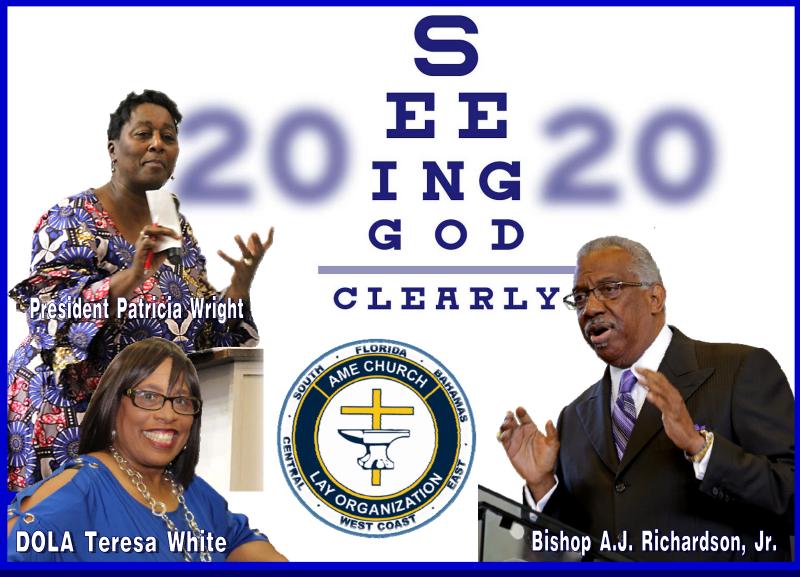
THE ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Lay Organization 76th ANNUAL CONVENTION July 11, 2020



Virtual Annual Convention
SEEING GOD CLEARLY

John 14:7-12



Who is on the Executive Board?

ELECTED OFFICERS 2016-2020

Patricia Wright - President

John W. Love First Vice President

Lother Cherry Second Vice President

Johnnie Hill Third Vice President

Ethel M. Wooten Recording Secretary

Ella Wilson Assistant Recording Secretary

Esther Ferguson Corresponding Secretary

Hugh Yancy, Jr. Treasurer

Priscilla Salter Financial Secretary

Jesse L. Burns Parliamentarian

Teresa White Director of Lay Activities

Deborah Langston Chaplain

Debra Gilliard Historiographer

Mary Silva Director of Public Relations
Robbyn Hopewell Young Adult Representative

CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

Dr. Katheryn Gillis South

Lolita Brown West Coast
Shepherd Myrick Florida
Nicholas Causey East
Adrian McWilliams Central

Valderine Evans Bahamas

STANDING COMMITTEE/COMMISSION CHAIRS

Sharon Causey Statistics & Finance

Donald Russell Organization & Structure

Lucretia McBride Personnel & Procedure
Loretta Coppock Program & Activities

Carolyn Floyd Organization & Officer Effectiveness

PRESIDENTS EMERITI

Charlie Nichols Jesse L. Burns, Jr.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Beulah Gregory *James Honors Tyrone Presley Dr. W. Dean Goldsby

LAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

*Evelyn Graham-President

THE EEDLO PRESENCE IN THE CONNECTIONAL CHURCH

Reginald McGill, Charlie Nichols General Board Members

*non-member of Executive Board

Presidential Salutation ...

To everything there is a season...

Greetings to each of you,

- I am beyond excited to greet and welcome you to our first Virtual Annual Convention! I view this new way of connecting as an opportunity to pique or renew interest in our beloved Lay Organization. I am glad about it!
- A few months ago we were full of the promise and hope that comes with a new year. It appeared that year 2020, a year like many others, would indeed deliver. I mean, really, what could go awry in a year with the numbers 2020? After all, we equate those four numbers, in that order, with acuity or sharpness of vision. Yes, this would be our year, and many of us had grand thoughts about how we would capture and leverage all of the things we had calendared. But then, life happened, and our 2020 vision became a bit obscured.
- Thanks be to God, though we are in the midst of chaotic crises of economy, health and racial unrest, we have not suffered a crisis of faith. We have kept our focus and remained ever more resolved in our commitment to serve and be of service in our mission to teach and to train. As a result, here we are today, unfettered, undaunted, and at the seat of our 76th Annual Convention going full-steam ahead!
- I am grateful to God who far exceeds anything we can ever imagine! Not only are we in this ground-breaking convention, but we have made it the most highly registered in our history, with 532 registrants.
- There are so many who have contributed to the making of this convention. In an effort to not leave anyone out, I simply say, "Thank You, EVERYBODY!" I am appreciative to Bishop Richardson for participating in EVERY Convention since he has been with us. I thank Bishop McCloud and President Makiti for bringing greetings and spending time with us today. Thank you to all who registered and encouraged others to do the same. Thank you for every call, email, word, and/or positive effort expended in support of this work. Thank you to the **ZOOMspert** *team* of Robbyn, Rhoshonda, Ashley, Linnell, led by Teresa, which has coalesced to make the technology appear effortless. The practice classes were key! To guests, leaders, friends and colleagues across the Connectional Church, we celebrate your presence, and invite you to join us again for other events.

