

MidWest Episcopal District
REFRESH 2025

As we go forth, let us carry the promise of Isaiah 43:19 in our hearts: "Behold I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it" God is not finished with us — He is opening new doors, making pathways where none existed, and REFRESHing our spirits for the journey ahead. Step out with faith, with courage, and with expectation, for the Lord is already at work. May you walk in His newness, may His blessings overtake you in every place you go. Will we recognize and embrace the NEW THING God is doing in us and through us?

God
Is Doing A
New Thing!

October 16 - 18, 2025

Isaiah 43:19

Bishop Daran H. Mitchell

2197 McLaughlin Drive - Greensboro, NC 27406

336-285-6232 * zionbishop108@gmail.com

Designed and Printed by Janice M. Jones, Graphic and Design Artist

**MIDWEST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
REFRESH 2025**

October 16 - 18, 2025

John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church
28001 Evergreen Road - Southfield, Michigan 48076

*A Tribute: Thank you
Presiding Elders of the
MidWest Episcopal District*

The Reverend Austin J. Young, Trinidad District
The Reverend Dr. Anthony K. R. Gibson, Indianapolis District
The Reverend Val J. Powe, Southern Illinois District
The Reverend Erich Shumake, Bardstown District
The Reverend Dr. O. Lacy Evans, Louisville District
The Reverend BaTavi M. Combs, Western Kentucky District
The Reverend Dr. Derrick T. Simmons, Chicago District
The Reverend Dwight L. Gutridge, Detroit Western Michigan District
The Reverend Seth O. Moulton, Kansas City District
The Reverend Carrol A. Johnson, St. Louis District
The Reverend Richard Gadzekpo, Chattanooga District
The Reverend Barbara A. Haigler, Knoxville District
The Reverend Dr. Willa Estell, Maryville District

We extend heartfelt thanks for your faithful service and tireless leadership. Your commitment to guiding pastors, congregations and ministries strengthens the work of the Kingdom in ways both seen and unseen.

We are deeply grateful for your prayers, wisdom, and dedication to all that you serve. May God continue to bless your labor, renew your strength, **REFRESH** your spirit, and crown your service with fruit that will last for generations.

Thank you Presiding Elders for all that you do!!



The Reverend Austin J. Young, Dean of REFRESH 2025

The Reverend L. Lynn Mitchell, Missionary Supervisor

Bishop Daran H. Mitchell, Presiding Prelate

*I*t is with joy and great anticipation that I write to you as we prepare for **REFRESH 2025**, a weekend of renewal, fellowship, and celebration as we share together. This gathering has been prayerfully planned to strengthen our spiritual lives, inspire our ministries, and deepen our bonds of connection as one body in Christ.



Our time together will include dynamic worship services, rich teaching, and opportunities for reflection and fellowship. We look forward to a concert, with Tasha Page-Lockhart, Pam & Dodi, and Comedian - Crystal P, that will uplift our spirits and remind us of the power of praise. We are also blessed to welcome special guests, Bishop George D. Crenshaw, Bishop Gregory Ingram, the Reverend Dr. Jessica Ingram, the Reverend Dr. Darrell Williams, the Reverend Dr. David A. Williams, the Reverend Dr. Dominique Robinson, and the Reverend Joelynn Stokes, Esq., who will share their gifts in encouragement and ministry.

I extend my sincere gratitude to each of you for your faithful service, your leadership and your unwavering commitment to the mission and ministry of the MidWest Episcopal District. Your labor is not in vain and it is because of your dedication that we are able to come together in such a meaningful way.

I recall attending various meetings in the past where my approach was not always as favorable as it could have been. Yet, I believe this gathering offers us a new opportunity—one that I pray will be memorable and meaningful. With that in mind we invite you to enter this weekend with open hearts and expectant spirits, ready to be renewed, **REFRESHed**, and re-energized for the work that lies before us. May this be a time of joy, encouragement, and recommitment to the calling God has placed upon each of us.

I am so looking forward to **REFRESH 2025** and to experience together the blessings that God has in store. The Reverend Lynn and I are grateful for His presence and guidance throughout this weekend.

Bishop Daran H. Mitchell
Presiding Prelate of the MidWest Episcopal District

Thursday, October 16, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Pre-Conference Concert

Our text for the week: *Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)*

Theme: **Being Creative In Our Methods: REFRESH 2025**

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

This verse captures the spirit of refreshing and God’s call to newness, creativity, and innovation in ministry, while assuring us that He provides direction and resources, even in challenging times.

