



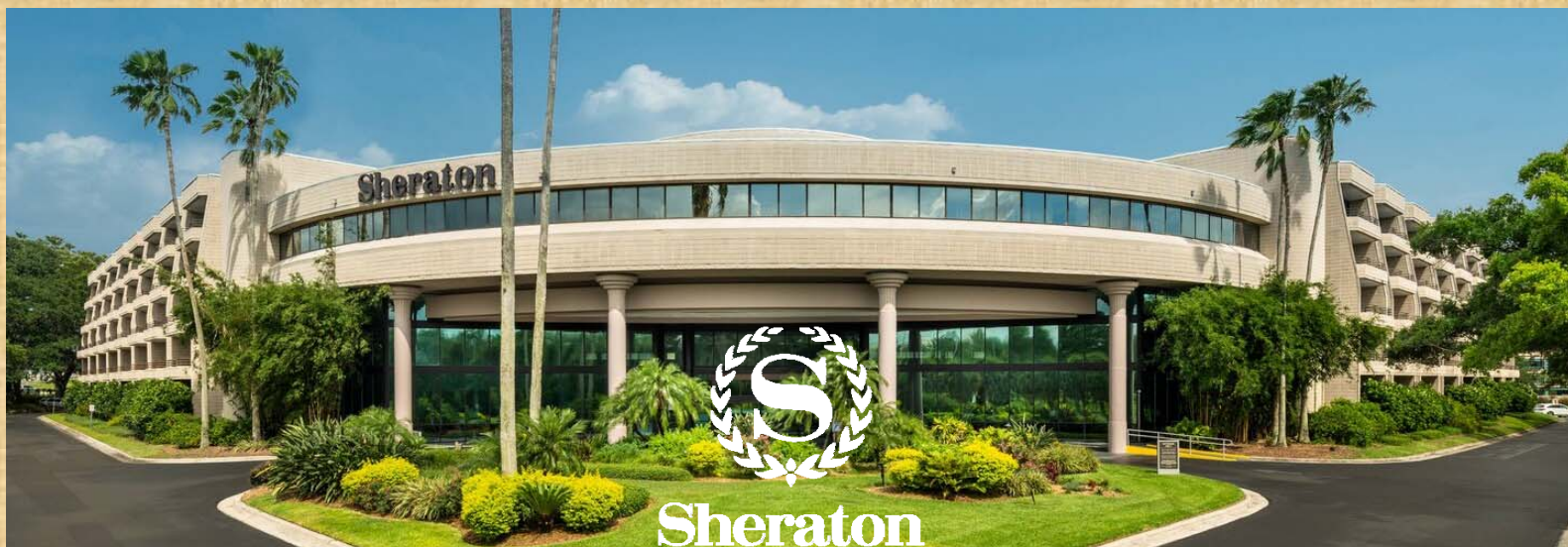
The Lay Communiqué

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



The Eighth Edition of the Digital Magazine † Summer/Fall Issue † June-December 2019

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



Sheraton

**The Tampa
Brandon Hotel**



THE SHERATON TAMPA BRANDON HOTEL ~ Tampa, FL ~ THE 75th JUBILEE CONVENTION SITE

Content in this Digital Magazine will update as new information is submitted / added within the 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

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

Advent	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2019	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2019	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2019	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146:5-10 or <i>Luke 1:46b-55</i>	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2019	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Nativity of the Lord - Proper I December 24 & 25, 2019 <i>Christmas Eve, Morn, or Mid-Day</i>	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
Nativity of the Lord - Proper II December 24 & 25, 2019 <i>Christmas Eve, Morn, or Mid-Day</i>	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20
Nativity of the Lord - Proper III December 24 & 25, 2019 <i>Christmas Eve, Morn, or Mid-Day</i>	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 98	Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)	John 1:1-14
First Sunday after Christmas Day December 29, 2019	Isaiah 63:7-9	Psalm 148	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23

