

**Southeastern Jurisdiction
Black Methodists for Church Renewal**

“What’s Going On?”

Charting the Course Through Treacherous Waters

*“...and the boat was already a considerable distance from land,
buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.” Matthew 14:24 (NIV)*



52nd Annual Meeting

October 28-30, 2021

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
2100 Bush River Road | Columbia, SC



SCAN ME



L. JONATHAN HOLSTON
RESIDENT BISHOP

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
4908 COLONIAL DRIVE, SUITE 121
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29203
TELEPHONE – (803)786-9486
FAX – (803) 754-9327



LOLLIE HASELDEN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

October 28, 2021

Friends,

● On behalf of the clergy and laity of the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, I bring warm greetings as you gather for the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Black Methodists for Church Renewal. It is an honor to welcome you to Columbia, South Carolina, where our state motto is “*Dum Spiro Spero*” – “While I breathe, I hope.”

I am certain that you will be deeply blessed by the opportunity to safely gather in the presence of gifted event leaders and colleagues in ministry. As we strengthen the ministry of our individual congregations, we strengthen the ministry of our connection and our life together in The United Methodist Church.

Above all else, my prayer is that this gathering will be about transformation. May we open our hearts, our minds, and our hands to the ways God is at work in our midst as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Please know that you are in my prayers throughout this annual meeting and also as you return to your places of ministry. My hope is that each leader and congregation that participates in this 52nd SEJ BMCR Annual Meeting will leave with new energy, ideas and plans for being on the cutting edge of mission and ministry for the sake of Christ.

Grace and Peace,

L. Jonathan Holston
Resident Bishop
South Carolina Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

LJH/h



COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The United Methodist Church

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
4908 COLONIAL DRIVE, SUITE 124
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29203

Dr. Cathy Jamieson
District Superintendent

OFFICE: (803) 786-9486
FAX (803) 735-8799
email: codist@umcsc.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is my honor to welcome BMCR to the Columbia District for your annual meeting. It is my hope that you will find a warm welcome and the Christian hospitality of Methodists across our district. In these uncertain times, with the pandemic lingering and the continued racial injustice in our world, I pray that God's presence, peace and power will be upon you.

I look forward to seeing what seeds of faith are planted and watered during your Conference. I hope that learning and fellowship will nurture all participants. I'm grateful for your leadership and witness. The Lord is at work in your organization, as you seek to strengthen the United Methodist Church. Now, more than ever, we need your voice and your vision for renewal in our denomination and our Conference.

May God richly bless your time in Columbia. I am excited about the kingdom work that will happen while you are here, and into the future.

In Faith,

Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson



CITY OF COLUMBIA
SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



September 29, 2021

Greetings,

As Mayor of Columbia, I would like to welcome The Southeastern Jurisdiction of Black Methodist for Church Renewal to our Great City for your Annual Meeting. Your theme this year of "What's Going On?" Charting Our Course Through Treacherous Waters" is a testament to the power of the church and its continuing transformative presence.

As the official caucus of Black and African Americans within the United Methodist Church, it is comforting for me to know that the Black Methodist for Church Renewal's mission is to be an active conscience within the Church, and always seek more excellent means to bestow love, mercy, equity and justice for all people, especially for the Black and African American communities. Your unwavering devotion both to your faith and our communities serves as an example for all of us, and a testament to God's grace.

Our world and our communities face many serious issues today. But your member churches across Southern states have proven time and again that if you trust God, love your family, and serve your community, you can overcome any obstacle and justice will find it's truest course.

Congratulations again on this wonderful occasion, and thank you for being an example to us all.

Sincerely,

Stephen K. Benjamin
Mayor
Columbia, SC



October 28, 2021

To our siblings in the faith and in the struggle, the Black Methodists for Church Renewal of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, greetings of grace and peace be yours. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Black Methodists for Church, Inc. (BMCR), it is our privilege and honor to welcome you to your 52nd Annual Meeting as you gather in Columbia, South Carolina. We trust that your Annual Meeting will prove the songwriter to be true, “nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina in the morning.” You have been called to gather under the theme, “What’s Going On?” This is an excellent question to pose and to address given all that is occurring within our world, nation, communities, churches and lives. Daily, we are being challenged as people of faith to adapt to the new normal that is constantly revealing itself before us.

We celebrate you and your commitment to “chartering the course through treacherous waters.” Over fifty years ago, Black Methodists for Church Renewal was birthed out of the necessity of black Methodists to set a course and offer cooperation to the newly forming United Methodist Church - a body of believers who desired to become more like Christ. In today’s reality, BMCR continues to stand up and champion the cares, concerns and celebrations of its people while staying focused on the challenges and opportunities with our beloved United Methodist Church as well as the changing landscape of our communities.

As you gather this year, with COVID-19 protocols in place to privilege each other as sisters and brothers, we ask God to grant you rich times for building community and fellowship; powerful moments of prayer, study, praise and worship; inviting spaces for inspiration and encouragement as well as open places for courageous conversations and engagement.

In closing, we share with you these words from the great hymn of the church, “How Firm a Foundation.”

*Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

So, to you, the SEJ BMCR, we say ... Fear not, God is with you. God meets needs. God strengthens and sustains. God is all powerful. Hallelujah, amen!