**Let’s GET TO WORK in making our lives
and the lives we touch BETTER!!!**



Quadrennial Theme for the 2024-2028:

**The A. M. E. Zion Church - Serving This Present Age:
Committing to Our Mission,**

*****Being Creative in Our Methods*****(present component),

**Concentrating in Our Ministries,
and Connecting Through Our Membership.**



*John Wesley AME Zion Church - Host Church
28001 Evergreen Road * Southfield, Michigan 48076*

*The Westin Hotel Book Cadillac Detroit
1114 Washington Boulevard * Detroit, Michigan 48226*

*Concert to be held at the:
Detroit Garden Theater
3929 Woodward Avenue * Detroit, Michigan 48201*

Transportation to Concert:

Free transportation is available for all registrants.
Bus leaves Westin Hotel at 5:00 p.m.



Tasha Page-Lockhart



Pam & Dodi



Crystal P

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the participants and guests of the **REFRESH 2025** Concert. Your gifts of music, worship, and fellowship have enriched this gathering and lifted our hearts closer to God. Truly, through your ministry, we have witnessed God doing a new thing in our midst. Your offering of talent and spirit has refreshed us, inspired us, and reminded us of the power of creative expressions in worship. May the Lord continue to bless and multiply your gifts, and may your service bear fruit that brings renewal wherever God sends you!!!

Being Creative In Our Methods:
REFRESH 2025
Workshops



“Refreshing the Soul”
Bishop Gregory Ingram

“Refreshing the Spirit”
The Reverend Dr. Jessica Ingram

“Small Group Discipleship”
The Reverend Dr. David A. Williams

Information - Zion Benefits
The Reverend Darrell Williams

“Clergy: Reasoned Faith, Prophetic Voice: Preaching with a Sound Mind in the Black Wesleyan Tradition”
The Reverend Dr. Dominique Robinson

“Lay Leaders - Church Conflict”
The Reverend Joelynn Stokes, Esq.

Plenary Session Presenter and Worship Service Speaker:

Bishop George D. Crenshaw

Presiding Prelate - North Eastern Episcopal District

Friday, October 17, 2025

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Breakfast

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

***“Being Creative In Our Creative Methods -
REFRESH 2025”***

The Reverend Austin J. Young, Presiding

The Gathering The Reverend Austin J. Young
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances. Your decrees are my heritage forever, they are the joy of my heart.

The Invocation/Choral Response . . . The Reverend Barbara A. Haigler
Dear Lord, we pause at the opening of this summit to acknowledge Your presence among us. We thank You for bringing us together with one spirit and one purpose. As we gather under the promise of renewal, breathe fresh wind into our hearts, open our minds to creative vision, and strengthen our hands for the work ahead. May every word spoken and every song lifted bring glory to You, the One who makes all things new. In Christ’s name we pray, AMEN.

The Opening Hymn The Reverend Dr. Anthony K. R. Gibson
“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness, Great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hast provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **[Refrain]**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside. **[Refrain]** AMEN.

Friday, October 17, 2025

The Lesson from the Holy Scripture . . The Reverend Seth O. Moulton
The Prayer/Choral Response The Reverend Val J. Powe
The Selection The Reverend Amani Henry
The Greetings from the Bishop Bishop Daran H. Mitchell
The Overview of the REFRESH 2025 . . The Reverend Austin J. Young

Let us share together!!!!

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. (Concurrent Rotating Workshops)

“Refreshing the Soul”
Bishop Gregory Ingram



“Refreshing the Spirit”
The Reverend Dr. Jessica Ingram

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Break (Vendors & Snacks)

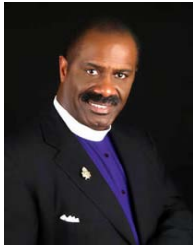
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Concurrent Rotating Workshops)

“Refreshing the Soul”
Bishop Gregory Ingram



“Refreshing the Spirit”
The Reverend Dr. Jessica Ingram

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch



Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram

Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram was elected the 118th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in 2000. His initial assignment was to the Fifteenth Episcopal District, encompassing Angola, Namibia, and much of South Africa. Prior to his episcopal election, he served as the Senior Minister of Oak Grove AME Church in Detroit, Michigan, where under his leadership, the congregation grew by over 2,400 members, with more than 1,400 becoming active tithers. Bishop Ingram holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wilberforce University and a Master of Divinity degree from Payne Theological Seminary. He is also the author of several publications, including “The Joy of Giving More Than Enough” and “The S. A. T. Manual on African Methodism.”

