



# 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



# ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION 76th ANNUAL CONVENTION



## SEEING GOD

### CLEARLY IN 2020



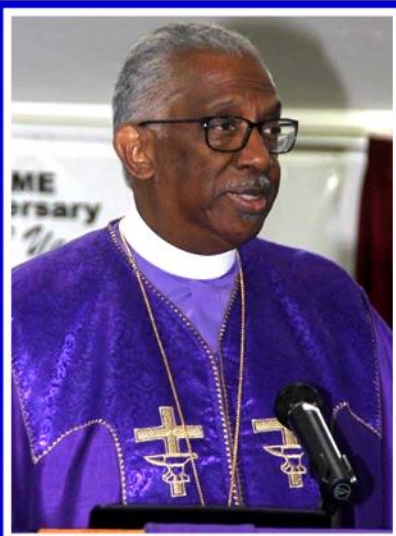
Teresa White ~ DOLA



Patricia H. Wright ~ President

## OUR 1st ZOOMVENTION

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!

### 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

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



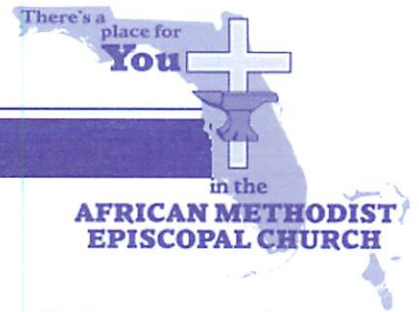
# Office of the Bishop

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 11<sup>TH</sup> EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

BISHOP ADAM JEFFERSON RICHARDSON, JR.  
Presiding Prelate

MRS. CONNIE S. RICHARDSON  
Supervisor, Women's Missionary Society

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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*

