

SONS OF ALLEN: THE CONNECTIONAL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

PREAMBLE

To create a ministry for men, both clergy and lay, which will seek to address the needs for distinctive ministries to men, who are faced with spiritual, social, political and psychological challenges, to equip men to follow the example of Andrew (St John 1: 41-42) who brought Peter to Jesus; to encourage men to emulate the resolute and redemptive spirit of Richard Allen, our revered, ancestral patriarch who in negotiating for his freedom with slave master Stokely Sturgis, negotiated freedom for his unnamed brother as well; to encourage men to implement ministries modeled by our founder, Richard Allen as he sought to meet needs in his community, the following Constitution is hereby adopted:

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

There shall be an organization called the Sons of Allen of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

This organization shall be answerable to the Commission of Christian Education of the AME Church. It shall be accountable to the General Board and shall report and interpret its activities to the Board.

ARTICLE II – THE PURPOSE

- The purpose of the Sons of Allen of the African Methodist Episcopal Church shall be:
- a. to lead men to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
 - b. to organize men into units and empower them to meet men's needs in such areas as Evangelism and Stewardship.
 - c. to teach the men of our denomination the history, doctrine and polity of our denomination with focus on the life, mission and ministry of our ancestral father, Richard Allen.
 - d. to teach the men to witness their faith in daily living, such as in the workplace, the community, and the home.
 - e. to encourage men to engage in outreach and service as a part of Christian servanthood.
 - f. to seek resources and support of men as husbands and fathers.
 - g. to empower men to serve as role models to young men and to develop youth ministries such as scouting ministries, in local units.
 - h. to encourage men to share in ecumenical relations.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Sons of Allen of the African Methodist Episcopal Church shall consist of all men in the congregations and communities. A unit of the Sons of Allen shall be established in each African Methodist Episcopal Church, presiding elder district, Annual Conference, and episcopal district, and shall be organized in accordance with this Constitution.

The organization in the local church shall be known as a unit; in the presiding elder district, it shall be known as a Chapter; on the Annual Conference level, it shall be known as a Conference; and on the episcopal district level, it shall be known as a District.

Each unit shall elect annually a delegate to the Annual meeting of the Chapter; each Chapter shall elect two (2) delegates to the Annual meeting of the Conference; each Conference shall elect annually three (3) delegates to the Annual meeting of the District; and

each District shall elect quadrennially seven (7) delegates to the Quadrennial meeting of the Connectional organization.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

The officers shall be President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer, all of whom shall be at least 18 years old, male, clergy or lay members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. They shall be elected for a term of four (4) years by the Connectional Christian Education Congress of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, having been nominated by a committee on Nominations, named by the Executive Committee. The duties of the officers shall be such as ordinarily pertain to their respective offices.

ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Executive Committee, in the interim of the General meeting, shall be responsible for:

- a. The affairs of the Sons of Allen of the African Methodist Episcopal Church;
- b. The Quadrennial meeting of the organization;
- c. The Connectional program of activities; and
- d. The filling of vacancies in any office.

ARTICLE VI – DISTRICT COORDINATOR

The presiding bishop of each District shall appoint a District Coordinator of the Sons of Allen of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The District Coordinator shall work with the bishop and Conference representatives to establish an episcopal district program and to identify special projects. Each Annual Conference shall have a Conference Coordinator appointed by the presiding bishop. Presiding elders shall appoint a Coordinator for the Chapter in their District who will supervise the work of the Chapters and confirm new members.

ARTICLE VII – SCOPE OF WORK

The work of the Sons of Allen of the African Methodist Episcopal Church shall be promoted through four (4) committees:

- a. Membership
- b. Programs
- c. Projects
- d. Publicity

There shall also be six (6) Commissions:

- a. Commission on Christian Fellowship
- b. Commission on Christian Service
- c. Commission on Christian Training
- d. Commission on Devotional Life
- e. Commission on Prison Ministry
- f. Commission on Youth Ministries

The President shall appoint a Chairperson for each of the Commissions. On the Connectional Level, these Commissions shall be encouraged and given guidance in the formation and work of Local, District, Conference, Chapter, and Unit organizations. The

Commissions shall recommend activities through which the purpose of the organization may be realized and the work of the Sons of Allen on all levels encouraged.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

The Quadrennial meeting of the Sons of Allen of the African Methodist Episcopal Church shall convene quadrennially at the time and place of the last meeting of the Council of Bishops in the year prior to the meeting of the forthcoming General Conference. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee. At the Quadrennial meeting, the work of the quadrennium shall be reported, officers elected as required, and other business transacted.

ARTICLE IX – OFFICIAL HYMN

The Official Hymn of the Sons of Allen of the African Methodist Episcopal Church shall be “The Hymn for the Sons of Allen,” with the text and tune composed by Bishop Frederick Hilborn Talbot, D.Min., 90th Bishop/Chief Pastor. (See Part XVIII, Section XVIII, B-3 for text and music)

ARTICLE X – OFFICIAL ATTIRE

The official attire for the Sons of Allen shall be a maroon blazer with the official insignia on the left upper pocket, gray slacks, white shirt and the AME shield on the tie. Appropriate variations may be employed.

ARTICLE XI – CONNECTIONAL RELATIONSHIP

The President of the Connectional Sons of Allen organization shall be a Connectional Officer.

ARTICLE XII – FINANCES

The method of financing the meetings and the work of the Sons of Allen of the African Methodist Episcopal Church shall be determined by the organization, upon recommendations of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XIII – BYLAWS

The Sons of Allen of the African Methodist Episcopal Church may adopt Bylaws consistent with the Constitution. The Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Sons of Allen of the African Methodist Episcopal Church by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting thereof, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given at a previous regular meeting or in writing for all local organizations.

ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution can be amended with two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the Connectional Christian Education Congress during a meeting of Sons of Allen and ratified by the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE XV – SONS OF ALLEN BENEDICTION

May the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and the God of our founder, Richard Allen, bless, strengthen and empower us to serve the present age as Christian men empowered by the Holy Spirit. Amen.