



James L. Davis, Servant Bishop

Areliis B. Davis, WMS Supervisor

August 29, 2017

Dear Second Episcopal District Family,

You are well aware that so many across our nation and the globe are experiencing the devastating impact of catastrophic disasters. Hurricane Harvey's fury produced overwhelming flooding conditions, and continue to wreak havoc on people and communities in such places as Houston, Texas and Louisiana. In Sierra Leone, the deadly mudslides have submerged houses and turned streets into churning rivers. Our brothers and sisters in those regions are suffering and are desperately in need of our help.

As has become our custom for responding to these kinds of disasters, we have greater impact when we pool our resources. Therefore, I'm asking each church in the Second Episcopal District to take a benevolent offering for disaster relief on this **upcoming Sunday, September 3, 2017**, for those who are victims of these catastrophic events. All checks are to be written to the **Second Episcopal District - Disaster Relief**. Cash and gift cards are also acceptable.

To facilitate this process, we're asking each pastor to please submit your church's offering to your presiding elder as quickly as possible. The presiding elders will report and submit each church's gift to me on Tuesday (*September 12th*) before the 3rd Sunday in September 2017. As we have done in the past, each church's contribution will be acknowledged in a report provided by the District Office at the Mid-Year Convocation.

Please be assured that there are organizations and mechanisms already in place whereby your contributions will be distributed appropriately to needy persons in these areas.

We sincerely appreciate your generous gifts in the past to worthy causes and your response to this immediate request. You have been most gracious in supporting the local and global world community for those who have experienced misfortunes beyond their control.

With God's help and your support, we will continue to pool our resources to assist our brothers and sisters at home and abroad in putting their lives back together and rebuilding their communities. "The King will reply, ***Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.***" (*Matthew 25:40* (NIV))

May the peace and blessings of our God, our Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit smile upon each of you as you demonstrate the true meaning of being my brothers' and sisters' keeper!

In the Spirit of Empowering the People, I remain

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James L. Davis'.

James Levert Davis
Servant Bishop
#4REAL

SECOND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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