

LAY COMMUNIQUE

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Special points of interest:

Friday, July 03, 2009

- **Memorial Service**
- **Adjournment**
- **Session Reporters—**
THANKS FOR YOUR
ASSISTANCE AND
SUPPORT

• **Newsletter Staff**

- Mary Silva, Florida
- Connie Jenkins-Pye, Florida
- Carole Croskey, Central
- Ann Woodie, Central
- MaryAnn Thomas, Central
- Marion Bacon White,
Convention Planner, South
- Angela Surcey-Garner, East
- Connie Miller, Central
- Ethel Wooten, Florida
- Nancy K. Sims, South

WORKSHOP II

“When Sheep Squabble”:
Resolving Conflict in the Church.

Sister Linnell Baker, Director of Lay Activities, St. Petersburg District, Workshop Presenter.

Sister Baker began her workshop by providing the definition of “conflict,” and the three major components of conflict. The question was also posed as to your individual style of dealing with conflict.

Those styles included:

- 1) Avoiding;
- 2) Accommodating;
- 3) Competing;
- 4) Collaborating; and
- 5) Compromising.

Information was provided as to some specific guidelines for resolving conflict, suggested strategies included but was not limited to:

- 1) Every side (person) usually has something to say;

- 2) Issues become polarized when there is little or no dialogue;
- 3) High emotions charge the issue;
- 4) Parties focus on differences;
- 5) Parties may become defensive;
- 6) Parties feel their stories are not being heard;
- 7) Parties immediately want to discuss their individual needs;
- 8) Conflict creates emotions and feelings which are barriers to progress.

The workshop presented was an outline of ways to begin to resolve conflicts keeping in mind that open lines of communication is one way to at least begin discussion of issues.



YOUTH / YOUNG ADULT HOUR OF POWER

The YYA Hour of Power began promptly at noon, under the leadership of Mr. Jai Ingraham, YYA Representative. The Hour of Power was presented through a showcase of talented youth and young adults within the 11th Episcopal District.

Program participants included many of the youth and young adults attending the 65th session. Youth and Young Adult registrants totaled 16.

Remarks were given by the Episcopal District DOLA, Patricia Wright and Episcopal

President, Charlie Nichols encouraging the youth and young adults to continue their forward journey with the Lord; and to always stay encouraged.

Reported by Ethel Wooten, Florida Conference

“Five (5) graduating seniors received \$3,000.00 each as recipients of the Selmo Bradley Scholarship.”

The Annual Awards Gala was masterfully planned and superbly presented as the delegation entered the banquet room to the rich sounds of the band “Reflection.”

Warm words of welcome were presented by Central Conference President, Ella M. Wilson, again welcoming the delegation not only to the Central Conference but to the Awards Gala where members from around Florida and the Bahamas are recognized for exhibiting exemplary attributes as Christian Lay Persons.

The Selmo Bradley Scholarship Committee awarded five (5) scholarships to graduating

seniors who plan to attend a historically black college or university. Each scholarship recipient received a scholarship in the amount of \$3,000.00, the recipients were: Olivia Azonobi, FL; Fonda Davis, FL; Kierra Lewis, FL; Martika Moss, South; and Michelle Moultrie, FL.

Lay Persons receiving awards were:

Hall of Fame:
Francine Postell & Madelon King, Central;
Douglas Thomas & Evelyn W. Graham, West Coast;
Minnie Williams & Sam Gaddy, East;
Kay Copeland & Willie J. Wil-

liams, South;
Raymond Jackson, Dorothy Harley & Connie E. Jenkins-Pye, FL;
Anvil Award:
Mae Devoe Fields, East;
Community Service Award:
Valene Croskey, Jr.

The Soldier of the Cross Award is presented by the Episcopal President to the lay person who has provided outstanding services to the organization, church and community during the year. The 2009 recipient was: Pat Wright, Episcopal District DOLA, West Coast Conference.

COMMISSION SESSION(S)

All Commission Directors, Assistant Directors and Commission members were busy throughout the Convention as they held meetings to handle the issues presented to their respective Commissions.

President Nichols made some new appointments to at least one Commission in the persons of Loretta Coppock, East

and Lolita Brown, West Coast Conference.

The Commission on Personnel and Procedure were extremely busy during this session as they worked feverishly to handle a grievance presented to that Commission from one of the Conferences within the Episcopal District.

The grievance as presented was complex and one of first impression, thus, there may have been no procedural history to adequately address the issue to the satisfaction of persons presenting the grievance.

There may be more on this issue within the near future.

• **Newsletter Staff Cont'd**

- Dr. Lee Fowlkes, Central
- Jai Ingraham, YYA Director, South
- Loretta Coppock, East

AWARDS GALA

The Soldier of the Cross Award is presented by the Episcopal President to the lay person who has provided outstanding services to the organization, church and community.



