

State of the Fellowship Address and Keynote Message

18th Annual UFCCM Conference June 22-24,2022

Convening with Headquarters Jurisdiction Charlotte, North Carolina
Her Grace Bishop Shirley A. Tindal, Jurisdictional Bishop

Theme Scripture: 1st Corinthians 15:58

Theme: “STEADFAST, UNMOVABLE, ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN CHRIST”

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1st Corinthians 15:58 KJV)

First and foremost, we give the highest honor to our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ of God. It is because of His benevolence, expressed in His Grace and Mercy that we are alive and well and are able to once again assemble and share together to Praise, Worship, and magnify the Lord.

To The United Fellowship of Christian Ministries Episcopal Board of Bishops: Our First Assistant Chairman of the UFCCM Bishop William J. Strong; Our First Executive Chairman Bishop H. D. Haywood; Our lovely Secretary General Bishop Shirley Tindal; Bishop Don G. Banks, Dean of the UFCCM Sacred College of Bishops; and fellow Ordinaries of the Episcopal Board of Bishops, Primate of the Sacred College of Bishops, General Overseer Henry A. Tindal, Jr., and Jurisdictional Overseers, National Ministry Officials, Pastors, Elders, Ministers, and all Affiliates and members of this wonderful, God appointed and anointed Fellowship.

We thank The Lord for this opportunity to see once again each of you face to face as well as to meet others for the first time. Since we met last, all of us have had in one way or another to cope with the devastating and dreaded worldwide Pandemic but look where God has brought us. Since we were together in 2019 at the beautiful and spacious Greater Realness Cathedral in Monroe, Louisiana, over a million people in the United States have died as a result of the Pandemic, But God! Some of us were infected and almost died, But God! People who never thought that they would have to get in line to get

food for their families have had to line up, But God! We have had shortages of almost everything you can think of, But God! Remember trying to find hand sanitizer, hand towels, napkins, or even toilet paper? Even now nervous mothers are struggling to baby formula, But God! We look back at wearing masks or face shields, shutdowns, and shut-ins, But God!

In spite of all that we have endured, here we are. The Pandemic did not stop us from having church but caused us to find different ways to have church. We learned how to have **ZOOM** Church! Bishop Banks was having **Parking Lot** Church! Bishop Strong and a number of you were having **Social Distance** church. You had to call ahead to get a seat at Bread of Life Cathedral in Wisconsin, but they kept on preaching the Gospel, praising, and worshipping God! There is an old song that comes to mind which asks the question, ***“How I got over, my soul looks back and wonder, how I got over?”*** Let me be the first to tell you that we do not wonder at all about how we got over! If it had not been for the Lord on my side...

It has become more and more clear to us why the Holy Spirit spoke into my spirit and revealed the theme of our Conference. He said that we are to remain **STEADFAST, UNMOVEABLE, ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN CHRIST. We can report to you this morning, relative to the State of the Fellowship, We are STEADFAST, We are UNMOVABLE, and We are ALWAYS ABOUNDING in CHRIST!**

The Lord has appointed and assigned to the UFCCM a cadre of dedicated, loyal, dependable, sacrificing, talented, and anointed, leaders, filled with the Spirit and the letter, who continue to give of themselves to the vision of this **evening light** ministry. We are firm in our responsibilities to serve as a covering body within the Body of Christ. We remain committed to making available resources that may help member churches and affiliates in the development and growth of their respective ministries. We continue to offer opportunities via our various National Ministries that are designed to educate, enlighten, enrich, and encourage. The foundation of all that we do and offer is based upon the Holy Scriptures, and we will not budge from the truth of God's Word. Jesus said in John 8:32, ***“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*** God's word is truth. Jesus also said in John 14:6 ***“I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh***

unto the Father, but by me.” If you do not want to follow Jesus, then you are with the wrong crowd. You may as well get off now! We are a Fellowship of Bible believing, like-minded, God-fearing believers drawn together by what we all hold, based upon the Word of God to be true and **we will not allow Satan to divide us** over issues that have nothing to do with our salvation. We are determined to continue to remain united and fulfill the mission that has been entrusted to us. We may come from different backgrounds, and do things differently, but at the end of the day we are devoted to “Thus said the Lord.” One God, One Faith, and One Baptism.

We desire to speak of the extraordinary contributions of time, talents, energy, money, encouragement, commitment, and camaraderie of each of you who in your individual ways are continuing to make the UFCCM the Fellowship that it is. We have a Board of Bishops that are visionaries, joyously working together throughout the year to see that this work be a blessing and inspiration to all.

