



December 6, 2013

**The Connectional Lay Organization Online**  
Bishop William Phillips DeVeaux Sr, Lay Commission Chairman  
Dr. Willie C. Glover, President of the Connectional Lay Organization  
Mrs. Eileen S. Warner, CLO Online Administrator

A Statement on the Death of  
**Former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela**  
from  
**The Connectional Lay Organization**  
African Methodist Episcopal Church



While the death of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela saw one of the brightest lights in the world go out yesterday, we will cherish the memory of not only a champion of justice and freedom but more importantly a loving and caring person for all people. We join in the global mourning of his passing and celebrate the life of this great man.

On one of my trips to South Africa, Karen and I visited the prison where he spent 27 years in confinement. We marveled at how he endured such terrible conditions but realized God had a work for him. May God be with his family and the world as he rests from labor to reward. His favorite poem was "Invictus" and he truly lived his life with faith and courage in the face of adversities. -Dr. Glover

[Willie C. Glover, Ph.D., President](#)

*Connectional Lay Organization  
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

**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, we 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 of 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  
128<sup>th</sup> Bishop  
Acting President  
The Council of Bishops  
The African Methodist Episcopal Church

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