Photos by AJS



A.M.E. MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is to; minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional, and environmental needs of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed. At every level of the Connection and in every local church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church shall engage in carrying out the spirit of the original Free African Society, out of which the A.M.E. Church evolved; that is, to seek out and save the lost, and serve the needy through a continuing program of:

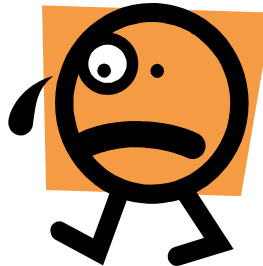
1. Preaching the gospel;
2. Feeding the hungry;

3. Clothing the naked;
4. Housing the homeless;
5. Cheering the fallen;
6. Providing jobs for the jobless;
7. Administering to the needs of those in prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, asylums and mental institutions, senior citizens' homes, caring for sick, the shut-in, the mentally and socially disturbed;
8. Encouraging thrift and economic advancement.

How many areas do you and your church fulfill on this continuum?

If none, do make yourself a committee of one to begin the work of the church and carry-on the Mission of this great church of Allen.

Blessings to each of you as you begin your Mission Journey.



YOUTH / YOUNG ADULT HOUR OF POWER

The EEDLO youth/young adult sponsored "Hour of Power" was opened by their representative, Mr. Jai A. Ingraham who served as worship leader. The South Conference was well represented as Marquis Boyd offered a heart-felt prayer in which he told us that "it doesn't take three hours to praise God!" Maurice Boyd welcomed those in attendance. Bevin James then rendered a "jazzed -up"

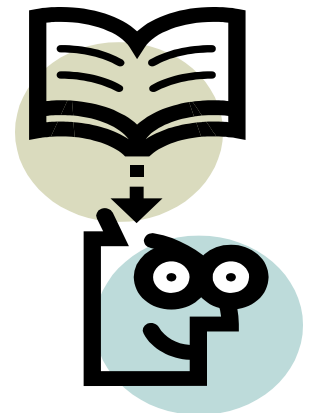
version of "My Faith Looks Up to Thee."

The Holy Scripture was read by Joelishia Banfield and came from Acts 2:17-19. In another display of youth talent, Macy Fields of the East Conference displayed a drawing and gave her interpretation of our relationship with God. The Central Conference was represented by Nicholette Brown and Saman-

tha Armstrong who rendered a praise dance. After the offering Samantha displayed additional talent by singing "His Eye is on the Sparrow."

A poem entitled "I Can't" was read by Marquis Ivy of the South Conference. The grand finale showcased the whistling ability of the worship leader, Jai Ingraham.

Reported by Nancy Kelley Simms, South Conference



GENERAL ASSEMBLY (BUSINESS SESSION)

The business session convened after the bible study. After roll call and the minutes of the previous session, registrar Ann McCelvy reported no change in the number of registrants for the Convention, the count remained at 259 persons registered.

President Nichols called for reports from the Commissions, oral reports were presented to the body with the Directors stat-

ing that written reports would be provided during the next assembly.

All conference presidents met with the Episcopal President and Bishop Young with a request to have a town hall type meeting within the near future; Bishop Young agreed to the meeting. Episcopal District DOLA, Pat Wright asked that the delegation compile questions from concerns that the

Lay have and present them during the meeting tentatively anticipated in June next year.

Lolita Brown was appointed Assistant Director of Program & Activities, and Loretta Coppock was appointed Director.

President Nichols reminded the delegation that Richard Simpson, was selling DVD's of all the sessions, cost \$15.00 per CD/DVD.

Episcopal District Lay
Organization

Charlie Nichols, Episcopal President
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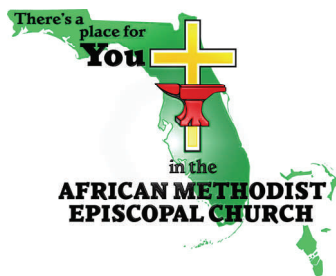
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\$1.00 per copy

*Eleventh Episcopal District
Lay Organization*



**There's a Place for YOU
in the African Methodist
Episcopal Church's
Lay Organization!
Join your local Lay
Organization today!**



65th Annual Convention Mini-Collage



Photos by AJSGarner

TRAVELING PRAYER(S)

Father, we thank you for traveling mercies to this week's Episcopal District Convention. We thank you for your love, mercy, favor and guiding hand as we fellowshipped, worshipped, praised, sang, prayed, discussed, chatted, chewed, worked and slept during this time.



We ask your forgiveness for sins committed through

thought word and deed, by active or passive omission and commission.

As we prepare to leave this place we thank you God for traveling mercies and we thank you for going before us making safe our way to our various homes, and residences.

We thank you now for traveling graces for all the friends and acquaintances made at this convention and for the renewing of friendships from ages past. We thank you for keeping our homes safe during our absence and we thank you for finding them safe upon our return.

We praise you, we thank you, we bless you, we edify and lift you up; we ask all these things in Jesus' name. Amen, amen, and amen.

Florida Conference

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Holy and Divine name.

We come thanking you for the many blessings that you have allowed to be provided to us; we thank you for supplying all our needs according to your riches in Glory.

We thank you for allowing our hands, hearts, minds and bodies to be used by you this week as we've met and conducted the business of this Episcopal District.

As we prepare to depart this place and leave this mountain-top experience, we thank you now for going before us making safe our way until we meet again. In Jesus' Holy Name, Amen.