Christmas (continues)	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Holy Name of Jesus January 1, 2020 <i>(Mary, Mother of God)</i>	Numbers 6:22-27	Psalm 8	Galatians 4:4-7 or <i>Philippians 2:5-11</i>	Luke 2:15-21
New Year's Day January 1, 2020	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Psalm 8	Revelation 21:1-6a	Matthew 25:31-46
Second Sunday after Christmas Day January 5, 2020	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 147:12-20 or <i>Solomon 10:15-21</i>	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9), 10-18

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=Advent>

Next Page: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=A&season=Epiphany>

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

Epiphany	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Epiphany of the Lord January 6, 2020	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Baptism of the Lord January 12, 2020 <i>First Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 19, 2020	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 26, 2020	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany February 2, 2020	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
Presentation of the Lord February 2, 2020	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalm 84 or <i>Psalm 24:7-10</i>	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 9, 2020	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)	Psalm 112:1-9 (10)	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)	Matthew 5:13-20
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany February 16, 2020	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
Transfiguration Sunday February 23, 2020 <i>(Last Sunday before Lent)</i>	Exodus 24:12-18	Psalm 2 or <i>Psalm 99</i>	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9

Be SURE to REMEMBER the Lessons of Advent, Christmas & The Epiphany...

LENT

PRAY • FAST • GIVE

MOVING INTO LENT 2020...

Make Plans **NOW** To Attend...

The Eleventh Episcopal District **LAY ORGANIZATION**

Executive Board Meeting

January 3-4, 2020

2020: Perfect Vision to See God's Blessings

Friday Night Worship & Praise

Saturday Business Meeting, Midyear Reports, Learning Lab

Hosted at

GREATER BETHEL AME CHURCH

701 SE 43rd Street - Gainesville, FL 32641

Where the pastor is

The Reverend Karl V. Smith

EEDLO

75 Years of

GOD's Grace



Friday Night Preacher

The Reverend Terence R. Gray

St. Mark AMEC - Orlando

Make Reservations on or **BEFORE** December 13, 2019

Hilton Hotels and Resorts

University of Florida Conference Center Gainesville 1714 SW
34th Street, Gainesville, FL

Single/Double Rooms \$109.00

Call: 1(800) 445-8667 or go to

[https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/G/GVNCCHF-AME120-20200103/
index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG](https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/G/GVNCCHF-AME120-20200103/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

request group rate by

11th Episcopal District Lay Organization Executive Board Mtg



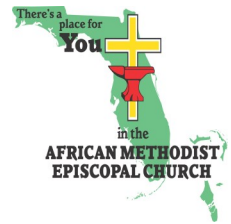
***The Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization
~ Meeting Times for the Executive Board Meeting ~
Executive Board Meeting***



Friday, January 3, 2020 ~ 1:30 P.M.
Hilton Hotel ~ Ballroom B
University of Florida Conference Center
1714 SW 34th Street | Gainesville, FL 32607

Friday Evening Worship Experience ~ 7:00 P.M.
Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church
701 SE 43rd Street | Gainesville, FL 32641

Saturday Morning ~ January 4, 2020
~ 7:45 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. ~
Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church
701 SE 43rd Street | Gainesville, FL



"The Lay Communiqué"

11th Episcopal District Lay Organization

The Between Edition, II (Between Conferences, Thanksgiving & Advent)

November 30, 2019

President Patricia Wright has now concluded her series of Annual Conferences, and Planning Meeting; however, the next level of work is just beginning.

This new and different work is the herculean task of the 51st General Conference AME Church in the City of Orlando. Keep in mind that the work of the Episcopal District must still go forward unimpeded. Work, such as the 11th District Executive Board Meeting, Mid-Year, etc., etc., while still making herself available and attending the multiplicity of Connectional Meetings prior to the General Conference, July 8-15, 2020.

We should/must make ourselves available to assist President Wright as much as possible as we continue to fulfil the tasks of our specific elected office(s). Let us therefore be like yeast used in baking; continue to "RISE" to assist our hard-working President.