Remain blessed,

Rev. Antoine. C. Love - BMCR, Inc. Chairperson

Ms. Deborah Bass, - BMCR, Inc. Vice Chairperson



October 27, 2021

Greetings in the awesome name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our 52nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR). We are overjoyed to be meeting in Columbia, South Carolina this year. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I offer thanks to the South Carolina Caucus of Black Methodists for Church Renewal (SCBMCR) for hosting this year's meeting. Your graciousness and hospitality are greatly appreciated.

This year's meeting is taking place at a very crucial time in our lives, in the life of our country, and in the life of the church. As we continue to maneuver through the COVID-19 Pandemic, we find ourselves faced with making decisions about how to return to a "normal life". The recent protest for racial justice and equality are once again center stage, and our voting rights are being suppressed. We are still waiting for the General Conference to take place to resolve the issue of a potential split within our denomination. Yes, change is taking place and our future is uncertain. To make informed decisions on these changes we must educate ourselves on the issues and be willing to step up and address them. The decisions that we will be faced with, whether in our everyday lives, at the polls, or the life of the church, will require us to navigate through familiar and unfamiliar territories. Therefore, I feel that our Theme for this year; **"What's Going ON, Charting the Course Through Treacherous Waters"** speaks to the issues at hand.

We have assembled a very knowledgeable group of presenters to speak to us about the aforementioned issues that we face as Black people and as Black United Methodist. Our Keynote Address, Learning Labs, Town Hall, and Bible Studies will provide relevant information as well as offer an avenue for open communication and dialog. SEJ BMCR continues to advocate for the unique needs of the Black church. As long as injustices exist and promises go unanswered, we will remain unapologetic for working for their eradication.

I want to personally thank each of you for your support and for making the decision to attend this meeting in person. I especially want to thank the Executive Committee for their dedication and hard work to make this a blessed event. I am looking forward to fellowship with you and the opportunity to share and learn about issues that are of importance to each of us.

Blessings,

Barbara Jackson, Coordinator
Southeastern Jurisdiction of Black Methodists for Church Renewal



THE OFFICE OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4908 COLONIAL DRIVE, SUITE 125
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29203
TELEPHONE 803-786-9486

DIRECTOR: *Rev. James L. Friday*

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: *Laura Hill*

October 12, 2021

Greetings Friends:

Warmest greetings and welcome to South Carolina and the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. We are delighted that you have chosen to have your **52nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of Black Methodists for Church Renewal** here in the Capital City of Columbia, South Carolina.

We look forward to being with you as you gather prayerfully to discern, discuss and decide which way is a more excellent way forward for the United Methodist Church as we navigate the treacherous and turbulent waters multiple pandemics we are facing as a community.

Please know that we are here serve you in whatever capacity we are able while you are here with us. Do not hesitate to call on us because we here at your service. God's Blessings!

Agape-Shalom,

Rev. James L. Friday
Vice Coordinator SEJ BMCR
jlfriday@umcsc.org





A Message and Welcome from South Carolina Black Methodists for Church Renewal Coordinator...

Welcome to SEJ BMCR 52nd Annual Meeting. We hope and pray that the love of Christ moves abundantly in your life; and you continue to live safely.

In these difficult days, our ability to gather together in such a time as this is indeed a VICTORY that reminds us of our humble beginning. The work was started with a simple act of faith to the faithful God, a complete trust to

His precious promises and a wholehearted obedience to His perfect will.

Indeed, God proved Himself and honored our faith by sustaining us with His grace and supplying our daily needs from start up to the present. I

Thessalonians 5:24 says, "Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it."

Our victory in the past and victory today is no guarantee of victory tomorrow. We cannot afford to lower our guard against the enemy and be complacent for what we are now.

This meeting is a reminder of our VISION. **"Where there is no vision, the people perish."** (Prov.29:18) **I firmly believe God has a wonderful plan for The Black Church.** We need to be determined, devoted and disciplined in order to reach our goal. Bishop Holston continues to remind South Carolina, **"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."** In other words, dream big, step big and do big things for God. (Mark 9:23) There is a great challenge ahead of us, yet we WILL *Let Our Light Shine*. Let us therefore continue to grow deeper, aim higher and serve better until we become the church God intends us to be. Welcome ONE and ALL!

To God be the Glory!

Pattie Elaine Gordon

Pastor Pattie E. Gordon MDiv.

Southeastern Jurisdiction
Black Methodists for Church Renewal
Officers and Leadership

Ms. Barbara Jackson (NAL)	Coordinator
Rev. James Friday (SC)	Vice Coordinator
Ms. Royya James (TN)	Secretary
Ms. Mozell Starks (Memphis)	Treasurer
Rev. Dr. Zachary Beasley (MS)	Parliamentarian
Rev. Dr. Byron E. Thomas (NGA)	Immediate Past Coordinator
Mrs. Mollie M. Stewart (NAL)	Finance Chairperson
Mrs. Edna Bonner (Memphis)	Registrar
Ms. Evelyn Romine (NAL)	Nominations Chairperson
Ms. Audrey Pankey (WNC)	Harambee Co - Coordinator
Ms. Christal Herbin (WNC)	Harambee Co - Coordinator
Ms. Doris Bluitt (NC)	Communications





Southeastern Jurisdiction Black Methodists for Church Renewal 52nd Annual Meeting

“What’s Going On?”

