

# Bishop Staccato Powell

Presiding Prelate Western Episcopal District AME Zion Church



January 13, 2019

## ***Dare to Believe!***

### **ECUMENICAL FELLOWSHIP: THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

***“I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”***

**- John 17:23 (NIV)**

Bishop Staccato Powell’s ecumenical approach to ministry has been a longstanding and deeply held tenet of his spiritual foundation. His ecumenical reach has a long arm stretched around the world where he serves in a number of ecumenical capacities including his leadership role with the World Council of Churches (WCC).

The World Council of Churches is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Savior according to the scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfil together their common

calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is a community of churches on the way to visible unity in one faith and one eucharistic fellowship, expressed in worship and in common life in Christ. It seeks to advance towards this unity, as Jesus prayed for his followers, "so that the world may believe."

(John 17:21)

As the Vice Moderator co-chairing of the World Council of Churches 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly Planning Committee meeting with His Eminence Metropolitan Gennadios of the Orthodox Church, Bishop Powell’s responsibilities includes

his active participation in the World Council of Churches meeting at the Diocese headquarters in Ayia Napa, Cyprus from January 9-16, 2019.

The Assembly is the "supreme legislative body" of the WCC, and meets every eight years. The formal purpose of the assembly is to review programs and determine the overall policies of the

WCC, as well as to elect presidents and appoint a Central Committee which serves as the chief governing body of the WCC until the next assembly.

The focus of this year's 2019 Planning Committee meeting in Cyprus is to develop central building blocks for the WCC 11th Assembly to take place September 2021 in Karlsruhe, Germany. The 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly Planning Committee (APC) will also discuss the allocation of seats, give input to the spiritual life of the assembly, communication strategies and the local program. Hosted by Metropolitan Vasilios of Ammochostos, Constantia and Ammochostos of the Church of Cyprus, the APC considers gifts and lessons from previous assemblies.

During the planning meeting, the APC received updates from the WCC Central Committee and the WCC Executive Committee, a logistical report from visits to Karlsruhe; and a report on preparation from the German churches. Questions from the Assembly Worship Planning Committee, a subcommittee of the APC were addressed.

The WCC 11th Assembly's theme, *"Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity"* calls churches to join a pilgrimage of justice and peace and unity based on the ecumenical movement

as a movement of love, seeking to follow Christ and witness to Christ's love. This call sets the direction for the WCC in the coming years. All WCC programs aim to support the member churches and ecumenical partners to journey together, promoting justice and peace in our world as an expression of faith in the Triune God. The one human family needs love and needs to love to face our future together.

Bishop Staccato Powell has attended every WCC Assembly since the 7th Assembly that was held in Canberra, Australia, February, 1991. The Assembly has also been held in Harare, Zimbabwe, Porto Alegre, Brazil, and most recently Busan, South Korea.

As the only Zionite to serve two terms on the WCC Central Committee, the governing body of the World Council of Churches, Bishop Powell represented the WCC as an observer in May 2018 at the European Council of Church Assembly in Novi Sad, Serbia, a city on the banks of the Danube River in northern Serbia.

*"Ecumenical engagement is perhaps one of the most important opportunities toward the fulfillment of Jesus high priestly prayer that they might be one,"* said **Bishop Powell**. *Even the theme of the 11th Assembly speaks to the way we are known to be His disciples, by our love."*

Bishop Powell counts it a humbling honor and a personal privilege to serve the Church in this capacity.

Anointed to Serve

**Staccato Powell**

Presiding Prelate

**Note:** *As an ecumenicist, Bishop Powell has served as Vice Chair of the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations for the Presbyterian Church (USA); as well as serving as the Chair and Coordinator of the Great Gathering of the historic African American Methodist communions, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, and Christian Methodist Episcopal Churches. He is a former member of the national Board of the Interfaith Alliance; a former member of the Balm in Gilead Religious Advisory Board; a former member of the National Conference of Community and Justice; a former member of the World Methodist Council and a former member of the Board of Director of Sojourner.*

**About the World Council:** *The World Council of Churches (WCC) is the broadest and most inclusive among the many organized expressions of the modern ecumenical movement, a movement whose goal is Christian unity. The WCC brings together churches, denominations and church fellowships in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world, representing over 500 million Christians and including most of the world's Orthodox churches, scores of Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Reformed churches, as well as many United and Independent churches. While the bulk of the WCC's founding churches were European and North American, today most member churches are in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific. There are now 350 member churches.*

*For more information about the World Council of Churches and the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly Planning Meeting, please visit,*

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-assembly-planning-committee-meets-in-cyprus>

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-releases-theme-for-11th-assembly-christs-love-moves-the-world-to-reconciliation-and-unity>