In 2020, Bishop Ingram retired from active service. He has been recognized for his contributions to the AME Church and the broader religious community. He is married to the Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram for over 44 years, they have one daughter Jennifer Eman Keanner, and two granddaughters, Gabby and Jayda.



The Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram

Dr. Ingram is an anointed Spiritual Director, speaker, and author with over 44 years of dedicated service in fostering deep, transformative relationships with God. As the founder of the Ingram Difference, she provides a sacred space for spiritual formation, guiding individuals toward lives filled with purpose and fulfillment. Dr. Ingram has served as the Episcopal Supervisor for the First Episcopal



District of the AME Church, overseeing the work of the Women’s Missionary Society and the Young People’s Division. Her international mission work includes establishing the Balm in Gilead Centre in Wallacedene, South Africa, providing essential resources to underserved women. Dr. Ingram holds degrees from the University of Missouri, St. Louis University, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, and United Theological Seminary. She is a trained spiritual director and was the first Protestant African American to study at the Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Michigan. Married to Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram and they have one daughter and two granddaughters.

Friday, October 17, 2025

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Plenary Session

Bishop George D. Crenshaw

Presiding Prelate of the North Eastern Episcopal District

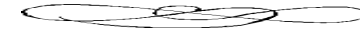


3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Break (w/health ministry guided pew exercises)

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Workshop)

“Small Group Discipleship”

The Reverend Dr. David A. Williams



5:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Break (Vendors & Snacks)

5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Workshop)

“Information - Zion Benefits”

The Reverend Darrell Williams

6:00 p.m. FREE TIME

Bus rotation from Church to Hotel every 15 minutes, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Bishop George D. Crenshaw



Born in Jefferson County Alabama, George Crenshaw was ordained as a Christian Minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 1986. He is married to the former Laurena Hardy of Birmingham, Alabama and they are the proud parents of Quentin and Kennedy.

Among his many accolades, Bishop Crenshaw holds an Honorary Doctorate Degree from both Clinton College and Livingstone College; a B.A. from Indiana University, a Masters of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary, and a high school diploma from McAdory High School in McCalla, Alabama.

Bishop Crenshaw has exercised his dominant spiritual gifts of Administration, Teaching, Shepherding and Preaching to fashion a ministry designed to empower and edify.

He was recognized as the 1999 "Man of the Year" by the Lambda Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and recipient of the "Outstanding Community Leader" award from the Bennettsville Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Bishop Crenshaw is a community activist and was recognized as "Citizen of the Year" by the Cheraw Branch of the NAACP.

He is the founder of the Zion Center Community Development Cooperation in Cheraw, SC as well as the founder of the Cheraw-Bennettsville District A.M.E. Zion Church Mass Choir.

Bishop Crenshaw is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is a Life member of the Connectional Lay Council of the A.M.E. Zion Church and a Life member of the NAACP. Bishop Crenshaw as a pastor, received the 2011 Atlanta Gospel Choice Award as one of the "Chosen 10 Pastors" in the State of Georgia.

Bishop Crenshaw was elevated to the episcopacy from Shaw Temple AME Zion church as the 103rd bishop in succession

The Reverend Dr. David A. Williams



Dr. Williams is the Senior Pastor of Greater Gethsemane AME Zion Church, where he serves as a dynamic preacher, engaging teacher, and devoted servant leader. A native of Eastern North Carolina, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from East Carolina University and a Master of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Education with a focus on Leadership Curriculum at the University of Phoenix. An accomplished author, Dr. Williams has written several books, including "Jacob Goes to Church," "The Day After," "Birth It for the Kingdom," "The Joshua Generation Youth Workbook," and the "Panic Button: Getting It Done Against the Odds." He is also a gifted musician, having released over ten self-produced gospel music projects, available on platforms like iTunes, Amazon, CD Baby, and Spotify.

Dr. Williams is married to Karen R. Williams, and together they have two children, Karian and David II.



