



The Lay Communiqué

Magazine of The 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Digital / Online Edition



The Ninth Edition of the Digital Magazine ☩ Spring/Summer Issue ☩ March-August 2020

*AMEC Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization ~ Photos/Events/Accolades
Content is continuously updating ~ Please send your articles/photos for publication!*

The Eleventh Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church host The 51st Quadrennial Session of the General Conference



*Senior Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.
Presiding Prelate of the 11th Episcopal District*

*Dr. Connie Speights Richardson
Supervisor of Missions*



THE ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER ~ 9800 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE ~ ORLANDO, FL ~ ©AJSG

Content in this Digital Magazine will update as new information is submitted / added within the Issue's time frame

Please send your articles, photos, flyers & features for the Digital Lay Communiqué

President: Patricia Wright ☩ West Coast Conference/Director of Public Relations: Mary Silva ☩ Florida Conference
Digital Magazine design by AJSG ~ EEDLO Web / Social Media Servant ☩ East Conference

Presidential Greetings

Greetings Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization!

Here we are in the year of our Lord 2020 at the start a New Decade! God has brought us a mighty long way! Everyone who started out with us did not make it to this point. BUT we are here, and Are We YET ALIVE!!!

I believe that our journey has not yet reached its pinnacle.

In the early seventies, Johnnie Nash had a hit song called "I Can See Clearly Now." The verse says, *I can see clearly now the rain is gone. I can see all obstacles in my way. Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind. It's gonna be a bright (bright) Bright (bright) sunshiny day*

Nash's 'sunshiny day' is what I see for our Lay Organization. With our continued mantra of *Growing Greatness* abounding, we push forward in faith and fellowship. We are ever mindful of our objectives in all that we do. We intentionally tell the Lay Story across the Episcopal District and Connectional Church.

In this new season...this 'sunshiny day' I greet you with 20/20 Vision of Promise and Possibility, for both qualities lie within us. I speak words of gratitude to each of you, for I am appreciative of the unending support you give. I pour into your minds and spirits thoughts of collective achievement. I disrupt our status quo of established practices and dare us to expand the walls of our dreams. I believe what GOD has in store for us lies as close as our willingness to receive it and expands as far as our imaginations can take us.

May we continue to have a clear road ahead of us with 2020 Vision. We pray for GOD to enlighten our minds, open our hearts, and harnesses any blind ambition that seeks to hinder our growth.



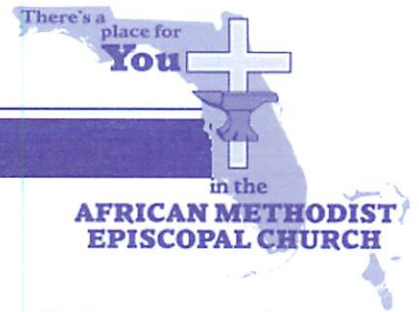
Office of the Bishop

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 11TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

BISHOP ADAM JEFFERSON RICHARDSON, JR.
Presiding Prelate

MRS. CONNIE S. RICHARDSON
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So far, it seems, we have “dodged a bullet” as the saying goes. Only by God’s grace, no one has gotten sick and thankfully no one has died for having attended a worship service or a funeral in one of our churches. We have been blessed. Only Dr. Judson Eneas, faithful member of Cousin-McPhee in Nassau, passed away after caring for one of his patients with coronavirus, according to the press.

Some weeks ago, I asked that for safety and legal considerations, that churches in the 11th Episcopal District **NOT** hold in-person worship services until further notice. However, we indicated that it would be permissible for selected church personnel/volunteers to gather for purposes of live-streaming or broadcasting prerecorded worship services. At the time, we believed that pastors would encourage “safe-distancing” between the people in the choir and/or praise team members. However, this is NOT happening, as I have observed from watching the services online. It’s dangerous!

Last week, I shared a TMZ article about Bishop Gerald O. Glenn who pastored the New Deliverance Evangelistic Church in Virginia. I listened to the bishop’s daughter, Mar-Gerie Crawley, being interviewed by Chris Cuomo on CNN a few nights ago. She and her family, and the whole congregation, are now under quarantine. They couldn’t even make arrangements for a funeral, or go view the body.

In that same posting, I mentioned the heavy price being paid by the Church of God in Christ, especially in the Michigan Jurisdiction. I meant no ill-will. Our own Council of Bishops has lifted the COGIC Family in our Council Conference Calls. Now, the Washington Post and other news outlets have reported the heavy toll among the ranks of COGIC leaders now deceased. We extend our sympathy to the COGIC Family.