Who would have thought we would be here, digitally speaking?

This is our season! If we hold fast to our faith and stay the course, it may take a little stretching or squinting of our eyes, but we will be able to **See God Clearly in 2020!**

GOD IS...

Patricia Wright ~ Prez#8



From the DOLA's Pen...

I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. Psalm 34: 1-3

Greetings:

It is my happy pleasure to welcome each of you to the 76th Session of the Eleventh Episcopal District Annual Lay Convention.

To my Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Family, four years ago I solicited your vote to become your Director of Lay Activities. I vowed to aim to keep the learning banner waving high. I pray I have done just that. Thank you for your vote of confidence.

I am truly blessed to have walked and worked with some very fine laymen. I stand on the shoulders today of so many, many who have gone on to Glory. Thank you my sister, the late Pecie Virginia Johnson, for your example of what a true Christian and layperson should be. To my Lay cheerleaders, my mother, my sister Lenora, my grandson Wintz and Mrs. Inez Harris Brown, thank you for your unwavering support. To Madam President Patricia Wright, you are "That President." Your support is immeasurable. Thank you for taking us places we never thought we could go. You set the bar high but always instilled in us that it was reachable.

And so, as we look back on the past, there are many programs, learning labs and activities that come to mind. One in particular was that of our learning lab in November at our Post Planning meeting. The Topic: "Update or Upgrade." The Objective: To determine ways to better promote our Lay Organization in an effort to increase membership and attendance at all levels.

The Questions to Ponder:

Where were we this time last year? Where are we at this present time? Where do we want to go?

Today we find ourselves at the 76th Virtual Annual Convention of the

Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization with over 500 registered.

To God Be the Glory! "That President," President Patricia Wright's leadership speaks for itself. Because of her leadership and vision, our convention has been "Updated and Upgraded."

Thank you to all who have joined us today. To our invited guests, please know that you are always welcome to The Eleventh.

Peace and love,

Tereso







Cheryl D. Williams

Our Devotion Leader

Born and raised in Lake Wales, FL. Cheryl attributes her strong faith and positive outlook on life to a loving and supportive family. She became keenly aware of the call God had on her life during one of her most challenging times when she experienced debilitating nerve and back pain from a herniated disc and was unable to work or complete normal daily tasks for approximately 4 months. It was during that time that she totally surrendered her life to God and allowed him to guide her to complete healing and restoration both spiritually and temporally.

Cheryl is a kingdom worker and servant leader. Prior to relocating to Georgia, she served as an Associate Pastor of Education and Community Relations at PASSAGE Family Church in Gainesville, Florida under the leadership of Pastor George and Lady Michele Dix. During her tenure at PASSAGE, she held several leadership roles such as an administrator and developer of the Ministers Mentorship Program, a teacher in the Ministerial Leadership and Development Institute, New Believers Training facilitator, adult Sunday school and children's church teacher, and as a team leader in the Ladies of PASSAGE Women's Ministry.

Her professional career spans over 20 years with experience in education through varied teaching and higher education experiences. She currently serves as the Program Director of the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc. and as an Adjunct Professor at Atlanta Technical College. As the Program Director of FFMT, Inc. she is afforded the opportunity to be an advocate for the continued increase in the number of diverse teachers throughout Florida's public schools. She is also the owner and CEO of The Vineyard Consulting, LLC., an educational and leadership development consulting company.

Cheryl earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Florida and a Master of Education from the George Washington University, Washington, D.C. She is the proud mother of two amazing children, Matthew and Jailyn and is a member of the Rho Zeta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Cheryl resides in Marietta, Georgia and is passionate about using the talents and gifts God has given her to encourage and inspire others to die to self and live for Christ.

