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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9 A.M. EDT, July 3, 2010

"BISHOP CARTER HAS 'GEORGIA ON HIS MIND'"

MOBILE, ALABAMA – JULY 2, 2010:
During Friday's evening session of the 37th General Conference of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church at the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention in Mobile, Alabama, the Episcopal Standing Committee recommended an assignment of Bishop Kenneth W. Carter to the Sixth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. The report was sustained and immediately the leadership torch passed. Georgia now has a new Presiding Prelate.



Carter, a native of Corinth, Mississippi, is the 55th Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. His election in 2006 culminated a well-documented history of service in the church. At the age of 16, Bishop Carter was appointed pastor of Jones Chapel C.M.E. Church

in Iuka, Mississippi. During his extensive itinerant ministry, he served congregations in Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Texas. He also served as presiding elder in the Greenwood-Jackson and Columbus-Meridian Districts.

Bishop Carter earned the B.S. degree from the University of Mississippi; the Master of Music Education degree from Delta State University; the M.Div. degree from Howard University; and the D.Min. from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

At the time of his election as bishop, he was pastor of the Carter Metropolitan C.M.E. Church in Fort Worth, Texas, where he served for ten years. During his tenure there, he distinguished himself as a caring, inspirational servant-leader, visionary, and advocate for the dispossessed.

As the former presiding prelate of the Tenth Episcopal District, Bishop Carter worked tirelessly to bring the ‘ripened harvest’ – particularly in Africa. The Tenth Episcopal District has grown from 5 countries to 23 countries; from 325 congregations to 1,800 congregations. Under his careful nurturing, the work in Africa now includes the nations of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, the Sudan, Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Togo, and Uganda. The work in the original countries of Nigeria, Ghana, and Liberia continues to flourish.

Bishop Carter has continued the work in Jamaica and in Haiti. The major foci of the work there include general and Christian education and support of orphans. Haiti has experienced two major catastrophes since Bishop Carter became presiding prelate. He responded to the challenges with compassion, dignity, vision, and action. The General Conference Episcopacy Standing Committee also recommended that the Sixth Episcopal District be expanded to include Haiti. The General Conference agreed and now Georgia and Haiti will be united in Christian service and mission.

As the former Chair of the Commission on Life and Witness, Bishop Carter was instrumental in developing the teaching documents, *The Ships That Sail from Good to Great*. This teaching material has set a course for new dimensions of growth related to ministry (in all its forms), worship, discipleship, leadership, and stewardship in the C.M.E. Church.

Bishop Carter is married to Rosia Carter. They have two children, Jill Lynette and Stacy Marie (Peter). He is the author of *Stewardship: A Journey*, *Bless Me Big Time*, *Thirty-One Days Without Stewardship Makes One Miserable*, and *I Can Feel the Drums Beating In My Veins: Celebrating Fifty Years in Ministry and Missions*.

The business of the 36th Quadrennial Session and 37th General Conference of the C.M.E. Church continues through Sunday, July 4th. The delegates have been deliberating and modifying church law since its opening session on June 26th. During the same session, Bishop Carter was installed as the Chair of the College of Bishops in a spirited worship where he challenged the 3,000+ persons to “Live Beneath the Water Line.” Following conference delegates from the Tenth District, many of whom had traveled multiple days from Africa to America for the meeting, rose in celebration and offered gifts of appreciation to Bishop Carter and his wife. In a moving response, Mrs. Carter addressed the full body in the words of her grandfather saying, “thank you; people do not have to do anything for you; and we appreciate all that you have done. You have done so much with so little and we are humbled.” The entire body rose to its feet in the height of the moment with a standing ovation. What a momentous display of connection between the African-American people and their extended family from the Mother Country.

Holsey Chapel looks forward to welcoming Bishop Carter to Georgia as it hosts the South Georgia Regional Annual Conference July 12th – 16th. More details available on our church website www.cmefitzgerald.org .

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