LIFE continues to be filled with varying trials and tribulations, however, we must strive to put our best foot forward daily while singing or humming our favorite hymn/song; this World is not my home, and I'm Holding to God's Unchanging Hand. We're all on temporary assignment working out or towards our soul salvation. We're ever so grateful that God does give sunny days and new mercies daily. Because of the **LORD'S** great love we are not consumed, for **His** compassions never fail. They are new every

morning; great is **YOUR (God's)** faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV.

The Eleventh District experienced highs and lows as we suffered losses and grieved for family members, church members and friends. Sadness also permeated our Conferences due to Hurricane Dorian, missing children, missing adults, insensitivities of racism, sexism, and senseless killings/shootings of our juvenile children. These atrocities makes us wonder "What's Going On?" (Marvin Gaye, released May 21, 1971) Has Christian believers and the Lay membership lost their **Salt**? Where is the **Light**? Is it hidden under a Bushel/Box, or some other place. Are we no longer **BOLD** Witnesses and Soldiers in **GOD'S ARMY? WHAT'S GOING ON?**

Song Lyrics:

What's Going On

[Marvin Gaye,](#)

Mother, mother

There's too many of you crying
Brother, brother, brother
There's far too many of you dying
You know we've got to find a way
To bring some lovin' here today,

Father, father

We don't need to escalate
You see, war is not the answer
For only love can conquer hate
You know we've got to find a way
To bring some lovin' here today,

Picket lines and picket signs

Don't punish me with brutality
Talk to me, so you can see

Oh, what's going on

What's going on

Yeah, what's going on

Ah, what's going on

Mother, mother, everybody thinks we're wrong

Oh, but who are they to judge us
Simply 'cause our hair is long

Oh, you know we've got to find a way,
To bring some understanding here today

Picket lines and picket signs

Don't punish me with brutality
C'mon talk to me

So you can see

What's going on

Yeah, what's going on

Tell me what's going on

I'll tell you what's going on,

To think that this song so relevant to today was released more than 48 years ago; so, is there anything "new" under the sun? Think on these scriptures and conduct your own research until next time.....

[Everything is Futile](#)

...8 All things are wearisome, more than one can describe; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear content with hearing. 9 [What has been is what will be, and what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.](#) 10 Is there a case where one can say, "Look, this is new"? It has already existed in the ages before us.... [Berean Study Bible](#)

Cross References

[Ecclesiastes 1:10](#)

Is there a case where one can say, "Look, this is new"? It has already existed in the ages before us.

[Ecclesiastes 2:12](#)

Then I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what more can the king's successor do than what has already been accomplished?

The Right Rev. Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.,
Resident Bishop,
11th Episcopal District

The Rt. Rev. E. Earl McCloud, Jr.,
Lay Commission Chair

Dr. Connie Speights Richardson,
Episcopal Supervisor

Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell,
Connectional Lay President

Ms. Patricia H. Wright,
11th Episcopal District President

Mrs. Mary Brown Silva,
11th District Director of Public Relations

[Ecclesiastes 3:15](#)

What exists has already been, and what will be has already been, for God will call to account what has passed.

[Ecclesiastes 6:10](#)

Whatever exists was named long ago, and what happens to a man is foreknown; but he cannot contend with one stronger than he.

Continued Page 4.

<https://biblehub.com/ecclesiastes/1-9.htm>. (11/30/19)

Is there anything “NEW” under the sun?

Treasury of Scripture

The thing that has been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 3:15

That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.

Ecclesiastes 7:10

Say not thou, What is *the cause* that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this.

2 Peter 2:1

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Isaiah 43:19

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, *and* rivers in the desert.

Jeremiah 31:22

How long wilt thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter? for the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man.

Revelation 21:1,5

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea...

Ecclesiastes 1:9

New International Version

What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.

New Living Translation

History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new.

English Standard Version

What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.

New American Standard Bible

That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun.

New King James Version

That which has been *is* what will be, That which *is* done is what will be done, And *there is* nothing new under the sun.

King James Bible

The thing that hath been, it *is that* which shall be; and that which is done *is* that which shall be done: and *there is* no new *thing* under the sun.