Charting the Course Through Treacherous Waters

*“...and the boat was already a considerable distance from land,
buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.” Matthew 14:24 (NIV)*

Agenda

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Executive Committee Meeting** (Tuscany)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Registration** (Lexington Pre-Function)

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Opening Session** (Richland/Fairfield)

Gathering Music Mr. Jarvis Wilson

Call to Order Ms. Barbara Jackson (NAL)
Coordinator, SEJ-BMCR

Greetings Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson (SC)
Superintendent, Columbia District

The Honorable Steve Benjamin
Mayor, City of Columbia, SC

Scripture Rev. James Friday (SC)
Vice Coordinator, SEJ-BMCR

Prayer Rev. Dr. Sheila Peters (TN)
Chair, TN Caucus

Memorial Service Dr. Angella Current Felder (TN)
A Current & Associates

Keynote Introduction Ms. Barbara Jackson (NAL)
Coordinator, SEJ-BMCR

Music Mr. Jarvis Wilson
Ms. Susan Gibson, vocalist

Keynote Address Bishop Sharma Lewis
Resident Bishop, Virginia Conference

Break (10 minutes)

LEARNING LAB I “What’s Going On?” The State of the Black Church

Facilitator Rev. Amiri Hooker (SC)
Pastor, Wesley UMC, Lake City, SC

Panelists Rev. Dr. Reginald Lee (SC)
Hartsville District Cooperative Parish

Rev. Dr. Michael Bowie
Executive Director, SBC-21

LEARNING LAB II “What’s Going On?” Power at the Polls: Midterm Elections

Facilitator Rev. Amiri Hooker (SC)
Pastor, Wesley UMC, Lake City, SC

Panelists Rev. Terry Alexander
S.C. House of Representatives

Mr. Bakari Sellers
*Attorney / Former State Representative
CNN Political Analyst & Commentator*

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch (On Your Own)

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Plenary Session

Reports:

Constitution & Bylaws Rev. Dr. Zachary Beasley (MS)
Parliamentarian, SEJ-BMCR

Minutes Ms. Royya L. James (TN)
Secretary, SEJ-BMCR

Treasurer’s Report Ms. Mozell Starks (MEM)
Treasurer, SEJ-BMCR

Finance Report Ms. Mollie Stewart (NAL)
Chair, Finance Committee, SEJ-BMCR

Nominations Ms. Evelyn Romine (NAL)
Chair, Nominating Committee, SEJ-BMCR

Harambee Ms. Audrey Pankey (WNC)
Ms. Christal Herbin (WNC)
Co-Coordinators, Harambee

Caucus Roll Call Ms. Barbara Jackson (NAL)
Coordinator, SEJ-BMCR

**United Methodist
Communications**

Ms. Royya L. James
Senior Manager, U.S. Conference Relations

**African-American
Methodist Heritage
Center**

Ms. Mollie Stewart
President

**General Board of
Higher Education
and Ministry**

Dr. Cynthia Bond Hopson
*Assistant General Secretary
The Black College Fund*

4:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Dinner (On Your Own)

6:00 p.m.

Depart for Journey UMC
1151 Longreen Parkway
Columbia, SC 29229

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Communion Service
Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, Preacher
Resident Bishop, South Carolina Conference

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration (Lexington Pre-Function)

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study (Richland/Fairfield)

Facilitator Ms. Paula Woolridge (MEM)
Chair, Memphis Conference Caucus

Presenter Rev. Amiri Hooker (SC)
Pastor, Wesley UMC, Lake City, SC

9:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**Town Hall: “What’s Going On?”
Plans for Possible Church Separation**

Facilitator Mrs. DuWanna Thomas, Esq. (NGA)
Chair, North Georgia BMCR

Panelists Bishop L. Jonathan Holston
Resident Bishop, South Carolina

Rev. Dr. Michael Bowie
Executive Director, SBC-21

Bishop Sharma Lewis
Resident Bishop, Virginia

Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas (NGA)
*Past Coordinator, SEJ-BMCR
Superintendent, Central South District*

Rev. Jasmine Smothers (NGA)
Pastor, Atlanta First UMC

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The Black College Fund Luncheon (Saluda/Calhoun)

Featuring The Claflin University Ensemble

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Plenary Session (Richland/Fairfield)

Reports:

SBC-21

Rev. Dr. Michael Bowie
Executive Director

Rev. Nathalie Nelson-Parker
Coordinator, Young Adults

Gulfside Assembly

Mrs. Cheryl Thompson
Interim Executive Director

Africa University

Mr. James H. Salley
*Associate Vice Chancellor
for Institutional Advancement*

Discipleship Ministries

Rev. Jeff Campbell
Interim General Secretary

General BMCR

Rev. Antonio C. Love
Chair, BMCR Inc.

Adoption of Budget

Ms. Mollie Stewart
Chair, Finance Committee, SEJ-BMCR

Election of Officers

Ms. Evelyn Romine
Chair, Nominating Committee, SEJ-BMCR

7:00 p.m.