DANGER LURKS CLOSER TO HOME. The Rev. Dr. Quan Glover was pastor of the Young Zion Baptist Church in St. Mary’s, Georgia (just over the Florida/Georgia line). He and his family made their home in Jacksonville. On March 29, he preached at his church; fewer than ten people were present. They practiced social distancing. Yet, two days later he became ill with COVID-19. He died on April 17 leaving a grieving wife, children and congregation. I am now asking YOU — Is it worth the risk?

Out of my heartfelt love for you, I am requiring that you no longer meet at the church for in-person worship events. Please find a different way to connect with congregants. Use previously recorded services. Use FaceBook Live from your home or from your office. Use Zoom or Skype or some other social media platform that will give people access to you and the ministry. But for legal and public health considerations meeting in-person is off-limits. Ask the people to contribute through the mail or through the various apps currently in vogue. But until the storm passes over, let’s be safe rather than sorry.

Concerning funerals, Graveside Services should be the norm, for the time being, allowing only ten persons to sit underneath the canopy. Perhaps family-only Memorials can be held in the church (if safe-distancing protocols can be observed — six feet apart). However, even in the cemetery, social-distancing should be strictly observed. If desired, families should consider having a more elaborate memorial service once the pandemic has passed to permit the community to celebrate the life of a loved one and to allow family members to travel from distances considered too far during the crisis. Some may consider this an overreaction and too extreme. Please allow me to remind you that Albany, Georgia is a hotspot because the community

turned out for two funerals served by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Funeral Chapel. According to the media, Dougherty County officials believe that coronavirus was spread at the funerals.

Someone will ask, "Where's our faith?" Well, take another look at the story of the Passover as recorded in the Book of Exodus. In the moment of crisis, the night of pestilence, there were no Hebrew people wandering around outdoors, testing the limits of their faith. There was nothing to prove by being at the place of assembly in Goshen. Everyone was inside; at home; with family; *sheltering in place*.

Yours in His Service,

A. J. Richardson

Adam J. Richardson

Senior Bishop



DR. JEFFERY COOPER
AME GENERAL SECRETARY

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Dear Members:

Please find below an announcement from the AME Church General Conference Commission regarding the 51st Quadrennial General Conference:



Today, the General Conference Commission voted to reschedule the 51st Quadrennial General Conference to July 2021. The Conference will open on July 6, 2021.

For those who have already registered and reserved their hotel reservations for the General Conference, you will be contacted by email with further instructions within the next three weeks. Thank you for your patience while we work through these details.

Observer registration for the Conference remains open. The discounted registration of \$120 (with Member Card) has been extended until December 31, 2020. Register now at <https://www.ame-church.com/>.

With the move of General Conference to 2021, the 37th Biennial of the Connectional Lay Organization will also be moved and held in Orlando following the General Conference. The planning team is working to finalize new contracts with the hotels and Orange County Convention Center. Once completed, more details will be released.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper

General Secretary/CIO

African Methodist Episcopal Church



Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

THE COVID – 19 PANDEMIC OUTBREAK

OFFICERS

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Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr.

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Matikane Abednego Makiti

1st Vice President
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2nd Vice President
Starr L. Battle

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Dr. Dorothy Henderson

Director of Lay Activities
Ametta L. Reaves

Director of Public Relations
Dianne H. Battle

Young Adult Representative
Jamesha Williams

The Lay Organization acknowledges that the COVID – 19 is a global pandemic which needs to be taken seriously. The Council of Bishops of the AME Church “expressed its deepest concern for the safety and health of our membership caused by the novel coronavirus or COVID-19.” The Council of Bishops further noted that “the disease is disrupting our congregants’ lives in multiple ways, threatening our physical, spiritual and economic health.”

As a result, the call on the connectional church is to adhere to the rules and regulations as prescribed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other protocols as laid down by the health authorities and government authorities in the various countries. Most countries have declared the COVID-19 a national state of disaster and have called for in certain areas total shutdowns/ “shelter in place.” Kindly observe and implement the directives that emanate from our respective countries. As faith-based believers, we also should not be governed by fear –because God’s love will cast out all the fears that has gripped the globe. God’s assurance is evident in the book of Prophet Isaiah 41:10, when God said *“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”*

To help the congregants get through this difficult period, the Connectional Lay Organization, is called upon to fulfil their mandate of training and education to support all efforts and messaging by the AME Church. A collection of literature - both written and visual has been provided by the connectional church. The AMEC Health Commission provided vital resource materials pertaining to our health and well – being, while the Christian Recorder (TCR) continues to serve as a useful communication tool to keep us informed of connectional matters during these shutdowns/ “shelter in place.” We also recommend the continued use of Lay Organization resources such as the study guide and Book of Devotions for study at home.