The Reverend Darrell Williams

Reverend Williams is a product of the AME Zion Church which began at the Greater Cooper AME Zion Church in Oakland, Ca. He was very involved in the youth Ministry of the church while attending school. Started his own Insurance and planning firm in 1992, which he still operates to this day. Called to ministry in 1988 as an Exhorter, then Local Preacher, where he served in numerous roles at Varick Center in Oakland and Kyles Temple Sacramento. Presiding Elder of the Central Valley District, Alaska District, and now over the Los Angeles District. Reverend Williams is now the Executive Director of Zion Benefits Services, Inc. for the A.M.E. Zion Church.



Reverend Williams is happily married to Yasmin, whom is the love of his life for 40 years. They have 1 daughter, Ashley, whom you can catch on CBS anchoring the afternoon news. Reverend Williams maintains his daily motto which he has kept for years, " this is the day that the Lord has made, go out and make the most of it."

Saturday, October 18, 2025

Bus rotation from Church to Hotel every 30 minutes, starting at 8:00 a.m.

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Breakfast

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Concurrent Rotating Workshops)

“Clergy: Reasoned Faith, Prophetic Voice: Preaching with a Sound Mind in the Black Wesleyan Tradition”

(to be held in the sanctuary)

The Reverend Dr. Dominique Robinson



The Reverend Dr. Dominique A. Robinson is a millennial Womanist homiletician and justice advocate. She serves as the John E. Hines Assistant Professor of Preaching at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas, making history as the first African American full-time faculty member of the institution. An ordained itinerant Elder in the AME Zion Church, Dr. Robinson’s academic pursuits include a Bachelor of Arts in Government from Georgetown University, a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theology from Candler School of Theology, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, focusing on Gospel and Culture. Her scholarly interests encompass womanist biblical hermeneutics, millennial womanist homiletics, and disability theology and ethics, particularly addressing mental health issues such as depression within the African American community. Dr. Robinson’s dissertation research examines how depression and anxiety influence African American biblical interpretation through a millennial womanist lens.

In 2024, she was honored to serve as the distinguished speaker for Dillard University’s Baccalaureate Service, reflecting her impactful presence in both academic and faith communities.

-13-REFRESH 2025

Saturday, October 18, 2025

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Concurrent Rotating Workshops)

“Lay Leaders: Church Conflicts”
(to be held in the Fellowship Hall)

The Reverend Joelynn Stokes, Esq.

Joelynn, an ordained Itinerant Elder of the AME Church, currently serves as the 4th Episcopal District Director of Social Action and as its General Counsel. Joelynn earned a Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling from Ashland Theological Seminary and a Master’s Degree with a concentration in Biblical Studies, from the University of Detroit-Mercy. She received her Juris Doctorate degree from Hofstra University Law School in New York and bachelor’s degree with dual major in business and psychology from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee.



Blessed to have her own law practice, J. T. Stokes & Associates, P. C., Joelynn has also served as adjunct faculty for Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University and Ashland Theological Seminary. Joelynn is active in the community and is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

While Joelynn is thankful for all of her blessings and accomplishments, she hopes the most important thing you will remember about her is simply this...SHE IS A CHILD OF GOD!

-14-REFRESH 2025

Saturday, October 18, 2025

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

**“Being Creative In Our Methods -
Service of Renewal, Release, and Refresh”**

The Reverend Austin J. Young, Presiding

The Call to Worship *The Reverend Austin J. Young*

God knows our needs before we ask Him. We come before Him believing we shall receive, and by faith, we rejoice, for we do!

The Invocation/Choral Response *The Reverend BaTavi M. Combs*

Dear Lord, we come to love You, to worship You, and to follow You all the days of our lives. Teach us how to walk in Your ways, how to love as You have loved us, and how to faithfully obey Your Word. Pour out Your Spirit upon us in this gathering, and grant us a true and lasting **REFRESH**. In Jesus name, AMEN.

The Opening Hymn *The Reverend Dr. William L. Johnson, III*

“Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”

Time is filled with swift transition, naught of earth unmoved can stand;
Build your hopes on things eternal,
hold to God’s unchanging hand!

Refrain: Hold to God’s unchanging hand! Hold to God’s unchanging hand!
Build your hopes on things eternal,
hold to God’s unchanging hand!

Trust in Him who will not leave you, whatsoever years may bring;
If by earthly friends forsaken,
still more closely to Him cling. [Refrain]

Covet not this world’s vain riches that so rapidly decay;
Seek to gain the heav’nly treasures,
they will never pass away! [Refrain]

When your journey is completed, if to God you have been true,
fair and bright the home in glory,
your enraptured soul will view! [Refrain]

Saturday, October 18, 2025

The Lesson from the Holy Scripture.....

