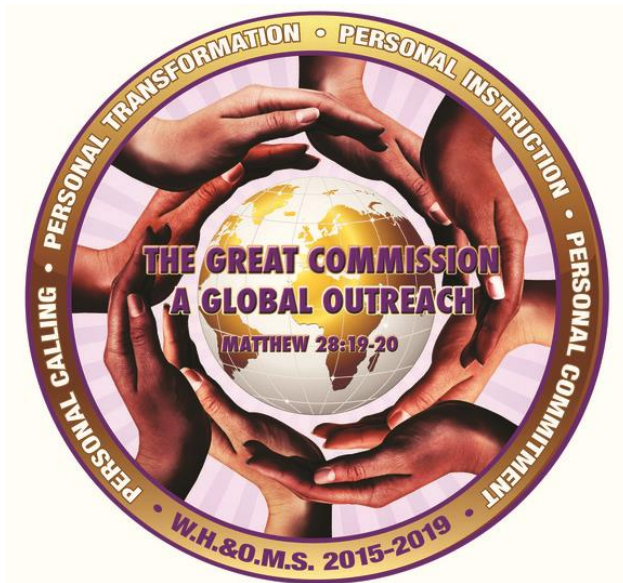


**Women's Home and Overseas  
Missionary Society**  
The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church



**February 12, 2017  
Second Mile Anniversary**

**“Personal Transformation”**

## The Order of Worship

**The Musical Prelude:**

**The Processional:**

**The Congregational Call to Worship:**

**The Invocation:** Loving God, we come to worship today because we love you, and we want to love you more. We come to worship needing love in our lives; love for family, friends, strangers, and enemies. In this hour of worship, touch our hearts, fill our hearts, open our hearts to your love which passes all understanding. Amen.

**The Choral Response:**

**The Hymn of Praise:** “Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”  
#45

**The Responsive Reading:** *1 John 4:7-12*

**The Leader:** **Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**

*People:* *Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

**Leader:** **God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.**

*People:* *In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

**Leader:** **Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.**

*All:* *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.*

**The Gloria Patri:**

#702/703/704

**The Affirmation of Faith:**

*“The Apostle’s Creed”*

**The Scripture:**

**The Prayer:**

**The Choral Response:**

**The Ministry of Kindness:**

**The Announcements:**

**The Choral Selection:**

**The Offerings:** *(include a special appeal for Second Mile Offering)*

**The Hymn of Preparation:**

**The Message:**

**The Invitation to Christian Discipleship:**

**The Hymn of Invitation:**

**The Recessional and Missionary Benediction:**

*God be merciful unto us and bless us and cause His face to Shine upon us and give us peace. Amen.*

Program prepared by:  
Angela Davis-Baxter, First Vice President  
Dr. Sandra L. Gadson, International President

**Dr. Theodora Shippy Smith**  
**Conceived Idea of Agape Sunday Celebration)**

Dr. Theodora Shippy Smith former 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society founded the Agape Sunday Celebration, a Second Mile Offering to support missions work . In 1982 the Agape Sunday Celebration was inaugurated to be held on the second Sunday in February. The Agape Sunday Celebration provides an opportunity for every A.M.E. Zion Church to be involved concurrently in an annual, love-in-action, worldwide worship service each second Sunday in February.

In addition, Dr. Smith envisioned and designed the official banner for the Society. The banner, a needle-point painting made of gold and purple, Persian wool yarn, serves as a lasting and sacred symbol of the missionary movement in the A.M.E. Zion Church. She also represented the W.H.O.M. Society and served as the secretary of the executive committee on The North America Area of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. Dr. Smith founded the celebration of World Federation Day held in Lancaster County, South Carolina. A report of the celebration was reprinted in the first edition of the North America Area Handbook to be used as a model for future celebrations of World Federation Day.

Theodora Smith, a native of Gaffney, South Carolina, currently resides in Lancaster, South Carolina. She earned the Baccalaureate Degree at South Carolina College, the Master of Science at Winthrop College and the University of South Carolina. She was the first Black woman administrator in the unitary Lancaster school system. For twelve Years (1972-1984), Theodora Smith served as Director of Federal Projects at Lomax-Hannon Junior College, Greenville, Alabama. Among her many awards and citations, Mrs. Smith received an award for Outstanding Service in Christian Missions at home and overseas, Who's Who Among Black Americans and was awarded the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree by Clinton Junior College in 1994.

**Dr. Smith believes that “The essence of being here is to love and serve Him and His people”.**

Source: Historical Highlights, Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society: Mattie Wilson Taylor

Sources: [www.leadingworship.com](http://www.leadingworship.com)  
[www.worshipcalls.blogspot.com](http://www.worshipcalls.blogspot.com)

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