Christian Standard Bible

What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun.

Contemporary English Version

Everything that happens has happened before; nothing is new, nothing under the sun.

Good News Translation

What has happened before will happen again. What has been done before will be done again. There is nothing new in the whole world.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun.

International Standard Version

Whatever has happened, will happen again; whatever has been done, will be done again. There is nothing new on earth.

NET Bible

What exists now is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing truly new on earth.

New Heart English Bible

That which has been is that which shall be; and that which has been done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

Love for Lay Doesn't Fade By Joyce C. Pink ~ *Our Voice* Writer

Mr. Robert J. Wright, Sr. shares fond memories of a robust Tampa District Lay Organization that led the old Tampa Annual Conference.

Robert J. Wright, Sr., “could go on and on” about the African Methodist Episcopal Church and his love for Mt. Olive, Tampa, where he is a life-long member. Another special place in his heart belongs to the Lay Organization. “The Lay must be about the business of teaching about the A.M.E. Church. That’s what the goal should be. Teaching the laws of the church. The Lay needs be strong in each local church.” That’s what Mr. Wright wants the modern-day Lay to know. Wise words from a wise man who once led the Tampa District Lay Organization, and a man whom the Rev. Gregory Gay, pastor of Mt. Olive, calls “an icon in the A.M.E. Church.”

Mr. Wright’s earliest memories of the Lay go back to the old Tampa Annual Conference that stretched along the west coast from Inverness in Citrus County, south to Naples, in Collier County. “Benny Favors, Tampa District President, was my mentor. B.S. Proctor was Tampa Conference president, as well as the local president at Mt. Olive. They got me started in the Lay as a teen, around 18 or 19. I was a delegate to two General Conferences as a youth and to three as an adult,” says Mr. Wright, 82. “It was an amazing experience to see the church at work, to see how laws are made; to see how bishops are elected and how appointments are made.”

Mr. James L. Williams, Jr., who served as Episcopal Lay President, named Mr. Wright chair of the Legislative Committee for the Episcopal District. He also served on the Legislative Committee at the Connectional level and was instrumental in submitting legislation to the General Conference. Mr. Favors and Mr. Proctor each served 24 consecutive years in their respective positions. That was just before the 8-year term limit mandate was put in place. All totaled, Mr. Wright served 23 nonconsecutive years as Tampa District president. “I was encouraged to pick up the banner that Benny Favors laid down. We were both out of Mt. Olive,” he said.

“Every church was strong when it came to the Lay. We had 13 churches on the Tampa District; each one was strong because each one had strong leadership. We would see to it that pastors organized the Lay. Once, I had about 140 people in one Tampa District meeting. James Honors of Lakeland, who was a Conference president, once said that I had more people in my District meetings than he had in his Conference meetings.” Mr. Wright was also an innovative leader. He says he was the first president in the Eleventh Episcopal District to hold a convention on what was then called a “Presiding Elder’s District.”

He remembers his travels with “stalwart Lay soldiers.” Most are no longer here, but some are. Names such as Cora Bell Larkin (the first female president of the Conference), Susie Padgett, Benjamin Padgett (a staunch Lay member before he became a minister), Herbert Bassett, Curtiss Wilson, Henry and Elizabeth Smith, Alma Morris and Sallye Holmes are names that roll off his tongue. All are legends who deserve to be honored.

Mr. Wright ceased being active in the Lay around 2001. He retired to take care of his wife (Mrs. Archia Wright passed in 2013) and then, his mother became ill. Mr. Wright said, “I just can’t go like I used to; I know my limitations. I thank God for allowing me to reach 82.”

On Father’s Day this year, during a ceremony that brought tears to his eyes, Mr. Wright was honored for his longevity and his dedication to Mt. Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Rev. Gay calls Mr. Wright a close friend to him and his family. “We’ve been through ups and downs, trials and tribulations.” Mr. Wright, always full of information, serves as the “Holy Steward” at Mt. Olive.