Banquet (Richland/Fairfield/Saluda)

Speaker

Rev. Telley Lynette Gadson (SC)
Superintendent, Hartsville District

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study (Richland/Fairfield/Saluda)

Facilitator Mrs. Donna Mosby (HOL)

Presenter Rev. Amiri Hooker (SC)
Pastor, Wesley UMC, Lake City, SC

9:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Plenary Session (Richland/Fairfield/Saluda)

Greetings Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis
*President & Dean
Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta*

Registrar's Report Ms. Edna Bonner (MEM)
Registrar, SEJ-BMCR

Unfinished Business

Installation of Officers Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis
*President & Dean
Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta*

10:00 a.m. – Noon

Closing Worship
Rev. Dwayne Craig (FL)
Senior Pastor, East Naples UMC

Closing Selection

Benediction & Adjournment

**Southeastern Jurisdiction
Black Methodists for Church Renewal
52nd Annual Meeting**

Communion Service

**“What’s Going On?”
Charting the Course Through Treacherous Waters**

Oct. 28, 2021 | 7 p.m. | Journey UMC

Rev. Dr. Martin L. Quick, Presiding

PRAISE and WORSHIP

Welcome	Rev. Dr. Martin L. Quick Associate Pastor, Journey UMC
Selection	Journey UMC Choir
Scripture	Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas Superintendent, Central South District North Georgia Conference
Prayer	Rev. James Friday Vice Coordinator, SEJ-BMCR
Selection	Journey UMC Choir
Introduction of Speaker	Rev. James Friday Vice Coordinator, SEJ-BMCR
Selection	Journey UMC Choir
The Message	Bishop L. Jonathan Holston Resident Bishop, South Carolina Conference
The Act of Giving / Offering	
Communion	Bishop Sharma Lewis Resident Bishop, Virginia Conference

Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

**Merciful God,
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
We have broken your law,
We have rebelled against your love,
We have not loved our neighbors,
We have not heard the cry of the needy,
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
That proves God's love towards us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

The Peace

THANKSGIVING and COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets,
and so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit anointed him
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.
On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Because there is one loaf,
we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Giving the Bread and Cup

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

Prayer

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this hold mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of our Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.**

Selection

Journey UMC Choir

Dismissal With Blessing

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

Benediction

Bishop Holston

**Southeastern Jurisdiction
Black Methodists for Church Renewal
52nd Annual Meeting**

Memorial Service

**“What’s Going On?”
Charting the Course Through Treacherous Waters**

Oct. 28, 2021

Angella Current Felder, Liturgist

Opening Hymn

“For All The Saints” (first stanza) William W. How, 1864 (words) Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 (music)

For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed, thy name, O Jesus be forever blest. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer

Angella Current Felder

When our hearts are overwhelmed, God, lead us to the Rock that is higher – higher than our circumstances, higher than our grief, strong enough to bear our heavy burdens, small enough to be touched and held in our moment of great need.

God, we assemble here in your presence to declare that even in the midst of our great sorrow, you are comforting us, loving us, holding us through this difficult time. You are here speaking to us, your word of hope that assures us a day is coming when death shall be no more.

We gather to honor and to celebrate the legacies of your servants by lifting them up and lighting a candle in their memory.

Celebration of Legacies

Speakers Rev. Dr. Bryon Thomas, lifting up **Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery**
Ms. Mollie Stewart, lifting up **Rev. Gilbert Caldwell**
Rev. Dr. Reginald Lee lifting up **Rev. Dr. William “Bobby” McClain**
Rev. Dr. Sheila Peters, lifting up **Rev. Dr. Elijah McGee**
Rev. Dr. Michael Bowie, lifting up **Rev. Dr. Junius Dotson**
Rev. Dr. Zach Beasley, lifting up **Mrs. Thelma Palmer-Barnes**
Mrs. Josefa Bethea Wall, lifting up **Mr. Wiley Neal & Mr. Cantrell Morten**

The Hon. John Lewis, Rev. C. T. Vivian and others may be lifted from the congregation.

Closing Prayer *

Angella Current Felder

Pour out your Spirit, even now. Minister to your people in this hour. In every hand and heart, reign God. Let your healing waters flow; let your mercy abound here. Take our tears and multiply our joy. Take our silence and magnify your Word in us. We find rest in you, hope in you, and a reason to live in you.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God Perfect in every way, we pray. Amen.

* "Lead Us to the Rock," by Rev. Dr. Stacey Cole Wilson, The Africana Worship Book: Year A, 2006, Discipleship Resources.

Closing Hymn

"For All The Saints" (fourth stanza) William W. How, 1864 (words) Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 (music)

O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gone, But Not Forgotten

Remembering Black UMC leaders among us who have finished their course and joined the Church Triumphant:

Ministers

Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery (1921-2020)

Rev. Gilbert Caldwell (1933-2020)

Rev. Dr. William "Bobby" McClain (1938-2020)

Rev. Dr. Elijah McGee (1948-2020)

Rev. Dr. Junius Dotson (1966-2021)

Laity

Mrs. Thelma Palmer-Barnes (1925-2019)

Mr. Wiley Neal

Mr. Cantrell Morten

We Also Remember

The Hon. John Lewis (1940-2020)

Rev. C.T. Vivian (1924-2020)

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

– 2 Timothy 4:7

Rev. Dr. Lowery, Rep. Lewis and Rev. Vivian were recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, bestowed by President Barack Obama.

