

A Reflection on *Emanuel*: The Documentary

Emanuel is forever etched into the annals of AME Church lore, but is also clawed and seared into the memory of each family member whose life was brutally assaulted by racism, hate and terror on June 17, 2015. It is a story the AMEC would not have volunteered to have been identified. The martyred and the maimed will be remembered for their faith.

We pray that the story of *Emanuel*, the documentary, will serve the redemptive purpose for which the word “forgive” helped to save a city and a state. We have seen the savage violence in the sacred space of Emanuel replicated in other sacred spaces because of racial and religious bigotry. It is our fondest hope and prayer that all who seek spaces of spiritual discipline and contemplation will courageously continue the search, actively pursuing vigil and political vigilance so that we can one day pray and think without the threat of death or harm for reasons of our faith or ethnicity.

Adam J. Richardson, Jr., 115
Senior Bishop
African Methodist Episcopal Church