

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Right Reverend Clement W. Fugh Presiding Prelate Fifth Episcopal District The Reverend Benjamin R. Finnell Presiding Elder Midwest South District

The Reverend Dr. Eraina Ross Aseme, Pastor

April 10, 2021

Greetings, Presiding Elder Benjamin R. Finnell and members of the Midwest South District Conference. Throughout 2020 and the COVID-19 Pandemic, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Leavenworth, Kansas accomplished the following:

<u>Social Platforms</u>. We used social platforms such as Facebook, Zoom and our audio dial in service to conduct our Worship Service experiences, Sunday School, Bible Study and meetings. By using these platforms, we were able to continue to reach our members and viewers. In October 2020 we held church service in our church parking lot on the First and Second Sunday. The Pastor also led several prayer walks to help get physically and spiritually healthier. In September 2020, we launched our Church Website where you will find information about our Pastor, Ministries, History and Programs.

<u>Financial Stability</u>. To help improve our giving platforms, we launched our Givelify link so that members could access the link to pay their tithes and offerings. The Usher Board conducted a drive-up Chili Dinner Sale as a fundraiser in December 2020. Also, several members, friends and family members participated in a Stay-at-Home Tea where they were asked to sip tea on a certain day in December 2020 and to send in a donation to help Bethel with the upkeep of the Church.

Emotionally Stability. During the midst of the pandemic our church was able to stay connected through our Class Leaders. The Class Leader's Council system has provided and maintained contact with church members. Our congregation has safely opened our church doors by purchasing air purifiers, thermometers, and sanitizing wipes. The Trustees have sectioned the pews so that we can practice social distancing and the Ushers prepared signs to direct the flow of members throughout the church. We count it a blessing to be able to worship, indoors, safely.

Community Outreach. Bethel continues to serve our community in a mighty way. In October 2020, we purchased and delivered 55 pairs of tennis shoes and socks to the Leavenworth Shelter of Hope and the Leavenworth Council on Aging. We also filled "blessing bags" for the homeless with necessities such as hand wipes, non-perishable food items and bottled water. Our Young People's Division supported the Salvation Army by ringing bells at Dillons. The Katherine D. Tillman Women's Missionary Society adopted a family for Christmas and provided the family with presents. The Pastor led a food basket drive for members and or people in the community for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Bethel also participated in the NAACP Black Lives Matter Walk. Bethel serves as a nutrition site host for the Leavenworth Council on aging so that our seasoned members and friends in the community can eat lunch together and socialize with each other. On Thursdays, Bethel is a free COVID-19 testing site serving people in the community that do not have the means to go outside of the community to be tested.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Leavenworth, Kansas has Big, Hairy, Audacious Goals (BHAG). We are spiritually filled and led by our Lord and Savior and moving in the right direction.

Respectfully Submitted, Veronika Corbett, District Steward The Reverend Dr. Eraina Ross Aseme, Pastor

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