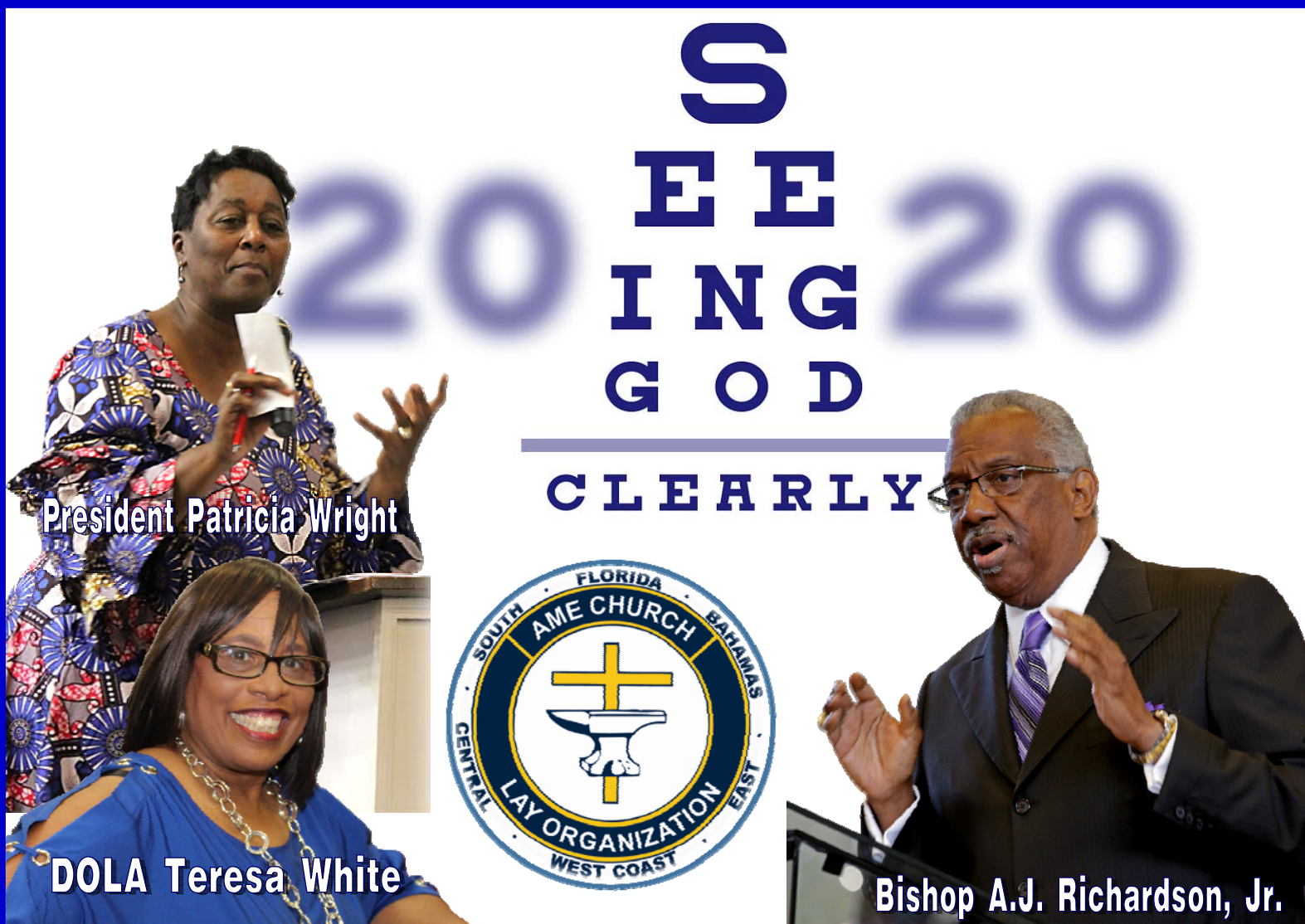
Adam J. Richardson

Senior Bishop



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

**SEEING  
GOD  
CLEARLY**



President Patricia Wright

DOLA Teresa White

Bishop A.J. Richardson, Jr.

*Virtual Annual Convention*  
**SEEING GOD CLEARLY**

John 14:7-12

**zoom**  
Video Conferencing



# 76th ANNUAL LAY CONVENTION

## Seeing God Clearly in 2020

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 Wright
- II. ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS** Ms. Ella Wilson, Assistant Rec. 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/Secty Wooten
- VII. GREETINGS FROM AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF GUESTS & VISITORS**  
**BISHOP ADAM J. RICHARDSON**, 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 Wright
- X. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**
- FIRST VICE PRESIDENT** Mr. John Love
- SECOND VICE PRESIDENT** Ms. Lothar Cherry
- THIRD VICE PRESIDENT** Mr. Johnnie Hill
- YOUNG ADULT 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 STRUCTURE**

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. JANUARY 8-9, 2021 EEDLO EBOARD, GAINESVILLE**

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

#### **C. BIENNIAL 2021 (DELEGATES) - JULY 11-12, 2021**

#### **D. CONNECTIONAL LAY BREAKFAST - JULY 9, 2021**

### **XVII. MEMORIAL MEDITATION**

### **XVIII. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS - PRAYER**

President Makiti

### **XIX. REMARKS**

### **XX. ADJOURNMENT/LAY BENEDICTION**



# 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 76<sup>th</sup> 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 layman 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 76<sup>th</sup> **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,

*Teresa*



# 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.



# Convention Standing Rules

## **The following are proposed as the Rules governing the 76<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization.**

- Rule #1 The 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the EEDLO Convention shall convene virtually, on July 11, 2020.
- Rule #2 The program outlined, as adopted by the Convention shall be the official program for the 76<sup>th</sup> 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 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention 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.

# Convention Standing Rules

- 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 be 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.
- 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





## Our Devotion Leader



## Cheryl D. Williams

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.



