



**DEPARTMENT OF LAY MINISTRY**  
**OF THE**  
**CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**



**RESOLUTION**

***Retired Senior Bishop William Henry Graves, Sr.***

God is a God of order. . . He truly has the first and last word in all thing; when those who we love pass on to a better life, God lights our path to healing and peace. He can keep, direct, strengthen, and comfort us in our time of need, thus, giving those who remain opportunities to be a blessing to the lives of others.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Department of Lay Ministry of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church pauses on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2019, to acknowledge the home-going and remember the legacy of our beloved Retired Senior Bishop William Henry Graves, Sr., - one who meant so much to so many. Bishop Graves was a dedicated, innovative, and compassionate man, - one who loved God and family, - and for that, we applaud his sense of loyalty and priority; as a man who believed in hard work and accountability, we applaud his sense of duty; as one who believed in his world and community, we applaud his sense of caring; and as one who was a symbol of courage, we applaud his strength and tenacity. -- There is a song written by Sullivan Pugh, entitled, "The Work I've Done". Mr. Pugh captured in this wonderful gospel hymn, the essence of one who wishes to be remembered, not by what they say, nor by what others may say about them, but the desire is to be remembered by the work that has been done, by the life that has been lived, and by the service that has been rendered. . . This song is a testament to the life of Retired Senior Bishop William Henry Graves, Sr. - The world is a better place because of him . . . Retired Senior Bishop Graves' faithful service to the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church was marked with commitment, honesty, determination, and consistency; his caring sharing spirit impacted countless thousands and his willingness to offer a word of encouragement and provide assistance to others serve as a lasting witness for the life that he lived. We are, therefore, thankful to God for what he meant and continues to mean in our personal lives and the life of our great Zion.

**BE IT LASTLY RESOLVED and DECLARED** that Lay Men and Women of the CME Church and the entire world are better for having known Retired Senior Bishop William Henry Graves, Sr. While his earthly service and encouragement will be missed, we take consolation in knowing that he is now resting comfortably in the arms of our heavenly father. Please be assured that a copy of this resolution will be provided to the family and a copy will be kept in the records of the Department of Lay Ministry of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Rest in Peace Sir . . .

**Respectfully and Humbly Submitted**

*Dr. Clifford L. Harris, General Secretary*  
*Department of Lay Ministry*

*Dr. Barbara C. Campbell, President*  
*Connectional Lay Ministry Council*

*Bishop Marvin Frank Thomas, Sr.*  
*Chairman, Department of Lay Ministry*

*Senior Bishop Lawrence L. Reddick III*  
*Christian Methodist Episcopal Church*