With these credible resources at our disposal, we request members of the Connectional Lay Organization to utilize alternative communication platforms (such as digital and online) to further disseminate the AMEC resource materials to re-educate our congregants on how to minimize the chances as well as mitigate the risk of contracting the virus, which includes practising good hygiene (constant washing of hands, avoiding touching (such as hand - shakes and hugging), practicing social distancing, but most importantly, to communicate well with our members when it comes to the churches’ commitment to keep the congregants healthy – all these efforts in pursuit of the core mandate of the lay organization of educating and training to capacitate our members. For the safety and well-being of our valued members, during this time, we recommend any scheduled in-person lay meetings/gatherings at all levels be postponed.

In conclusion, as the Connectional Lay Organization, we join the connectional church to **“PUSH – Pray Until Something Happens” – Pray for God’s merciful intervention!** We pray for healing for those who are infected with the virus and their families – to pray for the world and the universe to the slowing down and ultimate end to this virus. We will pray for the world’s health system, the healthcare practitioners, for their safety as they provide care to others. We must not cease to pray for the world leaders, different governments, – for wisdom, but most importantly, pray for those in our churches for God’s strength and for those whose livelihoods that has been affected negatively by the economic impact of the virus. Through our words and deeds – we believe that we shall overpower this novel virus.

“We are in this together”

Strong in Unity and Love,

BROTHER MA MAKITI

PRESIDENT – CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION

The Revised Common Lectionary ~ a Service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library ~ Year A

Lent	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Ash Wednesday February 26, 2020	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or <i>Isaiah 58:1-12</i>	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
First Sunday in Lent March 1, 2020	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
Second Sunday in Lent March 8, 2020	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17 or <i>Matthew 17:1-9</i>
Third Sunday in Lent March 15, 2020	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 22, 2020	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
Annunciation of the Lord March 25, 2020	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 45 or <i>Psalm 40:5-10</i>	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
Fifth Sunday in Lent March 29, 2020	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
Liturgy of the Palms April 5, 2020 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Matthew 21:1-11	
Liturgy of the Passion April 5, 2020 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27:66 or <i>Matthew 27:11-54</i>

Italicized readings, complementary to the standard reading, may be used with, or in place of it.
 Visit the Website to interact further: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=A&season=Lent>
 Next Page: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=A&season=Holy%20Week>

HOLY WEEK



The Revised Common Lectionary ~ a Service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library ~ Year A

Holy Week	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Monday of Holy Week April 6, 2020	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 36:5-11	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
Tuesday of Holy Week April 7, 2020	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 71:1-14	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
Wednesday of Holy Week April 8, 2020	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 70	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
Maundy Thursday April 9, 2020 <i>Holy Thursday</i>	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday April 10, 2020	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25 or <i>Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9</i>	John 18:1-19:42
Holy Saturday April 11, 2020	Job 14:1-14 or <i>Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24</i>	Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4:1-8	Matthew 27:57-66 or <i>John 19:38-42</i>
Easter	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Easter Vigil April 12, 2020	<p>Old Testament Readings and Psalms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 • Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 and Psalm 46 • Genesis 22:1-18 and Psalm 16 • Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 and Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18 • Isaiah 55:1-11 and Isaiah 12:2-6 • Baruch 3:9-15, 3:32-4:4 or Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 and Psalm 19 • Ezekiel 36:24-28 and Psalm 42, 43 • Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 143 • Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Psalm 98 <p>New Testament Reading and Psalm Romans 6:3-11 and Psalm 114</p> <p>Gospel Matthew 28:1-10</p>			
Resurrection of the Lord April 12, 2020 <i>Easter Day</i>	*Acts 10:34-43 or <i>Jeremiah 31:1-6</i>	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4 or <i>Acts 10:34-43</i>	John 20:1-18 or <i>Matthew 28:1-10</i>
Easter Evening April 12, 2020	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 114	1 Corinthians 5:6b-8	Luke 24:13-49

50 Days of Easter

Easter	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Second Sunday of Easter April 19, 2020	*Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Psalm 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
Third Sunday of Easter April 26, 2020	*Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
Fourth Sunday of Easter May 3, 2020	*Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
Fifth Sunday of Easter May 10, 2020	*Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
Sixth Sunday of Easter May 17, 2020	*Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
Ascension of the Lord May 21, 2020	*Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 or <i>Psalm 93</i>	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
Seventh Sunday of Easter May 24, 2020 (If Ascension not observed here)	*Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth May 31, 2020	*1 Samuel 2:1-10	Psalm 113	Romans 12:9-16b	Luke 1:39-57
Day of Pentecost May 31, 2020	*Acts 2:1-21 or <i>Numbers 11:24-30</i>	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or <i>Acts 2:1-21</i>	John 20:19-23 or <i>John 7:37-39</i>



Italicized readings, complementary to the standard reading, may be used with, or in place of it.