Please permit me to speak of our dear Mother Bishop. We do not do so because she is the dear wife and the one and only love of the Ecumenical Patriarch, (**which I might add is a full-time job**) but we do so because we know firsthand her dedication to the tasks to which she has been entrusted. Just serving as UFCCM Secretary General is a major work. She keeps detailed records of every cent that comes into the UFCCM as well as what goes out. Every penny is accounted for and verified by the Episcopal Board of Bishops annually in our Episcopal Conclave. She works hard as the Presiding Bishop of the Headquarters Jurisdiction, Chairlady of the UFCCM Ordination Committee, Chairlady of the UFCCM Planning Committee, Editor of the UFCCM National Newsletter and Editor of the Headquarters Jurisdiction Messenger and Newsletter. She even serves as secretary of most of the above-named committees. Yet, you never hear her complain. She truly exemplifies being **Steadfast, Unmoveable, Always Abounding in the work of the Lord**. Can we just arise and give her a round of appreciation?

We must give honor where honor is due and to all of you, serving in your own way, faithfully doing the work of ministry to which God has appointed you, please know that you are not forgotten or overlooked. We may not call your name or speak of the splendid work that you are doing, but it is because of **you** that we are able to report that the **UFCCM**

is ALIVE AND WELL, STRIVING AND THRIVING, GOING AND GROWING. The Pandemic has not stopped us! You have been building your ministries, pastoring your churches, as well as supporting our Fellowship!

1. Bishop Strong and The Midwest Jurisdiction for adding a new Overseer from the See of Bishop H.D. Haywood's Bread of Life Cathedral, namely Overseer David Allmann whose Ministry, Holy End Times Ministry, has also affiliated with the UFCCM.
2. The Midwest under these two great Bishops:
Received Episcopal Dispensation to Consecrate two New Bishops:
 - Bishop Timothy Hood: The Word Church in Kansas City, Missouri, whose church is a full Affiliate Church in the UFCCM
 - Bishop Patrick Stubbs who Pastors four churches: Mt. Pleasant, St Paul and New Star Missionary Baptist churches in Louisiana and New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Eudora, Arkansas. (Please stand)
 - Bishop Strong is assisting Pastor McDade-Baker in Milwaukee Wisconsin, with the continuation of the work of her late husband Bishop Baker.
3. In Louisiana Bishop Don Banks has been appointed as the New Dean of the UFCCM Sacred College of Bishops and has added another beautiful campus and well-appointed Church in Bastrop, Louisiana to the expansion of the Greater Realness Cathedral in Monroe, Louisiana.
4. The Southwest Jurisdiction has received into the UFCCM the **One Way to Heaven Church and Ministry** from Shreveport, Louisiana under the dynamic pastorate of Pastor and First Lady James Presentine (Please stand)

5. The Headquarters Jurisdiction under the leadership of the lovely and Elect-Lady, Bishop Shirley Tindal, has been on the move and is in expectation of continued growth. She currently presides over churches and ministries in New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland, and North and South Carolina. She is covering the Southeast Jurisdiction while Bishop Kramer is on Sabbatical.

The Pandemic is not stopping us! It actually presented an opportunity for us to explore other ways to have church and use technology in our ongoing mission of spreading the gospel and ministering to the saints.

We thank you for your **faithful financial** support of the UFCCM. Some of you send in your assessments like clockwork. We never have to remind you to do so. Some of you are like old fashioned cars. You need a little “**cranking,**” but it gets you “**running!**” Please know that **your assessments allow us to continue this work.** If you are not current with your assessments, resolve to prioritize your support of this work. **Your assessment in the fertile soil of the UFCCM are seeds that we can guarantee will bring forth a harvest! There must be a planting to get a harvest!** We thank our faithful Partners who pledged to send in a monthly donation of twenty-five dollars and have not missed doing so since making their promise. We wish to thank three UFCCM partners, **who probably do not wish us to call their names,** for their donations towards this conference in the amount of fourteen hundred dollars. The Secretary General’s Annual Report to the Episcopal Board of Bishops **details the benevolent impact** that the UFCCM makes during disasters, donations to affiliate churches when requested, and other acts of ministry. **We are transparent in our business,** and you may make a request to your Jurisdictional Bishop for information if you desire to review our financial statements.

We thank the Bread of Life Cathedral of Hope of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, pastored by Bishop and Bishop-Elect Haywood for tithing from their weekly Church offerings. Their obedience to the leading of the Lord to do so is consistently manifested in the growth and impact of their Church and Ministry in their community and in the individual lives of the saints. We are witnesses with them that **when the Lord tells you to do something, just do it!** Do not try to figure out the outcome or see if you can do it. **That is not faith! That**

is strategy!! Faith is going forth when you do not know what lies ahead! Checking Google before you go is strategy! Taking God at his word is Faith. Remember it is easy to say, **“we walk by faith and not by sight,”** but when you are always looking for every reason why you should or should not obey God, that, is not walking by Faith!!!