52nd Annual
Southeastern Jurisdiction
Black Methodists for Church Renewal
Banquet
“What’s Going On?” **Charting the Course**
Through Treacherous Waters

Oct. 29, 2021 | 7 p.m.
Rev. Telley Lynette Gadson, Speaker

PROGRAM

Mistress of Ceremonies	Rev. Pattie Gordon, S.C. Conference Coordinator
Musical Prelude	Mr. Jarvis Wilson
Welcome	Mrs. Shirley T. Jones, North Carolina Conference
Musical Selection	Mr. Jarvis Wilson & Friends
Invocation & Grace	Rev. Dr. Regina Henderson-Moore Executive Minister/CEO, S.C. Christian Action Council
Dinner	
Musical Selection	Mr. Jarvis Wilson & Friends
Introduction of Speaker	Rev. Dr. Regina Henderson-Moore
Special Music	Rev. Dr. Cynthia Wilson, Discipleship Ministries
Speaker	Rev. Telley Lynette Gadson Superintendent, Hartsville District, S.C.
Musical Selection	Mr. Jarvis Wilson & Friends
Betha Scholarship	Mrs. Josefa Bethea-Wall, Chairperson Bishop Joseph B. Bethea Scholarship Committee
Remarks	Mrs. Barbara Jackson, SEJ-BMCR Coordinator
Benediction	Rev. Dr. Zachary Beasley, Mississippi Conference

OUR SPEAKER

Rev. Telley Lynette Gadson, M.DIV.



Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, resident bishop of the South Carolina Conference, appointed the Rev. Telley Lynette Gadson to serve as the Hartsville District Superintendent, effective July 1, 2021.

Prior to this appointment, Rev. Gadson, affectionately known as “Pastor T,” served as senior pastor of Saint Mark UMC (“THE 9-1-1”) in Taylors (Greenville District) for eight years; and as pastor of Saint Mark UMC in Sumter (Hartsville District) for 14 years. In 22 years of ministry, she also has served Saint Matthew UMC in Taylors and Mount Zion UMC in Sumter.

Preaching since the age of 18, Pastor T graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1995 with a bachelor of arts degree in political science, minoring in religious studies. She is a 1999 graduate of the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. That year, she was commissioned as a probationary elder. She was ordained as an elder in full connection in 2002.

In addition to her work in local churches, Pastor T has served on district and conference committees, including the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the Greenville District Board of Congregational Development, chairperson of the Hartsville District Committee on the Superintendency, mentor for the Hartsville District Committee on Ordained Ministry, a delegate to the 2012 and 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate. She also has been trained in church leadership coaching by Discipleship Ministries.

Pastor T was invited by former President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama to be a special guest at The White House for the 2010 Easter Prayer Breakfast and the 2011 Christmas Social. Well known across the Connection and in ecumenical circles for her prophetic preaching and leadership excellence, she is the daughter of the Honorable Herbert Gadson, the first black mayor of Hollywood, South Carolina, and “Missionary” Linda D. Gadson, former executive director of Rural Mission Inc. She is a native of Hollywood and faithfully lives by the words, “If I can help somebody as I travel along the way, then my living shall not be in vain.”

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

BISHOP L. JONATHAN HOLSTON



Bishop Jonathan Holston is the resident Bishop of the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. He is married to Felecia Brown Holston and they have two adult children, Karlton Maurice and Brittany Jene'.

He was elected to the episcopacy and consecrated in July of 2012. At that time, he began his assignment in the Columbia (South Carolina) episcopal area.

Bishop Holston holds a Master of Divinity in biblical studies from The Interdenominational Theological Center, Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta. He also has a bachelor's degree in religion from the University of Georgia. Prior to his assignment in South Carolina, he served as senior pastor of St. James UMC (2005-2012), superintendent of the Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District (1997-2005), an associate director of the North Georgia Conference Council on Ministries

(1992-1997), the senior pastor of Clifton UMC (1986-1992); and the senior pastor of Marietta Street UMC (1983-1986). In May of 2015, Bishop Holston received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University. In May of 2016 he was the recipient of the Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) degree from Gammon Theological Seminary and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (D.H.L.) from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, North Carolina.

He has traveled extensively as a specialist in missions to Ecuador, Uganda, Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, Zimbabwe, Kenya, India, China and Hong Kong. He has served on the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the Catastrophic Disaster Response Team and as the Church World Service Disaster Consultant in Georgia.

Bishop Holston currently serves as chairperson for the Gammon Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, chairperson for the Coordinating Committee on Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, chairperson of the Pan Methodist Commission, director for the General Board of Global Ministries, trustee for Lake Junaluska, trustee for Emory University and trustee for Columbia College.

