



## FIFTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rt. Rev. Francine A. Brookins, Presiding Prelate

9431 Haven Ave., Suite 100 – PMB 127, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

March 10, 2025

Dear Honorable Members,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Rev. Stacy R. Evans and the Western University Association of the African Methodist Episcopal Church regarding House Bill No. 2398. As the Bishop of the 5th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, I represent over 300 churches across 16 states, encompassing a significant portion of the AME Church's global membership of approximately 2.5 million adherents. This district alone includes tens of thousands of members who work together on a common mission.

The Rev. Stacy R. Evans, as the Chairperson of the Western University Association of the A.M.E. Church, has been a stalwart steward of the Quindaro Ruins, a site of immense historical significance as a Federally Designated National Commemorative Site and an Underground Railroad property. The AME Church's commitment to preserving such sites aligns with our broader mission to honor our heritage and contribute to the cultural richness of our communities.

I strongly endorse Rev. Evans' efforts to ensure that any legislative actions, such as those proposed in HB 2398, acknowledge the private ownership of the Quindaro Ruins by the Western University Association of the A.M.E. Church. It is crucial that our organization is included in decision-making processes regarding the allocation and utilization of state funds for this project. This collaboration will ensure that state-funded initiatives complement our ongoing preservation efforts and development plans.

The AME Church's history and mission emphasize community engagement, preservation of historical sites, and collaboration with local and national institutions. By supporting Rev. Evans and the Western University Association, we reinforce these values and contribute to the preservation of Kansas' historical landmarks.

I urge you to consider the amendments suggested by Rev. Evans to ensure that HB 2398 aligns with our vision for Quindaro's future. With these adjustments, we can fully support this bill and work together to preserve Quindaro's legacy for generations to come.

Sincerely,

*Francine Brookins*

Bishop Francine A. Brookins  
Presiding Prelate of the Fifth Episcopa District