* During Eastertide a reading from Acts is often substituted for the lesson from the Hebrew Bible. On the Day of Pentecost, if the Old Testament passage from Numbers is chosen for the first reading, the passage from Acts is used as the second reading.

Visit the Website, use the menu on the left side of the page to interact further: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

The Revised Common Lectionary ~ a Service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library ~ Year A

Season after Pentecost	First* reading and Psalm	Alternate* First reading & Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Trinity Sunday June 7, 2020 <i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8		2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
Second Sunday after Pentecost June 14, 2020	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
Third Sunday after Pentecost June 21, 2020	Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 28, 2020	Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13	Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost July 5, 2020	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45:10-17 <i>or</i> <i>Song of Solomon 2:8-13</i>	Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-14	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 12, 2020	Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 19, 2020	Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 <i>or Isaiah 44:6-8</i> Psalm 86:11-17	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 26, 2020	Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b <i>or Psalm 128</i>	1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost August 2, 2020	Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15	Isaiah 55:1-5 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 9, 2020	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	1 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 85:8-13	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 16, 2020	Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 67	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 23, 2020	Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124	Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 30, 2020	Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b	Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28

* "First" OT readings, read semi-continuously, follow major stories/themes, beginning in Year A with Genesis and ending in Year C with the later prophets. Italicized readings may be used with, or in place of it.

* "Alternate First" OT readings follow the complementary historical tradition of thematically pairing the OT reading with the Gospel reading. Italicized readings may be used with, or in place of it.

** In a very few instances in the Lectionary, no Psalm reading is offered for reasons relating to the thematic nature of the Day.

Who is on the Executive Board?

ELECTED OFFICERS 2016-2020

Patricia Wright - President

John W. Love

Lothar Cherry

Johnnie Hill

Ethel M. Wooten

Ella Wilson

Esther Ferguson

Hugh Yancy, Jr. *

Priscilla Salter

Jesse L. Burns

Teresa White

Deborah Langston

Debra Gilliard

Mary Silva

Robbyn Hopewell

First Vice President

Second Vice President

Third Vice President

Recording Secretary

Assistant Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary

Treasurer

Financial Secretary

Parliamentarian

Director of Lay Activities

Chaplain

Historiographer

Director of Public Relations

Young Adult Representative

CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

Dr. Katheryn Gillis

Lolita Brown

Shepherd Myrick

Phillis Filer

Adrian McWilliams

Valderine Evans

South

West Coast

Florida

East

Central

Bahamas

STANDING COMMITTEE/COMMISSION CHAIRS

Sharon Causey

Donald Russell

Lucretia McBride

Loretta Coppock

Carolyn Floyd

Statistics & Finance

Organization & Structure

Personnel & Procedure

Program & Activities

Organization & Officer Effectiveness

PRESIDENTS EMERITI

Charlie Nichols

Jesse L. Burns

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

General Board Members

Reginald McGill, Charlie Nichols

*non member of Executive Board

LEADERSHIP

The Cost of Leadership

From Ron Edmondson

Leadership should be expensive. If we desire to be leaders it should cost us something. Leadership is a stewardship. It's the keeping of a valuable trust others place in you. Cheap leadership is never good leadership.

Here are 7 high costs of leadership:

Personal agenda

Good leaders give up their personal desires for the good of others, the team or the organization.

Control

What you control you limit. Good leaders give freedom and flexibility to others in how they accomplish the predetermined goals and objectives.

Popularity

Leading well is no guarantee a leader will be popular. In fact, there will be times where the opposite is more true. Leaders take people through change. Change is almost never initially popular.

Comfort

If you are leading well you don't often get to lead "comfortably". You get to wrestle with messiness and awkwardness and push through conflict and difficulty. It's for a noble purpose, but it isn't easy.

Fear

Good leadership goes into the unknown. That's often scary. Even the best leaders are anxious at times about what is next.

Loneliness

I believe every leader should surround themselves with other leaders. We should be vulnerable enough to let others speak into our life. **But, there will be days when a leader has to stand alone.** Others won't immediately understand. On those days the quality of strength in a leader is revealed. This one should never be intentional, but when you are leading change...when it involves risk and unknowns – this will often be for a season a significant cost.

Outcomes

We follow worthy visions. We create measurable goals and objectives. We discipline for the tasks ahead. We don't, however, get to script the way people respond, how times change, or the future unfolds.

As leaders, we should consider whether we are willing to pay the price for good leadership. **It's not cheap!**

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?

A LEADER...

A leader must be close enough to relate to others but far enough ahead to motivate them.

John Maxwell

A Leader has to be...

