, I want to make this unequivocally clear, this is our Father’s world! Our ultimate citizenship is not in the governments of this-Satan inspired society. Yes, earthly governments may choose a monarch/head of state---president, king/queen, prince/princess, duke/duchess or the like—but God and God alone is ruler of all humankind. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He, alone, has the final say and will legislate his Kingdom in all spheres of life. Earthly kingdoms will pass away; but we can rest in the blessed assurance that “*The kingdoms of this world is become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!*” (Revelation 11:15). This is the time to stay prayerful, encouraged and focused on our journey to wholeness.

In the Spirit of Restoring Hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Davis", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James L. Davis
Servant Bishop