

# Literary Report

## Ninth Episcopal District R.A.Y.A.C. Mid-Year Session

**Saturday, April 25, 2026  
St. John AME Church  
Montgomery, Alabama**

**To: Bishop Juluis H. McAllister, Jr., Supervisor Deana Young McAllister, General Officer Rev. Brian K. Blackwell, Council of Presiding Elders, Leadership on all levels and to the Laity of the 9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District:**

Grace and peace be unto you in the name of Jesus Christ, who calls every generation into purpose, service, and holy responsibility.

The **Ninth Episcopal District Richard Allen Young Adult Council** assembled in Mid-Year Session with hearts of expectation and minds fixed on the future.

The council gathered to examine the present condition of the work, celebrate progress already made, and discern the direction necessary for continued growth.

Four questions were placed before the assembly:

- What progress have we made?
- What structures are now in place?
- Who have we reached?
- What requires our attention now?

Those questions shaped the tenor of the session.

Across the district, evidence was shared that the work of R.A.Y.A.C. is alive and advancing. In several conferences, young adults are being organized, local leadership is emerging, fellowship opportunities are being created, and fresh energy is returning to ministries that once stood dormant. New relationships are forming. Churches are re-engaging. Young adults are beginning to see themselves not as spectators in Zion, but as builders of its future.

The body also recognized that progress does not remove responsibility. While gains have been made, greater intentionality is still required. Many congregations need a clearer understanding of the mission of R.A.Y.A.C. Communication must be strengthened. Young adults who have drifted from church life must be pursued with compassion and relevance. Structures must move from informal enthusiasm to sustainable organization.

The presence of Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr. added encouragement to the hour. His support affirmed that the work of young adults remains vital to the life of the Ninth Episcopal District. His words reminded the council that vision requires movement, and support follows those willing to labor.

Particular attention was given to the future leadership of the organization. Rev. Thornton shared the importance of orderly succession and announced plans to prepare for elections during the **2026 Christian Education Congress**. It was affirmed that healthy leadership knows how to build, serve, and then make room for what is next. The future of R.A.Y.A.C. must be marked by continuity, integrity, and prepared leadership.

The council also turned its eyes toward broader opportunities beyond the district. Conversation centered around participation in Connectional gatherings, expanding district visibility, and creating stronger fellowship across conference lines. It was clear that the body desires not merely to survive, but to grow in influence, excellence, and unity.

Throughout the meeting, one truth remained evident: young adults are not the church of tomorrow only—they are a force for today. Their gifts, insight, creativity, and witness are needed now.

The session concluded in a spirit of hope. What was gathered in this room was more than discussion; it was resolve. What was spoken was more than commentary; it was commitment. What lies ahead will require prayer, discipline, and collaboration, but the council departed with renewed confidence that the work can and will move forward.

## Action Items

- Prepare for **Ninth Episcopal District R.A.Y.A.C. Elections at the 2026 Christian Education Congress**.
- Establish a **Nominating Committee** in accordance with church order and procedure.
- Continue strengthening conference and local church R.A.Y.A.C. structures.
- Develop a district-wide membership and contact database.
- Increase communication across all conferences.
- Support participation in Connectional R.A.Y.A.C. gatherings and events.
- Expand fellowship opportunities that connect young adults across the district.
- Encourage each conference to identify, mentor, and develop emerging leaders.
- Re-engage young adults who have become disconnected from church life.
- Maintain visible young adult participation in district worship and ministry settings.

Respectfully submitted,

**Rev. Brandon Thornton**

President, Ninth Episcopal District R.A.Y.A.C.