

Bishop Sarah Frances Davis

Bishop Sarah Frances Davis is the 126th elected and consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E. Church). Her historic election on July 6, 2004, makes her only the third woman in the 218-year history of the denomination to ascend to its highest level of Episcopal service. Bishop Davis is affectionately known as the “Prayer Bishop” because of her consistent emphasis on the importance of prayer in the life of the Church.

Bishop Sarah has experienced a number of “firsts” throughout her ministerial career. Prior to her election as Bishop she served for seven years as the first female pastor of the 115-year old Bethel A.M.E. Church in San Antonio, Texas having been appointed there by Bishop John R. Bryant in 1997. With this appointment, Bishop Sarah became the first woman in Texas to be appointed to a major A.M.E. Church. Also in 1997, Bishop Sarah became the first woman in the Connectional A.M.E. Church to be appointed chair of a Board of Examiners, serving as Chair of Board of Examiners for the Tenth Episcopal District (State of Texas).

She currently serves as the presiding prelate of the 16th Episcopal District, comprised of churches and schools in South America (Guyana and Suriname); Windward Islands (Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados and Grenada); the Caribbean Islands (Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Virgin Islands); and Europe (London and France). Prior to serving in the 16th District, Bishop Sarah was assigned to the 18th Episcopal District comprised of the Southern African countries of Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland and Mozambique. While in Africa she introduced the first Summer Science and Math Institute program in Lesotho to help develop capacity for students and teachers. During her four years in the 18th District, Bishop Davis was a champion for orphaned and vulnerable children. Under her leadership the Selulasandla Vashti Village, an 18th District sponsored orphanage, grew in capacity from 4 to 21 orphans. In April 2008, Bishop Sarah dedicated the first A.M.E. Church-sponsored orphanage built in the mountains of Mokhotlong in the country of Lesotho: The T’sepong Cecelia Williams Bryant Home.

Bishop Davis was unanimously elected to the office of Chair of the Global Development Council (GDC) of the A.M.E. Church. The GDC promotes collaboration, cohesion, and cultural integration of all AME churches in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South America, and Europe, with the AME churches in the USA.

She was appointed convener of the Strategic Planning Committee of the WMC Executive Council in Sydney, Australia in 2007, and her Committee will make its first report to the Executive Council in September 2009 in Santiago, Chile.

Bishop Sarah is well prepared and trained to perform in all areas of her life’s calling, having earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Southern Methodist University Perkins School of Theology, a Master of Divinity from the Houston Graduate School of Theology, a Master of Science from New York Pace University, and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Texas.

Bishop Sarah and her husband Claytie Davis, Jr., a retired manager of Southwestern Bell, are both from of Port Arthur, Texas. Mr. Davis serves as the Episcopal Supervisor for the 16th Episcopal District. They have two sons, a daughter in love, and one grandchild: Corey B. Davis, Dr. Claytie Davis, III, wife Yolanda and their daughter, Alexandra Morgan Davis.