Our Learning Lab Presenter

The Reverend Henry E. Green, III

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, and raised in Miami, Florida, Pastor Henry E. Green, III accepted the call to the ministry at the age of 18 years old. During the first 5 years of his ministry, he served briefly at New Bethel AME Church in Clewiston, Florida; Person AME Church, Midway, Alabama where he led the congregation in building the first Family Life Center ever built in that community; and Greater St. Mark AME Church in Columbus, Georgia.



Since October 23, 2013, he has served as the Senior Pastor at Payne Chapel AME Church in West Palm Beach, Florida. Besides being the youngest pastor to ever serve Payne Chapel in its 126-year history, Pastor Green has distinguished himself in his leadership at Payne Chapel by not only making attempts to build up the church, but also the community surrounding the congregation. Pastor Green has implemented, since 2014, a community tithing initiative that redistributes 10 percent of the church's income from annual fund raisers to go back into the community through non-profit organizations, small churches, and para-church ministries.

Under his leadership, Payne Chapel has undertaken a million dollars' worth of renovations without placing the travail of any lingering debt onto the congregation. Most notably, the latest project includes the construction of a new elevator, remodeling of the sanctuary and renewal of the church's parking lots.

Rev. Henry E. Green, III, affectionately known as Pastor Trae', or PT for short, was educated in the Miami-Dade County Public School System, by way of Miami Carol City Senior High School. He matriculated at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he earned a B.A. Degree in Sociology. He advanced his studies later at the Interdenominational Theological Seminary, in Atlanta, Georgia, earning a Master's of Divinity Degree. Currently, Pastor Trae' is pursuing a Doctorate of Ministry from United Theology in Dayton, Ohio.

Pastor Trae' is currently a member of the mayor of West Palm Beach's Faith Advisory Council, the Palm Beach Ministerial Alliance, and a Board Member of the Corey Jones Scholarship Committee. He is a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. He is a 2015 inductee into the University of Florida Black Student Alumni "Gator Greats". He has been honored by many local and state organizations for his heart for his community and civic engagements throughout the duration of his ministry. In 2018, Pastor Green Co-authored the book, "Green Pastures" along with three generations of family who also minister the Gospel.

It's been said of Pastor Green, that he puts the "reach" in Preaching. In his soul stirring messages, he always attempts to bring relevance to sacred text by connecting the "ancient" to the "actual". Pastor Green's preaching legacy began with the Patriarch of his paternal family, the late Presiding Elder Rev. Henry E. Green, Sr.

Pastor Green is the son of Rev. Henry E. Green, Jr. and his beautiful mother Jennifer Regina Cason Green. He is married to the love of his life and best friend Heather Anne Green, and together they are the proud and devoted parents of London A. and Henry E. IV.

76th ANNUAL LAY CONVENTION



Saturday, July 11, 2020 ~ AGENDA ~



PERSONS ENTER THE CONFERENCE

7:30 A.M. - 8:00 A.M.

LIGHT MEDITATION & STRETCH

Ms. Isha M. Joseph

8:00 A.M.

MEDITATION ~ SPEAKING PEACE OVER US

Ms. Cheryl Williams

8:20 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Patricia H. Wright

II. ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Ms. Ella Wilson ~ Assistant Recording Secretary

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IV. STANDING RULES

Mr. Donald Russell ~ Organization and Structure

V. REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Anne McCelvey

VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MINUTES

President Wright / Secretary Wooten

VII. GREETINGS FROM AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS & VISITORS
BISHOP ADAM J. RICHARDSON, JR., Presiding Prelate ~ 11th Episcopal District
BISHOP E. EARL MCCLOUD, Connectional Lay Commission Chair
MR. M. ABENEGO MAKITI, Connectional Lay President

VIII. THE ELECTION PROCESS

President Makiti

A. REPORT OF NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Evelyn Graham

B. ELECTION RESULTS / ACCLAMATION

IX. THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President Patricia H. Wright

X. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. John Love

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Ms. Lother Cherry

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Johnnie Hill

YOUNG ADUIT REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Robbyn Hopewell

Honoring Our Frontline Workers Part I

10:00 A.M.

XI. MID-MORNING EMPOWERMENT

Bishop A. J. Richardson, Jr.



76th ANNUAL LAY CONVENTION

Honoring Our Frontline Workers Part 2

10:40 A.M.