Visionary Educator Innovator Motivator

Communicator Facilitator Advisor

What Does It Mean To Be A Leader?

The Verbs of Leadership... HINT: A Verb is an Action Word!

Getting up when you don't feel like it

Standing in front of folk and proclaiming the news.. good or bad

Tackling the issues and confrontations

Remaining invested yet neutral

Leading and Listening to Everyone

Being relatable and in communication

Supporting the levels Above and below you

Being Relatable and Relevant

Communicating—clearly, often, and **patiently** repeating yourself, explaining

Doing your homework... being prepared.

Accepting that you do not know everything..

Receiving and asking for help

Delegating and trusting people to give you their best

Growing people...helping them discover the gifts that lie within them. (Someone did it for you!).

Showing up...in places unknown, unheard of , unexpected.

Giving support

Stepping back... Everyone has a role)

Using and knowing the constitution and by laws (Read and reread it!)

Meeting and planning with adhoc/sub committees so that when you get to the large group there will be a plan

THINK ABOUT IT... What does being a leader mean to you?

Connectional Lay Executive Board Highlights Hilton Atlanta Airport



Connectional Lay Executive Board Highlights and information...

December 5-7 The Connectional Lay Organization held the Executive Board meeting. The information shared included the President's report with her recommendations and officer and committee reports. Please find some snippets and excerpts from the meeting on this page; other items will be communicated during EEDLO executive board meeting. If further or clarifying details are desired, have a conversation with President Wright or DOLA White. Also in attendance were Evelyn Odom and Reginald McGill.

Recommendations from President's report:

1. To elevate Evangelism and Discipleship as a priority in each Episcopal District by observing Evangelism Sunday. Successfully implemented by 3rd Vice President Starr Battle.
2. Encourage each Bishop and Episcopal District to support and incorporate the Lay Leadership Certification Program as updated and completed.
3. Encourage each Pastor and Presiding Elder to ensure the presence of an active Lay Organization in each local church.
4. Support and Promote the election of Informed, Committed Delegates to the 2020 General Conference. Since all delegates have been elected, I need each Episcopal District President to share and explain the Lay Organization Proposed Legislation, and to collect the contact information for all lay Delegates elected in the lay electoral college.
5. The Connectional Lay Organization support the election of at least one female bishop. We may not have the opportunity to elect two female bishops.

Other Information came through reports from Organizational officer effective, social action and LEDP

CLO Lay person of year... delayed until Lay Breakfast of General Conference

Information was shared from the :

Budget and finance report of the biennial convention – \$165,000 over expected expenditures due to food costs, delegation from districts 14-20, technology costs

Evaluation committee, constitution and by laws, proposed legislation. Retired General Officer jayme Coleman Williams (101 years young) gave a presentation on leadership.

Upcoming CLO meetings.,

2021 CLO Convention is in Chicago 4th Episcopal District

July 2-10, 2021 (dates fall between this time)

Hilton Chicago

Michigan Avenue

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Connectional Lay Organization

CONVO IX Winter Meeting

*While a bill does not need to be submitted to Convo in order to be submitted,
that has been the recommended practice.*

Bill Number	Title of Bill	Notes (Convo Response)
CLO - 1	Codifying General Conference Delegates for Connectional	WITHDRAWN
CLO - 2	Adjusting Denominational per diem/ mileage allocations	Yes
CLO - 3	Laity as Members of the Board of Examiners	NO (74:14)
CLO - 4	Adjustment of criteria to submit legislation to the General	YES
CLO - 5	Adjusting CONVO to assist in streamlining the legislation process for the General Conference	With Recommendations: discussion about changing 9 months to 90 days...discussion on format
CLO - 6	Extension of Episcopal Committee Authority	NO — needs clarification Deals with term limits for chair; a subcommittee that would work
CLO - 7	Ministerial Training Board Composition	NO
CLO - 8	Ministerial Training Board Course of Instruction	NO
CLO - 9	Stewardship and Finance Commission	YES

Note: There are a number of bills that have been submitted, but the ones listed here ones that were proposed by the Connectional Lay Organization and sent to CONVO.

HOSTING THE ANNUAL EPISCOPAL LAY CONVENTION

Each year a different Conference hosts the Annual Episcopal Convention. It is akin to hosting a Conference Convention **BUT** it is sponsored and led by the Episcopal District. The committees, with the exception of a couple, are under the leadership of the Episcopal District officers and chairpersons. The committees are populated by persons from across the Episcopal district.

