

**Connectional
Youth and Young Adult Conferences
2024**

Fully Free



**Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Department of Christian Education and Formation**

Service Of Departure

**DEPARTURE CEREMONY
For The
Connectional Youth & Young Adult Conferences**

**Greensboro, North Carolina
July 1-5, 2024**

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Order Of Departure Service

Approximately one hour before the schedule of departure, or during Sunday Morning Worship Service, gather the traveling group, preferably in a Sanctuary, or any place that is conducive to corporate worship.

As the travelers enter the designated place or come to the altar, have them go and get acquainted with someone they don't know or don't know well. At the designated time, call all the travelers together and one-by-one have them introduce someone else, sharing basic information. How this is handled will depend on the time available and the number of travelers present.

Song of Reflection

(everyone is silent as a song is played instrumentally or electronically): **If this is not possible, a song leader will lead the group in singing one of the following:**

"O How I Love Jesus", "Sweet, Sweet Spirit", "He Is Lord"

A Call to Focus

Leader: The _____ (church, district, annual conference name) has, out of love poured out its resources to make certain the children, youth, young adults, chaperones, and Christian Education and Formation workers embark upon this journey and attend the Connectional Youth and Young Adult Conference. Therefore, this _____ (Church, District, Annual Conference) desires all to experience "Fully Free."

Travelers: Send us on our way to Greensboro, North Carolina, site of the 2024 Connectional Youth and Young Adult Conference of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Leader: Empower and enable us to follow Christ and to embrace the Spirit of *Fully Free!*

Travelers: Let our faith be born anew, and the living word of God make us new and mature in our hearts.

Song of Response..... Hymn 165....."I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Corporate Prayer

(Small groups of 4-10 persons are to be formed, with at least one chaperone in each group. Each small group will form a circle and join hands with each person in the small group, and each person in the circle will offer a sentence prayer).

Each group may be assigned a different type of prayer, (e.g. thanksgiving, confessions, adoration, petition, supplication, etc.). If the group is less than 10, it is recommended that one group be formed.

Reading of Sacred ScriptureJohn 8:31-32

LITANY OF FULLY FREE

Leader: "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

Travelers: No one can lay any foundation other than the one already which is Jesus Christ.

Leader: We proudly declare ourselves as Fully F.R.E.E. in 2024.

Travelers: Our *focus* remains steadfast on God.

Leader: We seek to *renew* the faith of children, youth, and young adults.

Travelers: We seek to *empower* all who attend through a diverse range of workshops, worship sessions, and wonderful activities.

Leader: We seek to *engage* all children, youth, and young adults.

Leader: In 2024 we hear you call us to be fully free.

Travelers: We are going to Greensboro to learn, grow, and be Fully Free.

Leader: O God, help us to see and know that your call to us to be fully free gives us the opportunity to participate in your work in the world.

Travelers: We are called into a life of Christian Formation, Nurture, Leadership and Mission

Congregation: We now come as brothers and sisters in Christ seeking to be encouragers, supporters, and empowerees of all who embark on this journey.

Leader: The Connectional Youth and Young Conference of the CME Church calls us forward as fully free people.

Travelers: We answer the call with eagerness and hope seeking to carry out the mission of the church.

Leader: Almighty God, free our hearts of all things that might hinder our journey to Greensboro.

Congregation: We now come as brothers and sisters in Christ seeking to be encouragers, supporters, and empowerees of those who embark on this journey.

Leader: O God, help us to remain open to your call upon our lives.

Travelers: May the memory of the words of John 8:31-32 confirm for us the message of formation, nurture, leadership and mission.

Leader: Transform us God; make us open to your Word of truth and life in which your Church entrusts us.

Travelers: Make us your witnesses for those who do not know you.

Congregation: O God, the source of life, we are part of your church, and we are brothers and sisters in Christ who seek now to encourage, support, and empower those who we send to Greensboro this day.

A word is spoken about the theme Fully Free (by a leader determined by the group)

Announcements & Reminders by the Lead/Head Chaperone

Song of Departing

Prayer of Safety, Commitment, Learning and Transformation (A Pastor, if possible)

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of Your Son Our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food through your Word. Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart. Grant that we may show forth our gratitude not only with our lips, but also in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days. We give you thanks for the faith you have given us and for empowering us to share this faith wherever we go, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Now grant us your mercy and grace as we travel. Amen.

Loading of Buses, Cars, Trains, and Planes.