XII. HIGHLIGHTS/INFORMATION FROM COMMISSIONS

A. ORGANIZATION AND Mr. Donald Russell

B. PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES Mrs. Loretta Coppock

(AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS)

C. STATISTICS AND FINANCE Mrs. Sharon Causey

D. PERSONNEL AND PROCEDURE Ms. Lucretia McBride

11:00 A.M.

PRESENTATION OF PRESENTER Ms. Rhoshonda Herring

~ East Conference DOLA

LAY LEARNING LAB The Reverend Henry E. Green III

Honoring Our Frontline Workers Part 3

11:45 A.M.

XIII. REPORTS OF CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

EAST ~ BAHAMAS ~ CENTRAL ~ SOUTH ~ FLORIDA ~ WEST COAST

XIV. SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL BRIEF Treasurer/Financial Secretary

XV. LAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM Mrs. Evelyn Graham / designee

XVI. CALL TO CONVENTION

A. EEDLO EXECUTIVE BOARD ~ GAINESVILLE JANUARY 8-9, 2021

B. 77TH CONVENTION ~ GAINESVILLE JUNE 16-19, 2021

C. CONNECTIONAL LAY BREAKFAST JULY 9, 2021

D. BIENNIAL 2021 (DELEGATES) JULY 11-12, 2021

XVII. MEMORIAL MEDITATION

XVIII. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS - PRAYER President Makiti

XIX. REMARKS

XX. ADJOURNMENT/LAY BENEDICTION





Convention Standing Rules

The following are proposed as the Rules governing the 76th Annual Convention of the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization.

- Rule # 1 The 76th Annual Session of the EEDLO shall convene virtually, on July 11, 2020.
- Rule # 2 The program outlined, as adopted by the Convention shall be the official program for the 76th Session.
- Rule # 3 All delegates devices should remain on "mute" while not speaking. While away from your device, your video should be in the off position.
- Rule # 4 The presence of a quorum shall be established by registered delegates participating on the call. The continued presence of a quorum shall be determined by the online number of delegates participating on the call.
- Rule # 5 There shall be a Credentials Committee, appointed by the President, to serve during the convention. The Credentials Committee shall be responsible for the supervision of the accreditation of delegates. The chairperson of the Credentials Committee shall give a preliminary report at the beginning of the convention.
- Rule # 6 There shall be a Registration Committee, appointed by the President, to serve during the convention.

 All delegates must register via the EEDLO Web-site, and pay the appropriate fees established.

 Registration for the 76th Virtual Session shall open on May 31, 2020 and end June 28, 2020.
- Rule # 7 There shall be an Election Committee, appointed by the President, to serve during the convention. The election committee shall be responsible for conduction of election of officers and any other items in which votes are taken. The Chairperson of the Election Committee shall present the report of the balloting to the convention at the time and place indicated in the "order of business".
- Rule #8 There shall be a Nominating Committee, appointed by the President, to perform the duties outlined in the EEDLO Constitution and By-Laws. The Committee shall make its final report when called upon by the Presiding Officer.
- Rule # 9 The "order of business" of the convention shall be the first item of business at the opening session of the convention. The convention shall be conducted in accordance with the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Constitution and By-laws, the standing rules, special rules incorporated herewith, and pertinent provisions established for the Convention. Cases not specifically covered otherwise shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order, latest revised edition.
- Rule # 10 There shall be an official Parliamentarian to whom questions may be directed through the presiding officer only. If deemed advisable by the presiding officer, a question may be referred to the By-Laws and Rules Committee for interpretation.
- Rule # 11 No delegate shall speak until recognized. To be recognized on the Zoom App using your computer, please use the raised hand option or post in the chat room. To by recognized by using your phone, please speak and wait to be recognized by a facilitator who would then alert the presiding officer. A delegate shall not speak in debate more than once to the same question, or longer than two (2) minutes, until every delegate desiring to speak on the question has had an opportunity to do so.

Convention Standing Rules ~ Cont'd

- Rule # 12 All reports presented to the Convention shall be transmitted electronically, and shall be sent to the delegates before or at the time the report is presented.
- Rule # 13 Proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws and Proposed Legislation shall be submitted to the Organization and Structure Commission in writing before the end of the first business session.
- Rule # 14 Offices shall be elected by secret ballot, electronic or paper, except in the case where the office is not contested. When there is only one candidate for office the chair can take a voice vote or declare that the nominee is elected, effecting the election by unanimous consent or acclamation.
- Rule # 15 No action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's connection prevented participation in the meeting.
- Rule # 16 The Chair may cause or direct the disconnection or muting of a member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting. The Chair's decision to do so shall be announced during the meeting and recorded in the minutes.
- Rule # 17 A specific part of these standing rules may be suspended, provided that;
 - a) A proper motion to suspend the desired section is presented;
 - b) The motion is properly supported by a second, and
 - c) The convention approves the motion with a 2/3 vote of delegation



How Do You Stand Up Without Being a Turnoff?