Functions/Responsibilities of the Committees:

1. Registration Committee: Episcopal Lead Committee (Ann McCelvey, Chair)

Determine Registration Process; Print name badges; Submit registration numbers and/or list to District President; Provides process for pickup of kits; Distribute Kits

2. Training: Episcopal Lead Committee (Teresa White, Chair)

Develop Training program, to include presenters; Provides details on any special room requirements

3. Hospitality/Courtesies: Conference Committee

The Conference can decide on what kind of courtesies beyond the hospitality room they want to extend. Open, maintain and supply personnel for the hospitality room which includes deciding food items and hours of operation. EEDLO will provide the space. Provide hospitality to Episcopal president, DOLA and other dignitaries. *EEDLO will supplement for outside dignitaries — ex. The Connectional president will be in attendance.*

4. Souvenir Journal: Conference Committee

Develops/communicates process for soliciting ads; publishes souvenir journal. Profits ALL go to Conference.

5. Publication Committee: (Episcopal DOPR Mary Silva, Chair)

Staffs the Publication room; publishes and sells a daily newsletter of the days' 'news'; develops a process to serve the convention by making copies; arranges for copy machine, computer, paper, supplies for room.

6. Transportation Committee: Conference Committee

Coordinate transportation for those traveling in to attend convention. Sets schedule for pick up and drop off.

7. Convention Kit: (Conference and EEDLO)

Conference will come up with bag for kits. Conference will solicit items for the bag. Conference may decide to provide a conference memento to include in bags. Submit 2-3 ideas to the Episcopal President for Approval of bag. EEDLO will pay for bags... Place order before May 10, 2020

Other committees appointed or lead by EEDLO include Nominations, Elections, Credentials, Logistics, Time and Place, Rules, Program;

Conference committees that are appointed and directed from the Conference level include Support Services, Logistics. Members from the conferences populate all Episcopal committees.

2020 Episcopal Convention Registration

\$125 for Adult Laity and Clergy \$75 for Youth Lay (ages 13-17)

Registration Fee Includes:

Delegation Badge and privileges therein
Lay Development Training Seminars and Materials
Awards Banquet Ticket (for one)

Additional Awards Gala Banquet Tickets: \$75.00 each

Registration Deadline: June 1, 2020

After June 1st Lay Registration is \$150.00

THIS IS ELECTION YEAR! MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE!

There is no late registration fee for ministers and youth. However, late registrants are not guaranteed kits and/or materials.

Completed registration form(s) and fees should be submitted to Conference Lay Presidents and Conference Lay Presidents should forward same to the Episcopal Lay Registrar:

Mrs. Ann McCelvy, Registrar

610 Manor Ct. NW Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

SOUVENIR JOURNAL

Due date is May 1, 2020.

**Please support the host conference in the souvenir journal production.
All Convention Souvenir Journal Ads should be sent "camera ready" by e-mail,
PDF, PNG or JPEG (preferred) ~ other accepted formats: Publisher & Word to:
Sister Angela Garner**



Email: cloudyweather@hotmail.com

Send payment and agreement form to:

LuCretia McBride, Financial Secretary
1509 West 28 Street Jacksonville, Florida 32209
Phone# (904) 610-3520 Email: cretia5@bellsouth.net



AD PRICES AND SIZES ARE LISTED BELOW

Inside Front Cover/Color: \$200.00

Inside Back Cover/Color: \$200.00

Outside Back: \$200.00

Full Page: \$125.00 (Color)

Half Page \$85.00 (Color)

Quarter Page: \$55.00 (Color)

Full Page: \$100.00 (B/W)

Half Page: \$60.00 (B/W)

Quarter Page: \$30.00 (B/W)



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V I S I O N
I S 2 0 2 0 !**

20/200

20/100

20/70

20/50

20/25

20/20

Can you see the vision? What are you looking at?



75 Years: Still Going Strong!

The Lay Litany

~ From the Pen of P. H. Wright ~

EEDLO 75 YEARS: GOD IS GREAT!

LEADER: *The Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization is established, maintained and fueled by a spirit of excellence. Excellence is defined by many as the essence of GREAT. Only God, himself, can command greatness.*

PEOPLE: **How Great is God's Wisdom, Power and Grace?**

LEADER: *From its onset, the Eleventh District Lay Organization was led by Lay folk who did not shrink from engaging in heavy dialog and critical discourse about the welfare of the church even though efforts to hush their voices came from all corners of the sanctuary. They refused to be quelled by the established practices and instead stayed and prayed the course until the blessing came.*

PEOPLE: **And I will make you a GREAT nation, And I will bless you, And make your name GREAT; And so you shall be a blessing; Genesis 12:2**

LEADER: *With no stone left unturned and no call going unanswered stalwart Lay folk began a movement – by meeting in churches and in small groups, with a focused agenda ~ that flows east to west, north to south, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Florida Keys and across the Atlantic Ocean into the Breezy Bahamas.*