# 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  
Nicholas Causey  
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

\*Deceased

LAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Evelyn Graham-President

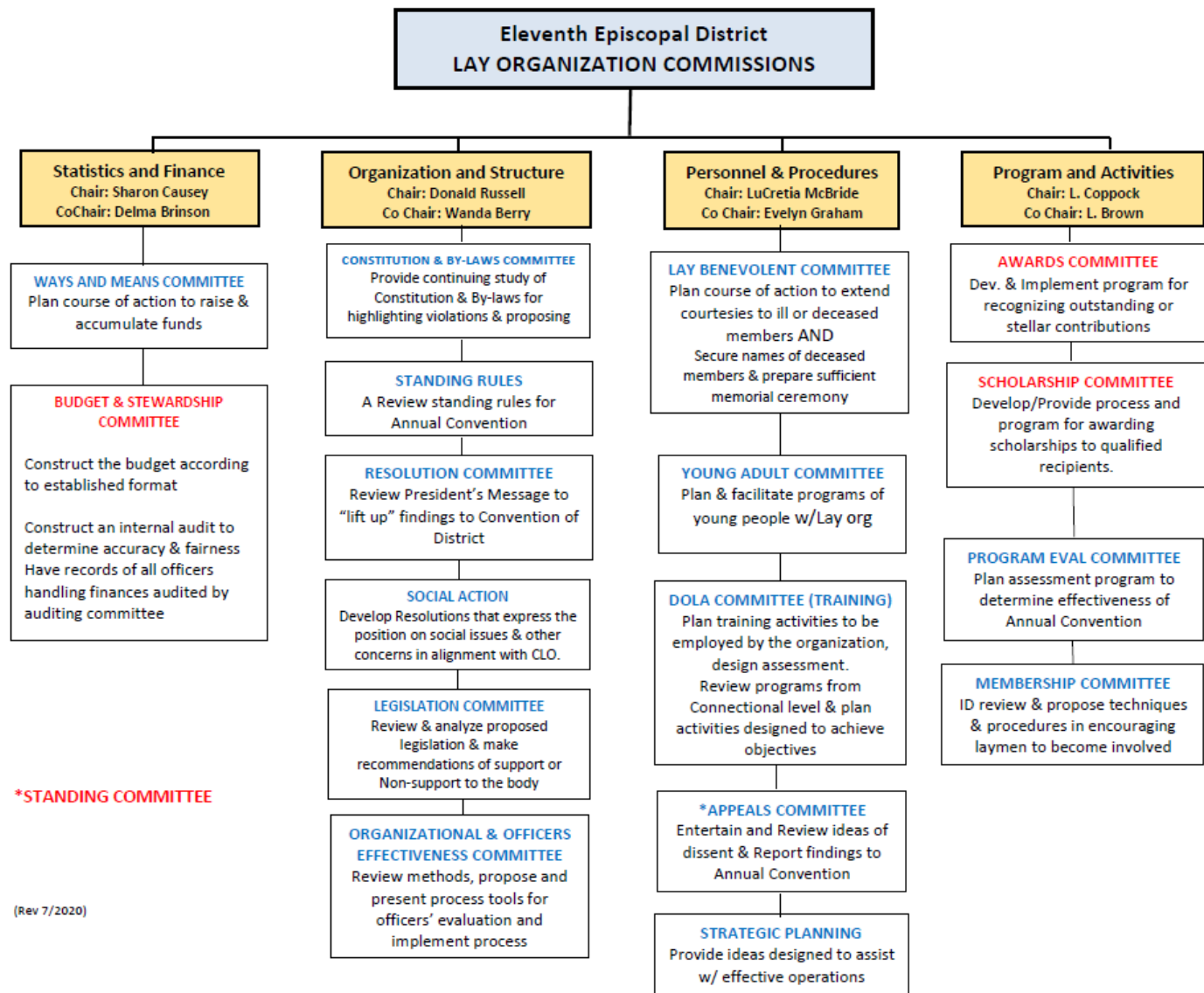
THE EEDLO PRESENCE IN THE CONNECTIONAL CHURCH

Reginald McGill, Charlie Nichols

General Board Members



# THE ORGANIZATION AT WORK...



## 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 it 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 the Resolution Committee. At a date certain, commissions meet to review the work of the various committees under them and create 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 chair, although each committee member may attend the commission meeting.



