

LAW from 2016 General Conference Emanuel 9 Commemoration

Create a means by which the tragic event of June 17, 2015 at Emanuel A.M.E., Charleston, S.C., will become part of the knowledge of future generations of A.M.E. Church members.

Rationale

1. Annually remember and honor those brutally murdered during Bible study at Emanuel A.M.E. Church, Charleston S.C., June 17, 2015.
2. Future members of the A.M.E. Church should know the details of this tragedy as well as they will know of the events that fostered the founding of the A.M.E. Church.
3. Remind future generations of the need for eternal vigilance against violence and hatred at all times, even during worship within the sanctuary.
 - a) Current Text
 - b) Proposal to Remember the Emanuel Martyrs & Survivors
 - c) Every congregation of the A.M.E. Church will conduct yearly a brief ceremony to remember the nine members of Emanuel A.M.E. Church, Charleston, S.C., brutally murdered on June 17, 2015 during Bible Study [Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Clementa C. Pinckney (41), Tywanza Sanders (26), Daniel Simmons (74), Sharonda Coleman-Singleton (45), Myra Thompson (59)] as well as the survivors Felicia Sanders, Polly Sheppard, Jennifer Pinckney and 2 minors.
 - d) This ceremony will be conducted during Sunday worship service, until perpetuity. Each congregation will conduct the ceremony under independent guidelines. The ceremony will be conducted on the immediate Sunday following June 17, except those years when June 17 is on Sunday, in which case the ceremony will be held on June 17.