PEOPLE: **Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. Psalm 145:3**

LEADER: *An organization that survives for a decade is quite remarkable. An Organization that survives, thrives and revives for 75 years is an uncommon occurrence that surely must be held in high regard by a God given to greatness.*

PEOPLE: **Ah Lord GOD! Behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee. Jeremiah 32:17**

LEADER: *WE stand in celebration of 75 years of labor, tears, setbacks, giant leaps and love. Most of all, we celebrate the journey of African People who refused to be tethered by their physical status, their economic limitations or their mental acuity. When told no, they responded, "Yes." When encouraged to stop, they kept going; when they were held down, they reached up, grabbed hold of one another and pulled themselves up. They pulled Up 75 years... up seven decades and more... up towards the mark of a high calling of excellence to become the Electrifying Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization.*

PEOPLE: **Seventy-five years of new mercies have come to us each morning! GREAT is our Faithfulness! We are grateful and continue to marvel at the GREATNESS of Your Wisdom, Power and Grace!**

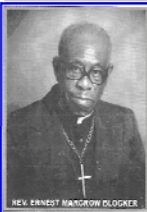
From the Laymen League of the Eleventh Episcopal District to the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization

Blocker

ERNEST M. BLOCKER
FROM SOUTH
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

Nov 2, 1948 - 1953

Lead the Laymen to meet and organize the Miami District Layman's League at Greater Bethel AME Church. The Lay movement Gained momentum as Brother Blocker was invited to hold organizational meetings throughout the South Florida area.



REV. ERNEST MANGROW BLOCKER

1944

The 1944 General Conference convened in Philadelphia, PA. Delegate E. M. Blocker, a steward of Greater Bethel AME Church in Miami, Florida, attended the Laymen's Connectional Meeting. He was inspired to organize the Lay League in the Eleventh Episcopal District.

1945

In the East Florida Conference, J. L. Williams, Sr. of St. Paul AME Church, Jacksonville, called together Laymen who organized the Laymen Alliance Incorporation of the AME Church.

Bishop Henry Young Tookes directed Reverend H. W. Fayson and Reverend S. A. Cousin not to allow Laymen to hold meetings in churches.



BISHOP H. Y. TOOKES

Bradley

SELMO BRADLEY
FROM FLORIDA
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
1971-1984

Obtained Lakeland property donate by Senator Scott Kelly
Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Store in Quincy
Hosted Biennial in Miami



F. White

FELIX WHITE
FROM EAST
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

Longest tenure as President (1953-1971)



JAMES L. WILLIAMS, JR.
FROM EAST
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
1984-1992

Brought organizational structure in terms of meetings
Hosted Connectional and Episcopal Meetings

Williams



Burns

JESSE BURNS, JR.
FROM WEST COAST
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
(formerly known as Tampa Annual Conference)

1992-2000
Commission System implemented
Added Fall E-Board Meeting
Awards Banquet
LEDP established



MARIAN WHITE
FROM SOUTH
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

2000-2008
Selmo Bradley scholarship program implemented
Structured time line for Annual Convention planning
Episcopal District Directory
First Lay Retreat
Lay Benevolent Auxiliary changed to Laura P. Robinson Benevolent Auxiliary

M. White

Nichols

CHARLIE NICHOLS
FROM FLORIDA
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

2008-2016
SMART Goal Reporting Format
Hosted Regional Training Retreat with 9th Episcopal District
Bahamas Conference returned to Convention rotation
Annual Convention held at Edwards Waters College



PATRICIA WRIGHT
FROM WEST COAST
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

2016 - Present
Publication of 3Rs Growing your Lay Organization
Scholarship Ads project awarded \$24,000

Wright

HISTORIC FOOTNOTE...

Died: Bishop John Andrew Gregg, 75, a senior bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, of a heart ailment, at Breckner Hospital, in Jacksonville, Fla. He was presiding bishop of the Florida AME district and board chairman of Edward Waters College in Jacksonville. During 50 years as a religious leader, Bishop Gregg was president of Wilberforce University, Xenia, Ohio; and a missionary to South Africa. A daughter, Susan Chrest, survives. First funeral service was held in Jacksonville, a second in Kansas City, where he was buried.



Bishop Gregg



CELEBRATING GOD'S GREAT GRACE!

AME Protocol for Scheduling Connectional Meetings

The General Secretary/CIO of the AME Church shall maintain an Official Calendar for the AME Church. To schedule any connectional meeting or event, a request from the head of that organization must be made in writing to the General Secretary/CIO no less than 180 days before the requested date(s). Requests must be approved in writing by the General Secretary before any notices or correspondence concerning the proposed meeting or event is shared. After the request is approved, the General Secretary will place the event or meeting on the AME Church Official Calendar. Only then should any preparations be made for the proposed event or meeting.