“If you need info, he’s the one to call,” said the Rev. Gay. “He’s well-versed on A.M.E. history. He was way ahead of his time. He was an app (computer application) before there was one.”

Love for Lay Doesn't Fade (continued)

Photographs of Mr. Wright, shared by the named persons below...



Mr. Robert Wright shows appreciation to those in attendance at Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church in Tampa on Father's Day during a ceremony that brought tears to his eyes.

~ Photo courtesy of Michelle Roberts
Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church, Tampa

[right] Mr. Benny Favors, left, and Mr. Robert Wright hold proclamations on July 10, 2005, the day the Favors-Wright Lay Organization at Mt. Olive came to be.

~ Photo courtesy of Eleventh Episcopal District Lay President, Ms. Patricia H. Wright



[bottom] In attendance at the naming were Rogers Humphrey, first president of the West Coast

Conference Lay Organization after the reconfiguration from the Tampa Conference; Bobby



Graham, former president of the Lakeland District; Robert Wright; James Honors, long time friend and former Orlando Conference (now Central Conference) president; and Evelyn Graham, Lay Economic Development Program president.

~ Photo courtesy of
Eleventh Episcopal District
Lay President, Ms. Patricia H.
Wright



Dear Connectional Lay Organization Members,

We desire to express appreciation for each local organization that submitted their public relations materials for various lay programs, including the Lay Witness and Evangelism Sunday information. The organization understands the value and impact of consistent branding, illustrations and marketing for lay programming. This missive is written to alleviate any confusion regarding the usage of certain organizational logos/symbols.

The Connectional Lay Organization has one (1) highly recognizable logo, which incorporates the **cross and anvil** surrounded in a circle by the **AME Church Lay Organization** banner in the organization's colors of royal blue and white. "The Anvil... has a symbolic and a historical meaning which must be noted by all who call themselves African Methodists. The founding fathers purchased a blacksmith's shop and converted it into their house of worship." The empty cross represents the ultimate sacrifice and victory that Jesus made for all who believe.



The CLO adopts a new theme of study and scriptural reference each quadrennium. The artistic rendering offers a visual interpretation of the adopted theme. However, the artistic depiction does not replace the CLO logo. The explanation of the current theme's artistic rendering was distributed by the CLO Director of Lay Activities.

Clear and consistent branding of the CLO demonstrates the harmony and strength of the ministry. Please forward any additional question/concerns about CLO logo usage and/or the organization's branding guidelines to ametta.reaves@gmail.com.

Blessings,

Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell,
President
Connectional Lay Organization

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



A WORD from the President...

Greetings Lay People and ALL of God's Folk

What A Mighty God We Serve!

Let me be clear. We are a resilient people. Our history is demonstrative of that. What other people, having been kidnapped, enslaved and transported to a foreign land with strange unknown languages, customs and rituals have become the genius' in the land? What other people have taken morsels and made such magnificent and historic contributions? From such a people, blessed by the hand of GOD, I contend, has come the Electrifying Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization.

Indeed, God has brought us to this time and place to lift up His name for the blessings of bounty over this 75-year trek. Seventy five years you say... What is that about?

A Silver Jubilee is a celebration held to mark a 25th anniversary. A Ruby Jubilee marks a 40th anniversary, and a Golden Jubilee celebration marks a 50th anniversary. A Diamond Jubilee is a celebration held to mark a 60th anniversary of an event related to a person or organization. In 2017, the term Sapphire Jubilee or Blue Sapphire Jubilee was coined to mark the 65th anniversary of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Yet, marking seventy-five years falls in a category all by itself. It is platinum! This year we are honoring our Platinum Jubilee! The white silver metal known as **platinum** is the heaviest of the precious metals, weighing almost twice as much as karat gold. **Platinum** is more **expensive** because it is rarer and mined much less than gold. EEDLO you are a peculiar people; you are rare!

GOD has blessed us through remarkable struggle and incredible triumphs. We have made incredible strides and accomplished feats that were beyond our expectation.