# 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

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.







**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!!!**

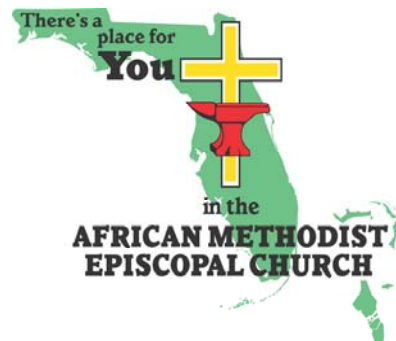
**Praise Be To God!!**



# The Lay Communiqué

## 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization

### *The Work is All Divine*



Watch Night, Resolutions and Expectations for 2020:

Church folk, Christians, Holy-Rollers, Christmas, Mother's Day, Easter (CME) attendees and others who stop by the Church sometime were all awaiting the New Year because 2020 had to be better than some of the ups, downs, trials and tribulations of 2019. Resolutions of varying themes, weight loss, new jobs, graduations, weddings, births, etc., were on the list of expectations for 2020. Many persons had the New Year's meal cooking or ready to be cooked while visions of imaginary 2020 sugar plums danced in the heads of many of the aforementioned church attendees. Little did we (people/humans) fathom that in less than ninety days into the new year (new millennium) the world as we knew it would be turned upside down.

We (Christians) would believe or we lead ourselves to believe that we are equipped and ready most of the time to meet/greet any obstacle that comes our way. We oftentimes state with or without conviction that we knew when the journey started that we're in the fight for the long-haul; not expecting a peaches and cream life or a life of flowery beds of ease. The book of Ecclesiastes, specifically chapter three (3) alerts the Christian that there is a time/season for all things. For as much as we have read, how many also believe. Verses 12 and 13, succinctly state: **12** I know that there is nothing better for men than to rejoice and do good while they live, **13** and also that every man should eat and drink and find satisfaction in all his labor—this is the gift of God. The Work *is* All Divine.

March 2020 brought about a multiplicity of changes on a global scale; the news on every front brought daily if not hourly accounts of positive cases of Coronavirus / COVID-19, a killer disease that cause sudden respiratory failure, a belief that persons over 60 with underlying health issues were most vulnerable and deaths were happening by the thousands. Included with those unknowns was the near immediate shutdown of countries, religious shrines, cathedral's, Vatican City, major American cities, airlines, shopping malls, hair salons, etc. The economy plunged producing near immediate food shortages, people began hoarding food, paper products (paper towels & toilet paper), household cleaners and sanitizing agents. Coupled with that, schools were closed in most if not all states and children were relegated to home-schooling, limited outside time. Many churches closed their doors to traditional worship services, telework was instituted on a mass scale, all the while many persons attempted to carry on business as usual.

This transformation from our 2019 state to present day 2020 has caused a metamorphosis of sorts in that we have undergone a change of the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one, by natural or supernatural means. During this spot in time, feelings/mental states have run the gamut from faithless to faithful, disobedient to obedient, thankless to thankful, selfish to selfless, loveless to loving and from solitude to connectedness. As Thomas Paine quipped in 1776 in *The American Crisis* pamphlets, [t]hese are the times that try men's souls, the phrase has not been without controversy, protests and friction as many persons, political party affiliates, men, women and children are full of themselves, each believing that they are correct in their thinking and beliefs. On the other hand, lawlessness, criticism, racism, and other "*isms*" are on the rise as we witness ungodly behaviors in almost all areas of life. Read the papers, watch the news, stay abreast of worldly issues on any social media platform to see what I see. *Yet, because and still, the Work is All Divine.*