BISHOP SHARMA D. LEWIS

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, resident bishop of the Richmond episcopal area, became the first African-American woman to be elected bishop in the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church in 2016. Prior to her episcopal assignment, she held a distinguished record of service in the North Georgia Conference including her appointment as district superintendent of the Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District in 2010. In 2007, Bishop Lewis' remarkable pastoral leadership at Wesley Chapel, a three-year tenure, led to over 600 new and restored members and worship attendance doubled. While there, her visibility as a strong spiritual and pastoral leader propelled her into numerous leadership roles in the local community, including Hands on Henry County and Many Hearts, Many Hands McDonough. Her ministry here culminated as she received the Harry Denman Award for Evangelism in 2010 as well as the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award. Prior to these roles, Bishop Lewis was appointed in 1999 as the associate (and subsequently senior associate) pastor of the 8,000-member Ben Hill United Methodist Church in Atlanta and as senior pastor of the Powers Ferry UMC, a cross-racial assignment in Marietta, Ga.



Bishop Lewis was born and raised in Statesboro, Ga. in a loving Methodist family where individuals have answered God's call to serve the church and to minister to God's people. A graduate of Mercer University (B.S., Biology, 1985), the University of West Georgia (M.S., Biology, 1988) and Gammon Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center (M.Div., 1999), Bishop Lewis worked as a research biologist and chemist prior to surrendering to God's call upon her life. She has led mission experiences to Jamaica, Kenya and the Philippines. Bishop Lewis is a member of the Atlanta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She has received the Delta Sigma Theta Pinnacle and Torch Award. She is the recipient of the 2014 Gammon Theological Seminary Distinguished Alumna and Trailblazer Award given by The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc., Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter.

THE HONORABLE TERRY ALEXANDER



Terry Alexander serves House District 59 (Florence and Darlington counties) in the South Carolina House of Representatives and has been an elected official for over 26 years. Beginning his career as the field director for Congressman Robin Tallon, he served on the Florence County Council for 16 years, twice as Chairman.

A businessman, education consultant, career development counselor, pastor and adjunct professor of religion, Alexander received his B.A. from Francis Marion University and his M. Div. degree from Howard University. He is currently pursuing a doctorate degree and serves as Chaplain of the Executive Committee of the SC Legislative Black Caucus. The many advocacy and outreach organizations with which Terry Alexander has been involved include the Florence Breakfast Club, the Mercy Medicine Board, the Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, the NAACP, the SC

Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, the HIV-AIDS Task Force, the SC Institute of Medicine and Public Health's Health Policy Fellows Program, and the House of Representatives' Study Committee on Opioid Abuse. He also has served as Regional Chair for the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.

Alexander serves or has served on the Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee, the Education and Public Works Committee, and the Regulations and Administrative Procedures Committee. He is married to Ms. Starlee Davis Alexander, and they have two children, Terrell McClain and Matthew.

REV. DR. MICHAEL L. BOWIE, JR.

Dr. Michael L. Bowie, Jr. is the National Executive Director of Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century. He was ordained an Elder in the Texas Annual Conference in 2000. Dr. Bowie has effectively led urban, cross racial and large congregations throughout the connection. He is an innovative, visionary and passionate servant leader. Dr. Bowie received his Master of Divinity from Saint Paul School of Theology and his Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary. Dr. Bowie is married to Jeannette, proud father to Lauren & Trey, and grandfather to Karter and Cade. Dr. Bowie, recently released a 100 Day of Action Plan with a focus on "The Black Church Matters" initiative. He echoes the sentiments of Dr. King, *"the local church is still the Hope of the world."*



REV. DWAYNE J. CRAIG



Dwayne is an ordained elder of the Florida Annual Conference. He has pastored United Methodist congregations in the North Carolina, Florida, and Northern Illinois Annual Conferences. He served as a delegate to the 18th World Methodist Conference in Brighton, England (2001), the World Methodist Evangelism Young Leaders Conference at St. Simons Island, Georgia (2004), and the 20th World Methodist Conference in Durban, South Africa (2011).

Pastor Dwayne is a graduate of Bethune-Cookman College, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Philosophy (magna cum laude). He furthered his academic pursuits at Duke University School of Divinity as a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholar and earned a Master of Divinity degree and a Master of Theology degree with a concentration in the areas of Theology and Social Ethics. In addition, he holds a Master of Theological Studies degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Theta Alpha Kappa) at Northwestern University and, at present, is completing PhD work in Systematic Theology at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Pastor Dwayne enjoys reading, watching movies, discussing politics, playing chess, putt-putt golf, ping pong, and spending time with his beautiful daughters and lovely wife, Kimberly. Dwayne J. Craig is a native Floridian. He grew up in a quiet, secluded community on the St. Johns River in Jacksonville, Florida.

REV. AMIRI HOOKER

A native of both Philadelphia, PA and Bennettsville SC. Rev Hooker received and accepted his calling in junior high school. He has been active in ministry now some 28 years. His immediate Family includes his loving wife Sgt. Valerie Hooker, oldest son, Gabriyan (30), oldest Daughter, Sba Onesty Asha (18), youngest son, Omri Charles-Bernard (17), and the baby girl, Sia Bari Ashira (15)



Rev. Hooker attended Methodist University in Fayetteville, NC at the encouragement of the Late Bishop Joseph B. Bethea. There he majored in Biblical studies, helped organized the State Black Student Network, and worked with the Children's Defense Fund and Black Community Crusaded to help resurrect the Freedom Schools concept and the idea of racial uplift in young African American Adults.

