

**CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NEW YORK-WASHINGTON REGION**

**7TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT ELNORA P. HAMB HEALTH INITIATIVES REPORT
G. BERNICE RICHARDSON, EPISCOPAL COORINATOR**

The **Elnora P. Hamb Health Initiatives of the Women's Missionary Council of the CME Church** is a partnership with the **Balm In Gilead**. The purpose of the **Health Initiative** is to train, educate, inform and serve as an advocacy for our local congregations to be aware of life threatening health issues. We have been in a continuing partnership with the **Balm In Gilead** through the **African American Denominational Leadership Health Initiative** since **March 2005**. **Dr. Sonia P. Brown, DNP, ANCP-BC**, from St. John CME Church is the Women's Missionary Council National Chair.

November 14-17, 2017, I along with Dr. Sonia P. Brown and Roberta Bell attended the **Healthy Church 2020 National Conference** at the Westin Resort Hotel in Hilton Head, SC. **Healthy Churches 2020** is a National Multi-Platform Initiative bringing Faith and Public Health together to help eliminate Health Disparities affecting African-Americans. The conference was action packed with Health Workshops, Institutes, Exhibitors and Praise and Worship. Bishop Teresa E. Jefferson-Snorton led the daily Morning Devotions. Our own Bishop James B. Walker was the Master of Ceremonies for the Prayer Breakfast. Rev. Laura Wilson, former pastor of Faith CME Church in Charlotte, NC was one of 5 pastors who received the 2017 Best Practice Health Ministry Award. I was blessed not only with a wealth of information on health to share with our churches but, with a Spiritual experience. Healthy Church 2020 has a power point presentation of the conference that is available on line. This year's the Healthy Churches 2020 Conference will be held at the Grand Marriott Resort & Spa Hotel, Point Clear, AL from **November 13-16, 2018**. Registration will open Easter Sunday, April 1, 2019. Early registration from **April 1-15th** is **\$225**.

On January 15, 2018, I was on a telephone call with Dr. Sonia Brown and 4 other Episcopal Health Coordinators. They were from the 2nd, 4th, 6th, and 8th Episcopal Districts. We talked about sharing health information with the churches; how to connect with online training; and potential training. We also talk about submitting a resolution to the 2018 General Conference for the CME Church to establish a Health Initiative. The resolution read in part: "for the CME Church to promote health awareness among its members." I am pleased to report the resolution was passed by the General Conference.

Balm In Gilead's Sunday Morning Health Corner is your place to get weekly health information for your congregations and communities. You can click and download the week's featured Health Bulletin to be inserted into the church bulletin. You can get more information on their website: info@balmingilead.org.

We do not know what tomorrow holds, but we do know that our churches and our faith in Jesus as Christ will always be our bridge over troubled waters. I will continue to send information and encourage every church in our Episcopal District to have a Health Ministry. God bless.