May, 2020

**Bishop Adam Jefferson  
Richardson, Jr., Presiding  
Prelate, 11<sup>th</sup> Episcopal  
District**

**The Rt. Reverend  
E. Earl McCloud, Jr.,  
Lay Commission Chair**

**Dr. Connie Speights  
Richardson, Episcopal  
Supervisor**

**Matikane Abednego Makiti,  
Connectional Lay President**

**Ms. Patricia H. Wright,  
11<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District  
President**

**Mrs. Mary Brown Silva, 11<sup>th</sup>  
District Director of Public  
Relations**





Do we then ask ourselves, how is or could this work be All Divine? The work *is* All Divine according to the scriptural references in the following passage as penned by St. Peter:

## 2 Peter 1: 3-11: Confirming One's Calling and Election

*<sup>3</sup> His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup> Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. <sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup> and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. <sup>8</sup> For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, <sup>11</sup> and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Not only must we confirm our calling, we must also continue to be active participants in our regular means of grace freely giving of our time, talents and treasures, knowing that there is a purpose, plan and requirement(s) yet to be fulfilled before this earthly journey is complete. Sometimes those trials are by fire via family members, our health (mental and/or physical), children, loss of economic stability or by other means. Through it all we must hold fast to our faith and pray and seek God for the qualities as outlined in the scriptural text above. For surely out of this pandemic, crisis, blithe, or whatever it will eventually be called, the year 2020 roared in as fierce as any blizzard or March wind and is still roaring. I choose to hold fast to Jesus and **stand** according to Ephesians 6:14-17, KJV, knowing that God holds the key and solution to all that's herein effected in this global storm.

In the words of **Slash** (*Saul Hudson, a British-American musician and songwriter.*)

*"No one expects the rug to be yanked out from underneath them; life-changing events usually don't announce themselves. While instinct and intuition can help provide some warning signs, they can do little to prepare you for the feeling of rootlessness that follows when fate flips your world upside down. Anger, confusion, sadness, and frustration are shaken up together inside you like a snow globe. It takes years for the emotional dust to settle as you do your best to see through the storm." **The year 2020, did all of this and more. (We can and will weather these storms with God being our helper and sustainer).***

I wish to thank the constituency of the Eleventh Episcopal District for supporting this office during my tenure 2016-2020. I pray for the success of the incoming Director, Sister Robbyn Hopewell and for the membership of the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization.

**To God Be The Glory, and Yes, the Work is STILL ALL DIVINE.**

Mary Brown Silva,  
Outgoing Director of Public Relations,  
11th Episcopal District Lay Organization

# 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.







DR. JEFFERY COOPER  
AME GENERAL SECRETARY

P.O. Box 331028 - 1720 Scovel Street - Nashville, TN 37208  
Office: 615-254-0911 - Fax: 615-254-0912 - cio@ame-church.com

**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.

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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

