

AMEC

African Methodist Episcopal Church

*Originated and grew out of the
FREE AFRICAN SOCIETY*

***Founded 1787
by Richard Allen
In Philadelphia, PA***



AFRICAN

- Founded by African Americans, by and for newly freed SLAVES, fueled by racial discrimination.
- Forced to seek a new location for worship due to unchristian conduct and other acts by St. George Methodist Episcopal Church of Philadelphia. (They were considered a nuisance and pulled off their knees, while in the act of prayer, and ordered to sit in the back).
- They purchased an old BLACKSMITH SHOP hence the "ANVIL" logo
"TO SHOW THAT MANY HAVE HAMMERED ON IT; AND IT IS STILL ABLE TO SHAPE MANY RELIGIOUS DESTINIES."

METHODIST

- Adopted Methodism – polity, faith statements, liturgy, and music.
- Embraces Wesleyan Quadrilateral (Four Alls).
- Practices methodical worship, liturgies, and litanies.
- Litany includes CALL TO WORSHIP, HYMNS, PRAYERS,
- SCRIPTURE READINGS, DECALOGUE, SERMON, INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP, STATEMENT OF FAITH, AND HYMNS.
- Liturgy was formal and repetitive to teach the faith and doctrine to newly freed slaves who were unable to read.

EPISCOPAL

- Episcopal polity (not denomination) indicates BISHOP led.
- 20 Bishops are assigned to and responsible for one of 20 Episcopal Districts around the globe.
- Authority flows from the assigned Presiding Bishop/Prelate, to PRESIDING ELDERS, who are appointed by the Bishop to oversee the ministry of the (Bishop-appointed) PASTORS.
- Church governance consists of Quarterly, Annual, and General (4 Year) Conferences.

CHURCH/CLERGY

- PASTORS are ordained as Deacons (1st order) and Elders (2nd and terminal order). Pastors are further classified as **Itinerant** (eligible to “travel” to pastor any congregation) or **Local** (eligible to serve one specific local congregation) Elders.
- ITINERANT Elders must complete Master level theological degrees before assignment to a church
- SACRED WRITING is the Christian BIBLE; GOVERNING document is the AMEC DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE; Primary MINISTERIAL/LITURGICAL DOCUMENT is the AMEC HYMNAL.

THEOLOGY

- TRINITY: MONOTHEISTIC GOD *manifested* in three persons – Father, Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit .
- CREATION: Triune God created heaven, earth, and all living things.
- SOTERIOLOGY: Salvation (for fallen humanity) - reconciliation with the Godhead (Trinity) and eternal life - is available only through acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- AMEC THEOLOGY is embodied in the APOSTLE'S CREED.

Additional Info

- The AMEC places great importance on higher education; it has founded and maintains several colleges, schools, and seminaries.
- THE AMEC IS ALSO A STRONG ADVOCATE FOR RACIAL, SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE.
- REVERENDS HELEN HUNTER , DMIN, MDIV. AND OZETTA KIRBY, MA, MED. are Ordained Elders in the Arizona-New Mexico Conference of the Fifth Episcopal District, encompassing 14 states, from Missouri to California.
- Reverend Kirby is Pastor of Holy Trinity AME Community Church in Mesa, AZ. Rev. Hunter is Pastor of Queen Creek Mission (Homeless and Affordable Housing Ministry) in East Valley, AZ.

AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PEOPLE OF THE ANVIL



*The African Methodist Episcopal
Church began in protest, was born in
prayer at the altar, and shaped on the
anvil of God in a blacksmith shop;
We Are People of the Anvil.*