**AME Council of Bishops
General Board 2018**

AME CONNECTIONAL MEETING CALENDAR 2019 – 2020

2019

December

Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK'S

Leadership Planning Retreat & Executive Board Meeting
December 6- 8, 2019
Little Rock, Arkansas

Commission on Statistics and Finance

December 2-3, 2019
Atlanta, Georgia

Connectional AME/WIM Executive Board

December 2, 2019
5pm – 9 pm
Atlanta, GA

Connectional AME/WIM & Episcopal District Executive Boards

December 3, 2019

10:00 AM – 4:00 pm

Atlanta, GA

CONVO – Legislation

December 4-5, 2019

Atlanta, Georgia

CLO Executive Board Meeting

December 5-7, 2019

Atlanta, Georgia

Bishop John Hurst Adams Endowment Fund

December 6, 2019

Atlanta, GA

2020

January

Connectional WMS Officers Retreat

January 27-28, 2020

Hilton North

Houston, TX

WMS Executive Board Meeting

January 29 - February 2, 2020

Hilton North

Houston, TX

February

GDC Executive Board Meeting

February 20-22, 2020

16th District

May

General Board Budget Meeting

May 4-5, 2020

Nashville, TN

General Officers Retirement Gala

May 4, 2020

Nashville, TN

Annual Ministries in Christian Education Training/Planning Meeting

May 7-9, 2020

Nashville, TN

10th District Celebration Gala for Bishop Vashti and Dr. Stan McKenzie

May 13- 16, 2020

June

Retirement Celebration for Bishop Gregory and Rev. Dr. Jessica Ingram

June 18-20, 2020

First District Headquarters, Philadelphia, PA

July

51st General Conference

Orange Convention Center

July 8-15, 2020

Orlando, FL

Peace,

Jeffery Cooper

General Secretary/CIO

African Methodist Episcopal Church





Your Membership is Needed & Encouraged...

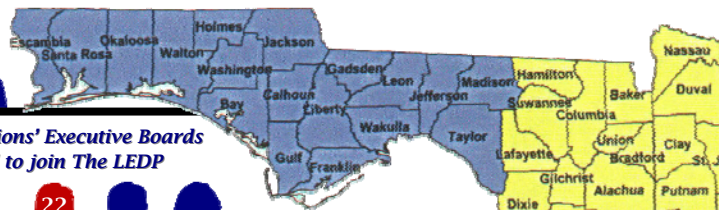
The African Methodist Episcopal Church ~ Eleventh Episcopal District

LAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



All Officers of Leadership at all levels of each Lay Organization within the 11th Episcopal District should have membership in the LEDP. Though it's Not a requirement, we strongly encourage ALL Officers to join, maintain membership, get involved & help us to help others. Make the LEDP a serious obligation ~ we need All Presidents, Executive Officers & Members. We offer a diagram below to demonstrate your value & how many more we can help/with God's help through additional membership, starting with all levels of Office. Please join us!

The 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization Executive Board / 18 Definite LEDP Members



Florida Conference & District Lay Organizations' Executive Boards
4 Definite / 60+ Officers & Members Encouraged to join The LEDP



Executive Boards of Each District's Lay Organization would add 45+ Members!



West Coast Conference & Each District Lay Organizations' Executive Boards

Executive Boards of Each District's Lay Organization would add 45+ Members!

4 Definite (Presidents) / 60+ Officers & Members Encouraged to join The LEDP



South Conference & Each District Lay Organizations' Executive Boards
4 Definite (Presidents) / 60+ Officers & Members Encouraged to join The LEDP



Executive Boards of Each District's Lay Organization would add 45+ Members!

ALL PRESIDENTS at Each Level of the Lay Organizations Should be Definite:
Conference, District & Local Presidents Must JOIN & MAINTAIN LEDP Membership!
ALL 11th District Lay Organization Executive Boards together could produce
41 Definite & 330 "Strongly Encouraged to Join" LEDP Members: Total = 371!

East Conference & District Lay Organizations' Executive Boards
4 Definite (Presidents) / 60+ Officers & Members Encouraged to join The LEDP
Executive Boards of Each District's Lay Organization would add 45+ Members!



Central Conference & District Lay Organizations' Executive Boards
4 Definite / 60+ Officers & Members Encouraged to join The LEDP



Executive Boards of Each District's Lay Organization would add 45+ Members!

Bahamas Conference & Each District Lay Organizations' Executive Boards
3 Definite (Presidents) / 30+ Officers & Members Encouraged to join The LEDP



Executive Boards of Each District's Lay Organization would add 30+ Members!