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TCR NEWS BREAK: African Methodist Episcopal Church Statement on the Death of Former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

A Statement on the Death of Former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
from
The Council of Bishops
The African Methodist Episcopal Church

5 December 2013

The African Methodist Episcopal Church bows in respect and humility as God has called former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela to the portal of eternity.

President Mandela embodied Christ's call for us to be the "Salt of the earth." He changed his country and the world through his steadfast faith and his commitment to freedom and justice.

As a church in the Methodist tradition coming to South Africa over 100 years ago through the ministry of the Reverend Mangena Maake Mokone and the vision of Mother Charlotte Manye Maxeke, the African Methodist Episcopal Church shared in the struggle for freedom. From around the globe, we stand in unity with our brothers and sisters who mourn the passing of this giant.

President Mandela is close to our hearts and a model of the power of faith and reconciliation. He exemplified and inspired our own values of liberation and reconciliation.

While we mourn his loss, we thank God for his life well-lived. Our prayers are with the Mandela Family and all of the Republic South Africa through this time of sorrow. We pray the citizens of the world will find comfort through the Holy Spirit and rise from the ashes of grief to the cause of freedom and justice.

+Jeffrey N. Leath

128th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church,

Acting President of the Council of Bishops

The African Methodist Episcopal Church