The Reverend Miriam Williams-Thomas

The Prayer/Choral Response *The Reverend Dr. Willa Estell*

The Selection *JWC Music Ministry*

The Presentation of Bishop Mitchell . . . *The Reverend Dr. O. Lacy Evans*

The Introduction of the Speaker..... *Bishop Daran H. Mitchell*

The Selection..... *JWC Music Ministry*

The Message..... *Bishop George D. Crenshaw*
Presiding Prelate - North Eastern Episcopal District

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship.....

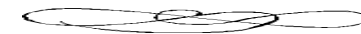
The Invitational Hymn..... *“Just As I Am”*

The Offering/Offertory..... *Finance Committee*

The Announcements..... *The Reverend Austin J. Young*

The Remarks *Bishop Daran H, Mitchell*

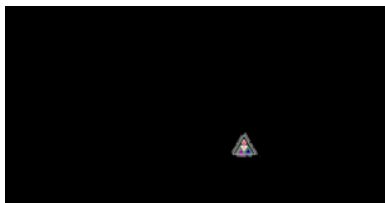
The Benediction..... *Bishop George D. Crenshaw*



Today we look to **“REFRESH 2025.”** The cycle of abundance begins with God. Each of us has been endowed with a broad set of abilities, interests, and knowledge. These come from God our creator. What’s notable is that no two of us have been given the same set of talents. Your personal curiosities and interests have led you to develop in ways wholly unique to you. The abilities that you have – physical, intellectual, and emotional – are very different from mine.

God has endowed us all with specialized capabilities. We are each valuable and precious in our own ways.

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NOTE "REFRESH" ON ALL OFFERINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 16 - 18, 2025 - MidWest Episcopal District Clergy Summit - John Wesley AME Zion Church, Southfield, Michigan.

October 25, 2025 - Missouri Conference 1st Check Up Meeting, hosted by Blackwell Chapel AME Zion Church held at the Metropolitan AME Zion Church. The Reverend Carrol Johnson, Pastor.

October 30 - November 1, 2025 - Trinidad and Tobago Conference Check-Up Meeting/Shaw-Mitchell Ministry Conference.

December 6, 2025 - Tennessee Conference 2nd Check Up Meeting, via Zoom - Mt. Olive A. M. E. Zion Church, Etowah, Tennessee.

December 13, 2025 - Kentucky Conference 2nd Check Up Meeting, Walters-Clement AME Zion, Louisville, Kentucky (In-Person)

January 10, 2026 - Michigan Conference 2nd Check Up Meeting, via Zoom

January 17, 2026 - Indiana Conference 2nd Check Up Meeting, via Zoom

January 24, 2026 - Missouri Conference 2nd Check Up Meeting, via Zoom

February 9 - 13, 2026 - Board of Bishops Winter Meeting - Norfolk, Virginia.

March 7, 2026 - Tennessee Conference 3rd Check Up Meeting, Spurgeon Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

March 12 - 15, 2026 - Trinidad and Tobago Annual Conference-Shaw-Mitchell Ministry Conference.

March 21, 2026 - Kentucky Conference 3rd Check Up Meeting, Johnson Chapel AME Zion Church, Springfield, Kentucky

April 11, 2026 - Michigan Conference 3rd Check Up Meeting, St. Mark AME Zion Church, East Chicago, Indiana

April 18, 2026 - Indiana Conference 3rd Check Up Meeting, Blackwell Temple A. M. E. Zion Church, Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

April 25, 2026 - Missouri Conference 3rd Check Up Meeting, St. Matthew AME Zion Church, the Reverend William Marcel Brown, Pastor.

May 28 - 31, 2026 - Tennessee Annual Conference to be held at Saint Paul A. M. E. Zion Church - Maryville, Tennessee.

June 4 - 7, 2026 - Indiana Annual Conference to be held at Wallace Temple A.M.E. Zion Church - Anderson, Indiana.

June 11 - 14, 2026 - Kentucky Annual Conference to be held at Wesley Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church - Greenville, Kentucky.

June 25 - 28, 2026 - Michigan Annual Conference to be hosted by John Wesley A. M. E. Zion Church, Southfield, Michigan.