Can you demonstrate your knowledge with out being labeled a "know it all?"

Have you ever had a pastor who blatantly takes an action that is against what you have learned in Lay lessons or from reading the Discipline? How about a pastor who totally disregards the Discipline and does what he/she so desires? Have you ever been in a meeting or on a board and other folk look to you to be the one to speak up because they do not want to be the one to speak out in the meeting but will be the first one on the phone to talk about it after the meeting? Are you the one who speaks up and have been told by the other members who don't know any better and do not understand the ways of the AME Church that you are negative and need to stop challenging the pastor? How do you handle being the one who does the reading and then gets read by your fellow members?

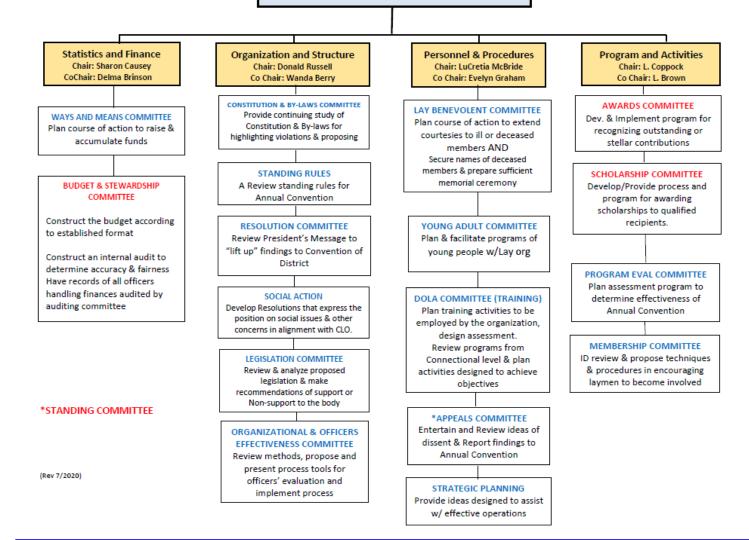
What do you do?

One suggestion is to speak to a group of members you have relationship with to gage their understanding of the issue. Give them the reference from the Discipline and encourage them to read it and be prepared to speak to the concern. While many may choose to sit idly by and continue to say nothing, at least they will have the knowledge. Another option is to test the sincerity and intentions of the pastor by asking for a side conversation or a follow up meeting to share your concerns. There is always the option of posing a question from the floor during the course of the action. Be prudent in what you choose to speak to and when.

Do not settle for irresponsible behavior but realize that your speaking up may not change anything as the pastor may do what he/she is determined to do. AT BEST the people will know that what is occurring is not without concern, and AT LEAST, the information will be shared. Perhaps people will begin to think about what is happening in the pew right next to them.

COMMISSIONS AT WORK

Eleventh Episcopal District
LAY ORGANIZATION COMMISSIONS



COMMISSION VS. COMMITTEE

There is so much work that takes place under the various committees. In order to maximize efforts and resources we utilize the Commission process to better organize ourselves. Ideally, each committee will have a chair and will meet as needed. There are some committees whose work will rest within the confines of the Annual Convention timeline. There are others whose work will serve the Annual Convention but the work is such that there is preparatory work before the convention and follow up work that occurs after. Such a committee might be the Scholarship or Awards committee.

Additionally, there are committees whose work is ongoing such as the Training. Other committee work may be event, time or circumstance-driven, such as Resolution. At a date certain commissions meet together to review the work of the various committees under them and creates a report that the commission chair shares with the organization. Some committees may not have much active work, such as the Appeals Committee. One may serve on more than one committee. The chairs make up the reporting voice to the Commission, although any committee member may attend the commission meeting.



TO...

THE BEST EXECUTIVE BOARD ON PLANET EARTH
TERESA WHITE ~ DIRECTOR OF LAY ACTIVITIES
OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL EFFORTS OF ZOOMSPERTS...

Robbyn Hopewell Ashley Blakely Rhoshonda Herring

Linnell Baker

Teresa White - Episcopal DOLA

JOHN LOVE
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF TROUBLESHOOTER
COMMISSION CHAIRS AND CO-CHAIRS

CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

AND YOU!!!

