



## **FIFTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**Rt. Rev. Francine A. Brookins, Presiding Prelate**

**February 3, 2025**

### **To the faithful and generous members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church**

On behalf of the members and neighbors directly impacted by the EATON fire in the Altadena/Pasadena, CA area of the Fifth Episcopal District, thank you for your presence and support!

The Women's Missionary Society and the Council of Bishops gathered in Garden Grove, CA in the immediate aftermath of the historic wildfires in Southern California. You disrupted your business as usual to let the 5<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District know that we were not alone as we surrounded the 135 AME's who lost homes and jobs and neighborhoods. You brought donations to meet the immediate needs of people who have been displaced. You took the time that was designated for the host event, to instead pray for us and raise funds for us. The Bishops changed their retreat schedule to go to Altadena and view the physical damage and pray with some of those still rocked from having lost everything they owned. Thank you!

We know that many of you gave sacrificially - not from abundance, but from a deep well of Christian love and empathy. Your gifts, whether large or small, are making a daily impact with: emergency supplies, temporary housing, supporting families in crisis and slowly beginning the journey of community rebuilding. Each gift represents hope. Each contribution says, "You are not alone." Your generosity has been a powerful testimony of faith in action.

We are committed to addressing the immediate needs of those impacted by the EATON fire, and to staying at the table to ensure a healthy and equitable recovery and redevelopment process that encompasses the entire community.

Thank you President Deborah Tayler King and team. Thank you Presiding Sylvester Beaman and the full Council of Bishops, active and retired. Thank you every single one of you who is helping us along our way.

With deepest gratitude and blessings,

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