



# HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

## PACKET

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Reverend Dr. Malcolm O. Simpson (Pastor)  
Sis. Joe Ann Brown (Steward Pro-Tem)  
Bro. Sam Fogle (Trustee Pro-Tem)  
Sis. Mary Keitt (Choir President)  
Bro. Marvin Wright (Usher Board President)  
Sis. Diane Clark (Culinary Committee President)



## ***MOUNT OLIVE A.M.E. CHURCH HOMEOING PACKET***

### **Membership Requirements**

Each member of Mount Olive A.M.E. Church that has been read into full membership and have faithfully kept the vow, publicly confessing the day they were accepted into full membership, is eligible and entitled to all the privileges and benefits of the African Methodist Episcopal Church as outlined in the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal church along with the six (6) questions asked of them during the membership ceremony as outlined in the A.M.E Book of Worship.

When a member continues to faithfully honor the vow when he/she publicly acknowledges the day they joined the A.M.E denomination they are considered to be in good and regular standing with the church. Each member is asked the following six (6) questions in the membership covenant with the following answers agreeing to the covenant:

**Question 1:** Do you here in the presence of God and of this congregation renew the solemn promise contained in the Baptismal Covenant ratifying and confirming the same and acknowledging yourself/yourselves bound faithfully to observe and keep that covenant and all things contained therein? **Answer: I do.**

**Question 2:** Have you saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? **Answer: I trust I have.**

**Question 3:** Do you possess friendly feelings toward all the members of this church? **Answer: I do.**

**Question 4:** Do you believe in the doctrine of Holy Scriptures as set forth in the Articles of Religion of the African Methodist Episcopal Church? **Answer: I do.**

**Question 5:** Will you be governed by the Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, hold sacred the ordinances of God, and try as much as possible to promote the welfare of fellow members and the advancement of the Kingdom of God? **Answer: I will.**

**Question 6:** Will you give of your time, talents, and money for the support of the gospel, church, poor, and various ministries of the church? **Answer: I will.**

### **Categories of Membership**

- I. As outlined on page 93 of the 2021 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, a member who withdraws his or her membership does so on a purely individual basis and as a personal right. Such a member has no right or title to the personal or real property of the local or general church. This shall include the church building, parsonage, school, and other personal or real property held by the local



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trustees. Subsequent reversal of the withdrawal statement shall require the consent and approval of the pastor and the Quarterly Conference.

- II. Also, as outlined on page 93 of 2021 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal church, a member who has “Left without Certificate: Nonresident Member” is a person verified as a nonresident member for ***three consecutive years and shall no longer be enrolled as a member.*** He or she may be placed on the roll of “Left without Certificate.” This is done by recommendation of the Church Conference and by vote of the Quarterly Conference. Such a person may, however, upon application to the pastor, be reinstated to active membership. A member who has joined a church of another denomination without giving notice shall be recorded as “Left without Certificate.”
- III. On page 93 and 94 of the 2021 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, a member who is classified as “Left without Certificate: Negligent Member” is a member who has become persistently negligent and continually absent from the services of the church and has persistently refused to support the church. The member shall be entreated by the stewards to renew his or her vows. If the member refuses to give heed to such entreaties, he or she shall be placed on the roll of “Left without Certificate,” upon recommendation of the pastor to the Church Conference in its next session.
- IV. As outline on page 92 of the 2021 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, members of a local church residing elsewhere for an extended period, upon application, may be enrolled as “Affiliated Members” of the African Methodist Episcopal Church located in the vicinity of their current residence. Such membership shall entitle them to the privileges of that church, including pastoral oversight, participation in all active services and the right to hold office. Membership of these persons, however, shall be counted and reported only in the membership of their home A.M.E. church.

\*No persons who is not a member of any of our A.M.E. churches connectionally shall be considered for “Affiliated Membership” in our denomination, per the 2021 A.M.E. discipline.

### **Membership Financial Contributions**

All Active and Affiliated members are asked to support the church financially with tithes and offerings or a minimum gift offering amount of **\$700 a year**. Active and Affiliated members will receive credit for all monies donated for the support of the ministry and those credits will be



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recorded in the church's records. Contributions donated in the year prior to the member's death will be used to determine a member's status for burial and homegoing rights.

Active and Affiliated Members who support the church with a minimum gift donation of **\$700** a year are entitled to full burial and homegoing service rights at no cost.

***\*\*Exceptions to the minimum donations: Children ages 0 -17 who are active members of Mount Olive A. M. E. church are entitled to full burial and homegoing services at no cost. \*\****

### **Burial and Homegoing Expenses for Non-Members or Members Classified as Left with Or Without Certificate Only**

***\*All fees must be paid in full prior to the funeral service by cash, money order or cashier's check. \****

Complete Homegoing Celebration Expense	\$3,300.00
Burial Expense (only)	\$1,600.00
Church Fellowship Hall & Kitchen usage with Repass provided	\$1,000.00
Church Sanctuary Usage Only	\$700.00
Pastor's Expense (not included in 3,300.00 complete Homegoing Celebration expense)	\$100.00

***\*Please note, the Pastor's attendance at the funeral service of a non-member is optional (at his or her discretion). \****

### **Auxiliary Obligations for Homegoing Celebrations**

All service areas should be on duty for funeral services at the church, even for non-members as deemed necessary. The following ministry heads will immediately be responsible for the following areas when notified of a pending funeral to be held at Mount Olive A.M. E. Church:

1. **The Trustee Pro Tem/ Assistant Trustee Pro Tem** will be responsible for the handling of the burial spot within the church cemetery as well as making sure the funeral home, providing the homegoing services for the bereaved family, honors the church request to dig the grave deep enough for the casket to be buried below the ground (approx. 6 feet) with cement bags placed in the grave, with the casket and within the vault. The Trustee Pro-Tem/Assistant Trustee Pro-Tem will be the contact person for burial requests and authorizations and will be responsible for assisting the family in marking the grave site.



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2. **The Usher Board President** will be solely responsible for providing enough ushers to provide quality service during the homegoing celebration as well as planning for adequate reserved seating for the bereaved family, clergy, and guests.
3. **The Choir President or a leading choir representative** will be responsible for notifying all choir members of a pending funeral and encourage all church choir members to participate in a combine choir.
4. **The Culinary Committee President** will be responsible for organizing the culinary committee members to prepare and serve a repass for the bereaved family. If the bereaved family is not in agreement with the services provided by the church's culinary committee, then the bereaved family will be responsible for providing their own repass at their own expense. ***Only a licensed catering company*** will be allowed to prepare and serve a repass in the church fellowship hall and kitchen for a fee of ***\$700.00***.
5. **The Steward Pro Tem/ Assistant Steward Pro Tem** will be responsible for verifying the financial standing with the church secretary of the bereaved family member to be funeralized. All members who have supported the ministry of Mount Olive A.M.E Church with a yearly donation of ***\$700.00 per year*** will be entitled to all burial and homegoing services at no cost.

### **HARDSHIP/SPECIAL CASES**

Hardship cases (i.e., unemployment, nursing home placement) will be processed on an individual basis. The amount assessed for burial and homegoing service rights will be based on the deceased member's financial contributions to the church before the hardship and/or the financial status of the deceased member at the time of death. ***Life insurance policies will be considered when processing a hardship case. \*(usage of the Fellowship Hall will not be included when processing a hardship case) \****

### **GRAVESITE UPKEEP**

Live plants and flowers should be removed from the grave two (2) weeks after the funeral. Artificial plants and flowers should be removed from the grave four (4) weeks after the funeral. Should the plants or flowers not be removed by family members within the allotted time, the church reserves the right to remove them.