We must take a moment and give special thanks to all of the faithful Prayer Team Leaders, who are instrumental in the success of the UFCCM Monthly **24-Hour-Non-Stop Prayer Meeting**. They are supported by their Pastors and Jurisdictional Bishops and Prayer Participants who every month for many years have kept this Prayer Meeting going.

When we think of the Theme of our Conference this year, **Steadfast, Unmoveable, Always Abounding in Christ**, we realize that we are where we are because of **Prayer**. **Prayer** holds us together. **Prayer** keeps us grounded. Prayer keeps us united and continuously manifesting the presence of God in this Fellowship. **Prayer keeps us Steadfast. Prayer keeps us Unmoveable! Prayer keeps us Always Abounding in Christ.**

Being Steadfast means that regardless of the situation, regardless of the circumstances, regardless of the apparent outcome, **ON CHRIST THE SOLID ROCK WE STAND! Jesus** brought us to where we are, and He will carry us through! In 1st Corinthians, chapter 15, in addition to summarizing the first epistle to the Corinthians the Apostle Paul gave the lengthiest treatise on the resurrection of the believers' body recorded in the **Bible**. If you want the facts go to the **Bible! The Bible is the greatest book that has ever been written. There is no other book like it. It contains the greatest story ever told! It is so deep that the most brilliant scholar can dive into it and never reach the bottom, yet it is so shallow that a babe can go in it and never drown. The Bible is about God who is Almighty yet has not seen everything. God has never seen anyone greater than himself. God has never seen anyone who paid a higher price for sin than his Son! God has never seen a sinner that can save himself, and he has never seen a sinner whom His Son cannot save. Jesus paid a debt that He did not owe, for a debt that we could never pay.** God revealed himself through forty-four authors over a period of sixteen hundred years through sixty-

six books yet never used a writing instrument. 2nd Peter 1:21 says, *“For the prophesy came not in old time by the will of man: but Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”* God dictated Two Testaments, the Old Testament, and the New Testament. He hid the New Testament in the Old Testament and revealed the Old Testament in the New Testament.

God told Paul to write the first book of Corinthians. In the 15th chapter of 1st Corinthians God told Paul to reveal the Old Testament truth concerning the **resurrection of the believers’ body**. This was a mystery which had been hidden in the Old Testament until in the New Testament it was revealed by the resurrection of the body of His Son Jesus, who was the first fruit of them that sleep! That is why Paul wrote in verses 51 and 52 of 1st Corinthians, *“Behold, I shew you a **mystery**; We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump...”*

In verse 58 Paul summated God’s instructions to every born-again believer in thirty words: *“Therefore my **beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.**”* Our instruction from God was to remind the UFCCM of three of those words. **STEADFAST, UNMOVEABLE, ABOUNDING!** Whenever you see in the Bible the number **three** or multiples of **three** such as **thirty** or **three hundred**, give special attention! Example: The ark was three stories, Thirty cubits high, three hundred feet long and had enough room for every animal God had made. Luke said in chapter three of his gospel that Jesus was about thirty when he began his Ministry and was around thirty- three and six months old when he was crucified yet shed enough blood to save whosoever will!

- Three mentioned 485 times
- Thirty mentioned 174 times
- Three hundred mentioned 96 times
- Three Thousand mentioned 60 times
- Thirty Thousand mentioned 40 times

Three is the number of the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Genesis 1:1 says, In the beginning **ELOHIM** created the heavens and the earth. The word used there for God is **Elohim**. **Elohim is a plural noun** and appears **2572** times in the Bible. **In English** when we say **plural**, we mean **two or more**, but in the Bible, **single refers to one**, **dual refers to two or more**, but **plural refers to three or more**. Elohim includes all three persons of the Godhead. The TRINITY was involved in creation. 1st John 5:7 says, *“For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”* 1st John 5:8 says *“And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.”* Three signifies: completeness, perfection, harmony, wisdom, understanding, time, past, present, future, birth, life, death, beginning, middle, end, and **Resurrection!** It was on the **third** day that Jesus was resurrected by the Holy Ghost.

God is saying saints be **STEADFAST**. That means first of all be rooted and grounded in the truth. Colossians 2:6-7 says, *“As ye therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him. Rooted and built up in him and stablished in the faith...”* **Jesus said in Matthew 15:13 “: Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.”** You see before you can be steadfast you must first be planted. As long as you are rolling from pillar to post you are not steadfast. You grow where you are planted. You heard the old adage, “a rolling stone gathers no moss!” Steadfast means be planted with deep roots.