Praise Be To God!

A Great Layman Soldier Has Fallen...



A Hero's Welcome

By Robert Longley

Time to come home dear brother Your tour of duty through You've given as much as anyone Could be expected to do

Just a few steps further
The smoke will start to clear
Others here will guide you
You have no need of fear

You have not failed your brothers You clearly gave it all And through your selfless actions Others will hear the call

So take your place of honor
Among those who have gone before
And know you will be remembered
For now and evermore



Rest in GOD: Brother James Vanderbilt Honors

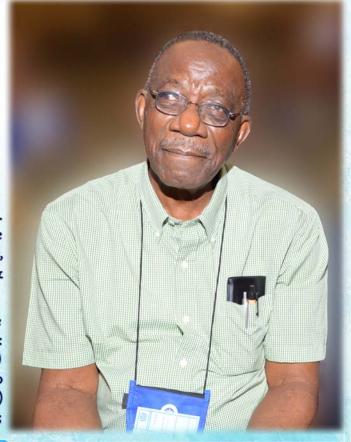
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James Vanderbilt Honors, age 80, Lakeland, Florida, died Friday, June 26, 2020, at Lakeland Regional Medical Center. He was a member of the Mt. Sinai A. M. E. Church in Lakeland, Florida.

Mr. Honors was the former Conference Lay President of the 'old' Orlando Conference. He was a staunch lay person for many years & one the few who had been in our organization for nearly 60 years. At his death, he was a West Coast Conference Trustee, Steward in his church, advisor to the former two & the current Episcopal Lay President, Sister Patricia H. Wright.

Mr. Honors was a General Conference delegate for the last several General Conferences. He loved God & the AME Church. He has attended the AME Church at every level & supported the organized Laity work at the Connectional, Episcopal, Conference, District of the Annual Conference & Local levels. Well known & thought of, he was our model, mentor and servant leader.

He is survived by his wife: Evelyn Honors, Lakeland, FL; one daughter: Inetta (Malcolm) Bennett, Lakeland, FL; three sons: Eric V. (Brenda) Honors, Lakeland, FL, Rev. Reginald K. (Donna) Honors, Houston, TX, Alan (Jasmine) Honors, Houston, TX; two sisters: Marva (Warren) Moreland, Mulberry, FL, Betty (Charles) Smith, Lakeland, FL; one brother: Ellis B. Honors, Lakeland, FL; and nine grandchildren.



Who Are We?

The Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is commissioned to <u>teach</u>, <u>train</u> and <u>empower</u> its members for lay ministry, global leadership and service following the tenets of Jesus Christ.

Our Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to organize and train the laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Church so that lay persons may maximally utilize their God given abilities and skills to improve and extend the kingdom to create happiness, peace, and harmony among its members.

Membership

Membership in this organization is open to all Lay (un-ordained) members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in good and regular standing, in their Local, District of the Annual Conference, Conference and Episcopal District Lay Organizations. Good and regular standing is defined as every member being governed by the Constitution of the Lay Organization, pays required dues as set by his/her local Lay Organization, attends fifty percent (50%) of the Local Lay Organization meetings and participates at the Conference Lay, Districts of the Annual Conference Lay, and Episcopal District Lay Organization levels.







THE ELEVENTH DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION THANKS ALL WHO JOINED US TO **ZOOM VIRTUALLY INTO OUR CONVENTION! YOU ARE A BLESSING TO US!**



Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr. **OUR SENIOR BISHOP** blessed us with his presence & wisdom!

MUCH THANKS TO OUR AWESOME PRESENTERS FOR THEIR PRESENCE & **PARTICIPATION! MANY THANKS TO** OFFICERS WHO READ THEIR REPORTS!

OUR PRESENTERS



Ms. Cheryl Williams Atlanta, GA



The Reverend Henry E. Green III ~ "TRAE" Payne Chapel - West Palm Beach

We had a Full Convention Experience in more than half the time

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Greetings from

Commission Chair: Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr. **CLO President M. Abednego Makiti**

Empowerment Message

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr. **Learning Lab: Pastor Trae Green**

The Church Before, During and After COVID-19

- **Awarding of Scholarships** 1 per Conference (6) at \$2000
- **EEDLO Hall of Fame Awards**
- **Election of Officers**
- **Recognizing Frontline Workers**
- **Memorial Presentation**