Let's strive to continue living our best lives with the time and gifts that GOD has given to our lives. Let's also take it as our duty to prepare others for this great journey just as our forebears did for us.

Happy JUBILEE New Year!!

As a people of faith and dreams we know there awaits so much more for us to experience.

Seventy-five Years Behind Us,
Unlimited Possibilities Before Us.

Patricia Wright



*YEARS
Anniversary*



"The Lay Communiqué"

11th Episcopal District Lay Organization

75 Years of God's GREAT Grace (75th Annual Convention)

June 17-19, 2019



Monday, June 17, 2019, members of the Eleventh Episcopal District (EEDLO) traveled from across the state and the Bahamas to Tampa, Florida for the 75th Annual Convention, to celebrate "75 years of God's Great Grace" under the leadership of Ms. Patricia Wright EEDLO President and Ms. Teresa White, EEDLO Director of Lay Activities. The EEDLO Office opened at 2:00 P.M. as well as the preparation of Kits for Distribution.



Ann McCelvey (Florida Conference) greeting delegates with a smile.

Tuesday, June 18, 2019, Most of the laity had arrived. This day was the start of Pre-Meetings and registration as the Executive Board began their work. We kicked off the Jubilee Convention with the opening of the Hospitality Room. The LEDP Board met emphasizing membership and recruitment. Funds collected goes towards helping churches in need and does not conflict with the Nehemiah Ministry. An election was held to elect a Director. The candidates were Mr. Joseph Johnson of the Florida Conference and Ms. Dessie Matthews. Though both candidates were qualified and

enthusiastic, Mr. Johnson was elected.

New members joined during the meeting. Additionally Commissions met as needed and delegates attending for the first time went to the First Timers' Orientation.

Mr. Nick Causey, Security Coordinator, ensured that each delegate had proper credentials before entering workshops and meetings. Because of the current climate, we have established this extra layer of security.



Mr. Nick Causey, Security Coordinator.

Later that evening we attended the Opening Worship and Communion Service. We were blessed with a powerful message from The Reverend Dr. Mark L. Griffin of Wayman Temple AMEC of Jacksonville, Florida.

The title of Sermon was "Let Them See Jesus" from the Scripture: John 12:17-22 NLT. Reverend Griffin's Sermonic Points were as follows:

To help people get to Jesus you must:

- Have a relationship with the people.
- Know who Jesus is.
- Have access to Him (be able to get them to Jesus).

Reverend Griffin quoted words from "Jesus is the answer for the world today..." by Pastor Andre Crouch.



The Reverend Dr. Mark L. Griffin
Wayman Temple AMEC of
Jacksonville, Florida.

Wednesday, June 19, 2019,

On Wednesday, June 19, 2019 five (5) brave and courageous laity from the Florida to South Conferences walked 2.5 miles around the beautiful Sheraton Hotel preparing their bodies for the day. Putting on the whole Armor of God, to ensure and develop healthy bodies through exercise and lifestyle changes. The Health Walk Schedule for the remainder of the Jubilee Convention is as follows: Thursday, June 20th at 5:45 a.m. and Friday, June 21st at 5:45 a.m. If you would like to join us, please

meet us at the front desk by the hotel check-in. "A healthy body is a terrible thing to waste."

Persons in attendance on June 19, 2019 were Melanie Weatherspoon and Stephanie Gilliam-Brown, both of the South Conference, Patricia A. Kelly and Marie Dixon-Jones both of the Central Conference and Connie E. Jenkins-Pye (Reporter) of the Florida Conference.

The Right Rev.
Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.,
Resident Bishop, 11th Episcopal District

The Rt. Rev. E. Earl McCloud, Jr.,
Lay Commission Chair

Dr. Connie Speights Richardson,
Episcopal Supervisor

Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell,
Connectional Lay President

Ms. Patricia H. Wright,
11th Episcopal District President

Mrs. Mary Brown Silva,
11th District
Director of Public Relations

Business Office Staff
Ms. Sharolyn T. Wood
Mrs. Sharon Russell
Ms. Rebecca Williams
Mrs. Connie E. Jenkins-Pye



Wednesday, June 19, 2019 continues...