After graduating with high honors from Methodist University, Rev. Hooker went on to enroll in a Master of Divinity program at the famed Gammon Division of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA, where he majored in Theology with a concentration in African Thought under the direction of Dr. Asa Hilliard.

He currently serves as a board member of the South Carolina Christian Action Council (SCCAC) and the National African American Ministers Leadership Council (AAMLC) as the chair of the MICAH Group and is one of the Tri-Chairs in the South Carolina division Poor People's Campaign. Rev Hooker is a member of the NAACP & BMCR.

REV. DR. REGINALD E. LEE



Reggie was born on May 4, 1963 in Baltimore, Maryland. He attended the public schools of Baltimore and graduated high school in 1981. After graduation he joined the United States Marine Corps Reserve. He attended basic Training at Parris Island South Carolina. He completed basic Combat Engineer School at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Reginald attended Morgan State University. While at Morgan State he completed the Advanced Reserve officer Training Corps program and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve. He served as an Infantry Platoon Leader in the 29th Light Infantry Battalion. He also completed the basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Rev. Lee completed his Doctor of ministry degree in 2000 from Wesley Seminary. His dissertation is entitled: Re-Creating a Black Wesleyan Evangelicalism through Preaching and Worship for the 21st Century.

In June of 2016 he was appointed to serve as the Congregational Specialist of the Florence and Marion Districts by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston. In June of 2021 he was appointed to serve as Senior Servant of the Hartsville Cooperative Parish the first multi-ethnic parish in South Carolina.

REV. DR. CANDACE LEWIS

Dr. Lewis is an ordained elder in the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church. From 1997-2009, Dr. Lewis was appointed as the founding pastor of the New Life Community UMC in Jacksonville, Florida. She was then appointed as the Associate General Secretary in the New Church Starts Division and later as the Executive Director of Path1 New Church Starts at the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tennessee. She comes to Gammon after serving as a District Superintendent for 4 years in the Florida Conference. She is a graduate of the University of Florida and Gammon Theological Seminary – ITC where she received her Master of Divinity degree in May 1996. In June 2000, she graduated from the Harvard Divinity School’s Summer Leadership Institute on Faith-Based Community Economic Development. She earned a Doctorate in Ministry in Church Leadership Excellence from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. May 2014.



Dr. Lewis is Gammon’s first female President-Dean and the first female denominational Dean in the ITC consortium, ushering in a new chapter at Gammon and for the ITC community.

MR. BAKARI SELLERS, ESQ.



Bakari Sellers made history in 2006 when, at just 22 years old, he defeated a 26-year incumbent State Representative to become the youngest member of the South Carolina state legislature and the youngest African American elected official in the nation. In 2014 he was the Democratic Nominee for Lt. Governor in the state of South Carolina.

Earning his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College, where he served as student body president, and his law degree from the University of South Carolina, Sellers has followed in the footsteps of his father, civil rights leader Cleveland Sellers, in his tireless commitment to championing progressive policies to address issues ranging from education and poverty to preventing domestic violence and childhood obesity.

His impressive list of accomplishments in addition to having served on President Barack Obama’s South Carolina steering committee during the 2008 election, Sellers is widely considered to be a rising star within the Democratic Party and leading voice for his generation. That coupled with his uncommon ability to reach across the aisle and get things done has led to numerous accolades including being named to TIME Magazine’s 40 Under 40 in 2010 as well as 2014 and 2015 “The Root 100” list of the nation’s most influential African-Americans.

He has served as a featured speaker at events for the National Education Association, College Democrats of America National Convention, the 2008 and 2016 Democratic National Convention.

Sellers practices law with the Strom Law Firm, LLC in Columbia, SC and is a Political Commentator at CNN. He is married to Dr. Ellen Rucker-Sellers.

REV. JASMINE ROSE SMOTHERS

Jasmine Rose Smothers is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. She is a sought after preacher, teacher, workshop leader, church consultant, leadership coach, author, advocate and self-proclaimed technology geek!

Jasmine Rose Smothers currently serves as the Lead Pastor of the historic Atlanta First United Methodist Church. Previously, she served as Associate Director for Congregational Vitality through the Office of Connectional Ministries in the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. In this role, Rev. Jasmine partners with congregational leaders to equip them for maximum effective ministry in church and community. Rev. Jasmine is the primary staff resource for several ministry initiatives including working to increase the vitality of congregations; racial-ethnic ministries; and the development of young clergy leaders.

She has served the United Methodist Church as a member of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race; the Ministry Study Commission; and several task forces on Ministry with Young People. Rev. Jasmine is currently a Lewis Center for Church Leadership Community Fellow. Rev. Jasmine has also contributed to several publications and is the co-author (with Dr. F. Douglas Powe, Jr.) of the bestselling book, *Not Safe For Church: The Ten Commandments for Reaching New Generations*.

Rev. Jasmine is a native of Atlanta, GA. She is an amateur shutterbug; loves music; spending time with her family and friends; and traveling the globe. She is a graduate of Spelman College (B.A., Political Science) and Emory University's Candler School of Theology (M.Div.).

Above all, Jasmine loves God, loves the Church, and is committed to "equipping the saints for the work of ministry" so that the world may know and be transformed through Christ!