**Lay Commission Chair**  
Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr.

**President**  
Matikane Abednego Makiti

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**  
Simon Letsoko

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
Starr L. Battle

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**  
Lovie Aaron

**Recording Secretary**  
Doris M. Bell

**Asst. Recording Secretary**  
Brenda Holland Curry

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Ada Groff

**Treasurer**  
Richard L. Bowden

**Financial Secretary**  
Lyndia M. Mayo

**Chaplain**  
Alice Belden

**Historiographer**  
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
<b>Ash Wednesday</b> 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
<b>First Sunday in Lent</b> March 1, 2020	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
<b>Second Sunday in Lent</b> 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>
<b>Third Sunday in Lent</b> March 15, 2020	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> March 22, 2020	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
<b>Annunciation of the Lord</b> March 25, 2020	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 45 or <i>Psalm 40:5-10</i>	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> March 29, 2020	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
<b>Liturgy of the Palms</b> April 5, 2020 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Matthew 21:1-11	
<b>Liturgy of the Passion</b> 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
<b>Monday of Holy Week</b> April 6, 2020	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 36:5-11	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
<b>Tuesday of Holy Week</b> April 7, 2020	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 71:1-14	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
<b>Wednesday of Holy Week</b> April 8, 2020	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 70	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> 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
<b>Good Friday</b> 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
<b>Holy Saturday</b> 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
<b>Easter Vigil</b> April 12, 2020	<p>Old Testament Readings and Psalms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26</li> <li>• Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 and Psalm 46</li> <li>• Genesis 22:1-18 and Psalm 16</li> <li>• Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 and Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18</li> <li>• Isaiah 55:1-11 and Isaiah 12:2-6</li> <li>• Baruch 3:9-15, 3:32-4:4 or Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 and Psalm 19</li> <li>• Ezekiel 36:24-28 and Psalm 42, 43</li> <li>• Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 143</li> <li>• Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Psalm 98</li> </ul> <p>New Testament Reading and Psalm Romans 6:3-11 and Psalm 114</p> <p>Gospel Matthew 28:1-10</p>			
<b>Resurrection of the Lord</b> 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>
<b>Easter Evening</b> 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
<b>Trinity Sunday</b> 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
<b>Second Sunday after Pentecost</b> 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)
<b>Third Sunday after Pentecost</b> 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
<b>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 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
<b>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b> July 5, 2020	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45:10-17 <i>or 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
<b>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 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
<b>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</b> 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
<b>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 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
<b>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 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
<b>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 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
<b>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</b> 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
<b>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</b> August 23, 2020	Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124	Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
<b>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 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.

# *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!**





**T  
H E  
E P I S  
C O P A L  
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!**

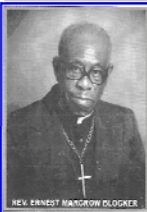
From the Laymen League of the Eleventh Episcopal District to the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization

## Blocker

ERNEST M. BLOCKER  
FROM SOUTH  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE

Nov 2, 1948 - 1953

Lead the Laymen to meet and organize the Miami District Laymen'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 president 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!



# Your Membership is Needed & Encouraged...

## The African Methodist Episcopal Church ~ Eleventh Episcopal District

### LAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

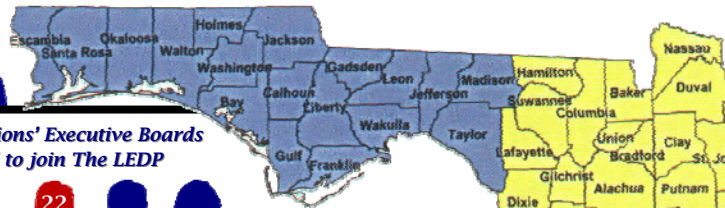


All Officers of Leadership at all levels of each Lay Organization within the 11th Episcopal District should have membership in the LEDP. Though it's Not a requirement, we strongly encourage ALL Officers to join, maintain membership, get involved & help us to help others. Make the LEDP a serious obligation ~ 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**



**19**  
15+ Executive Board Members join LEDP



**East Conference & District Lay Organizations' Executive Boards**

**23**  
15+ Executive Board Members join LEDP

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

**20** 15+ Members  
**21** 15+ Members  
**22** 15+ Members  
Executive Boards of Each District's Lay Organization would add 45+ Members!

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

**24** 15+ Members  
**25** 15+ Members  
**26** 15+ Members

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

**27**  
15+ Executive Board Members join LEDP

**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

**28** 15+ Members  
**29** 15+ Members  
**30** 15+ Members

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

**35** 15+ Executive Board Members join LEDP  
**36** 15+ Members  
**37** 15+ Members  
**38** 15+ Members  
Executive Boards of Each District's Lay Organization would add 45+ Members!

**31**  
15+ Executive Board Members join LEDP

**32** 15+ Members  
**33** 15+ Members

**34** 15+ Members

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

**39**  
10+ Executive Board Members join LEDP

**40** 10+ Members  
**41** 10+ Members

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