- Example of the tumbleweed. As soon as it is mature it detaches from its roots and goes wherever the wind blows it.
- Example of the taproot in Psalms 1: 3: *“And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”*
- **Steadfast means grounded and yet it means being adaptable!** You can be STEADFAST and adaptable at the same time. Times change! Customs Change! **YES**, Clothes Styles Change, Hair styles Change. It is all right to

embrace and adapt to CHANGE, But, the **Foundation of Salvation**, does not change. You and I change, but TRUTH, and Holiness remains the same.

- The Word of the Lord does not change! God does not Change. **Malachi 3:6** says, ***“For I am the Lord, I Change not...”***, Hebrews **13:8** says, ***“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”*** God did not like sin yesterday and he does not like it today! You can be as pretty as you want but God does not wink his eye at your homosexuality or your lesbianism. Somebody got to preach against this pollution!! God called it sin and my Bible says in **Romans 6:23** ***“For the wages of sin is death..”***
- Stop **judging** folk by what you see! Somebody sees YOU! **Jesus said in Matthew 7:1**, ***Judge not, that ye be not judged.”***

It takes a lot of preparation to be a judge. One needs to master the intricate complexities and abstract spirit and letter of the law and be familiar with legal rulings. To be a judge one must be considered to be of good character and have experience in a broad array of legal matters. A judge hears a case before passing a verdict! Yet newborn babes in Christ can come to church and you, so **sanctified**, you take one look at “em” and pass a verdict.

- God says **Be UNMOVEABLE! Being STEADFAST** has to do with your foundation, or your planting. **UNMOVEABLE** is about your decision to stay where the Lord has planted you! **The Word says, Ephesians 4:14** ***“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.”*** The Apostle Paul had to warn the early saints about those who come around with the intention of causing the saints to move from the truth by which they were saved. In fact, he wrote to the saints at the church in Galatia and mentally spanked them, calling them foolish to be so soon moved by legalizers who wanted them to leave the freedom of Christ to go back under the bondage of the law. He was so infuriated with them that he told them, **Galatians 1:8-9**, ***“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed....If any man preach any other***

gospel unto you then that ye have received , let him be accursed. That word accursed means anathema maranatha!

The word unmovable is almost the same as the word steadfast, but there is a difference. **STEADFAST** means being **FIRMLY FIXED IN YOUR OWN CONVICTION.** **UNMOVEABLE** is translated from the Greek word "*metakineo*," and means do not be moved by others. Or do not let anything move you away from your place in the Love of Christ! Romans 8:38 says, "***For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***"

- Understand that to be unmovable does not mean being inflexible. Do not be so stiff and mean that you fail to be flexible. **You do not have to be "Holier than thou" to get to Heaven! Just be Holy.** 1st Peter 1:15-16 says, "***But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.***" Hebrews 12:14 says, "***Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.***"
- Listen here, saints make mistakes! Can I get real here? Saints are not perfect. The truth hurts, but here it is: **SAINTS SOMETIMES SIN!!! JUST COME DOWN OFF OF THAT HIGH HORSE AND REALISE THAT YOU WILL ALWAYS NEED JESUS TO FORGIVE AND CLEANSE YOU!** In John 13:6-10 we read about how Jesus girded himself and began to wash his disciples' feet. When he got to Peter, Peter said, "***Lord not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.***" Jesus gave a powerful lesson which we need to understand. He said Peter, "***He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit hold...***" In other words when you sin, you have not backslid, God has not discarded you, you just need to get your feet cleansed. You do not need to get resaved! You are already a child of God! Do not throw in the towel and let the devil lie to you and tell you that you cannot live right! Paul said in **Romans 3:23** "***For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.***" 1ST JOHN 1:8-9 says, "***If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.***"

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

We need to finish this message, but the final word to the UFCCM is: **ALWAYS ABOUND IN CHRIST! Never** think that you are saved only to go to Heaven when this life is over. Let me remind you that there is work to be done. Our mission is not just to work, but to abound! And not just to abound, but to **ALWAYS ABOUND in the work of the Lord!** Ecclesiastes 9:9 ***“Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might...”***

- To Abound comes from the Greek word that means to excel, go above and beyond what is expected or required.
- This is the idea that Jude had when he spoke about “earnestly contending.” Give your assignment the best of your effort. If you are an usher, be the best usher. Let it be said of you that there was not a better usher. Musician, choir director, Pastor, Teacher, Overseer, whatever you are do your work with enthusiasm, Do it with Joy! Do it Now!
- Even Jesus said, John 9:4 ***“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”***
- Abound in the Lord’s work until you can say, “I am now ready to be offered and the time of my departure...”

CONCLUSION STATEMENT:

BE YE STEADFAST, UNMOVEABLE, ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN CHRIST!

Humbly submitted,

**Bishop Henry A. Tindal, Sr.
Ecumenical Patriarch, UFCCM
June 22, 2022**