MRS. DUWANNA THOMAS, ESQ.



DuWanna Thomas is unashamedly Christian and unapologetically Afrocentric. Thriving churches with "called and anointed" clergy and lay leadership nurtured her faith. Yet, she has experienced systems and structures which often favor the merely educated and appointed.

She believes the brilliance of the Black Church, which transcends denomination, is a gift of renewal to United Methodism in a time when cultural Christians confuse patriotism with the Gospel and white supremacy with God.

DuWanna serves as Chairperson of North Georgia Black Methodists for Church Renewal as part of an excellent Executive Committee. During her tenure, God has blessed NGBMCR to develop strategic partnerships to fulfill its purpose effectively, increase funding through memberships and donations, and extend its influence throughout the Annual Conference. She has previously served as SEJBMCR Nominations Committee Chairperson and Town Hall Moderator. She is a member of General BMCR and the Advocacy Committee.

She is an alumnus of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law in Dallas, Texas. She is a consultant with over thirty years of professional experience, including international trade and transportation, Total Quality Management (TQM), contract compliance, and management consulting. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas and has served as a Voter Protection Attorney across the United States.

DuWanna is married to Rev. Dr. Byron E. Thomas, District Superintendent, Central South District, North Georgia Conference UMC. They are the proud parents of two adult sons.

REV. DR. BYRON E. THOMAS



Pastor Byron E. Thomas is a native of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. A veteran of the United States Air Force, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Philosophy from Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia and a Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He also holds a Certificate in Executive Leadership from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. In 2016, Pastor Thomas graduated from the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS) program with a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min) in Preaching through McCormick Theological Seminary.

Pastor Thomas served as Senior Pastor of Ben Hill United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia from June 2013-June 2021 where his focus was strengthening the link between spiritual formation and missions. He previously served as the Pastor of Central United Methodist Church in Atlanta, GA, Associate Director in the Office of Connectional Ministries for the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church where his primary area of concentration was Advocacy, and as Pastor at the Fort Street United Methodist Church in Atlanta, GA. In May 2015 Pastor Thomas was elected as the President of the North Georgia Black Methodists for Church Renewal (NGBMCR). In October 2015 he was elected as the Coordinator for the Southeastern Jurisdiction Black Methodist for Church Renewal (SEJBMCR). At the 2015 North Georgia Annual Conference in Athens, Georgia, Pastor Thomas was elected as a Clergy Delegate to the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. In 2019 he was elected to lead the North Georgia Conference Delegation to General Conference.

Dr. Thomas was appointed as the Central South District Superintendent effective July 1, 2021. Pastor Thomas is married to DuWanna and they are the proud parents of two wonderful sons, Ntchwaidumela and Mustafa.



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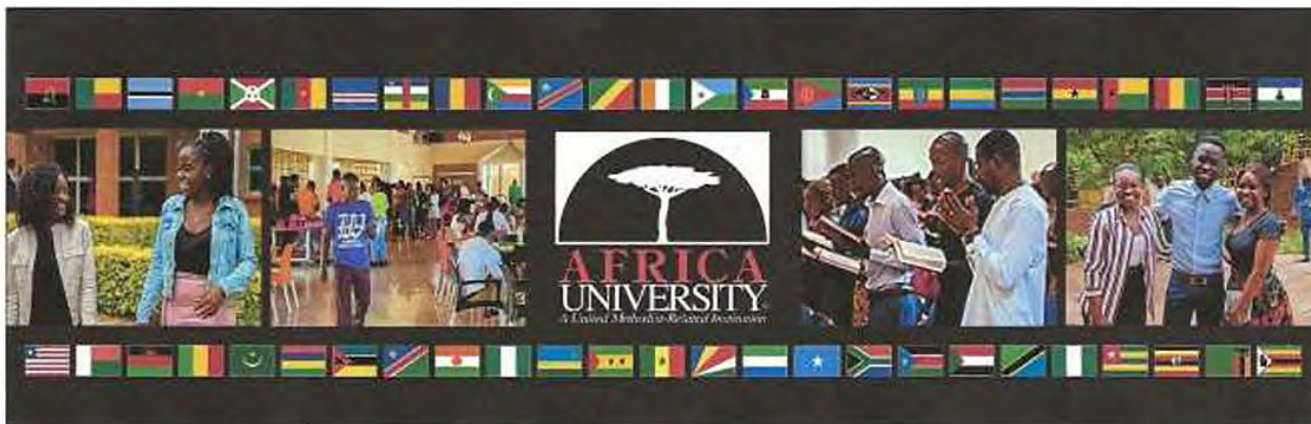
“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace..” Ephesians 4:3

The Black Methodists for Renewal's vision is a renewed transformed unified body of Christ on mission in the world. The mission of BMCR is to raise up prophetic and spiritual leaders who will be advocates for the unique needs of Black people in the United Methodist church. Values of the organization include the legacy of BMCR (history, persons, programs, events), a Wesleyan heritage of vital piety and social holiness, a commitment to develop spiritual and prophetic leaders, relationships within the United Methodist connection; and a commitment to inclusiveness and justice.

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Rev. Carolee Benson, Chairperson

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