LEDP Breakfast:

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Joseph Smiley, Dean of Social and Behavioral Science at St. Petersburg College

POINTS

- Does your local church serve as a Transformer of Jericho Road with ministries of mercy?
- On that Jericho Road, how do we show compassion to our broken families in our broken neighborhoods? In every one of those neighborhoods, there is a church on every corner, and you say don't go there. The church is equipped to deal with this because Jesus said go and do likewise.
- Get your church to form a reading program. Dr. Smiley visited a library that will give away books free. Talk to your Librarian in your city to inquire about programs such as this. The library he visited will allow every child to check out three books every time they come in all summer, using a credit card so that that a parent does not have to be present.
- On the Jericho Road, find the hungry. Challenge: Look at your budget. See how much of your budget you can find on the Jericho Road.
- We're coming out of that baby boom situation where half of your church is going to be over 65. You need to be ready. The largest portion of your membership is going to be older members.
- Take five of your Sunday School (Bible Discovery Hour) children, buy cards, and take them to a senior citizen who has not been to church in a long time and won't be back. They can bless that senior citizen's heart by reading scriptures and singing to them. That senior should be visited every week. They should never have loneliness.
- Every church should take your church bus, talk to the Superintendent of a prison, and have your church walk through that prison (**not jail, but the prison**).

The Movie - EMANUEL

More than 200 tickets were purchase for the viewing of the Documentary EMANUEL. It was well documented by family members, survivors, law enforcement, political figures, reporters and the community at large. It caused all of us to take pause as to how precious life is.

JUNETEENTH

CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM WORSHIP SERVICE

Under the direction of our Young Adult Representative, Mrs. Robbyn Hopewell

The Spoken Word was delivered by The Reverend Kenya S. Williams, St. Mark AMEC of Clermont, Florida. She is the daughter of The Reverend Sandara Williams and granddaughter of Presiding Elder James O. Williams, Sr. She was supported by a host of other family members and the Allen Temple AMEC Tampa Contemporary Choir. This was an n African Attire Event. The subject of the message was: "Give Me Jesus" taken from John 8:34.

- **COMMISSIONS met as needed.**

Registration Report 6/19/2019

	LAY	MINISTERS	TOTAL
Florida	35	4	39
Central	40	13	53
South	25	4	29
West Coast	73	24	97
East	40	6	46
Bahamas	6	1	7

75th Convention Total = 271
Last Convention Total = 191

President Wright has done an exceptional job in growing our membership and should be applauded!



11th Episcopal District Lay Organization

75 Years of God's GREAT Grace

(75th Annual Convention)

June 20-21, 2019

2nd Edition



Thursday, June 20, 2019

Once again, on Thursday, June 20, 2019 seven (7) brave and courageous laity from the Florida to South Conferences walked 2.5 miles around the beautiful Sheraton Hotel preparing their bodies for the day. Putting on the whole Armor of God, to ensure and develop healthy bodies through exercise and lifestyle changes. Remember everyone, "A healthy body is a terrible thing to waste."

Devotional Service Jennifer Lawson, Reporter Florida Conference

Bible Study was presented by The Reverend Burney Hayes. Scripture reference: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5; 7; and 12. Subject: Learning to Capture My Emotions While Developing God."

We must learn to share our gifts with the world and not keep them to ourselves.

We must learn not to live by:

- 1) the lust of the flesh
- 2) The lust of the eyes
- 3) The pride of life

Don't be SBNR
"Spiritual But Not Religious"

There were a continuation of
Reports by Conference Presidents
and Commission Chairs

Training Sessions

The Chatter About Chattahoochee
Removing the Stigma of Mental Health
Presenter: Ms. Rene R. Flower
Reporter: Ms. Patricia Kelly
Central Conference

What do we think about when we say Chattahoochee? The Racy House, somewhere crazy people LIVE.

Today everyone is in need of counseling. When you speak to a pastor, friend, or anyone you confide in is seeking mental release. Let's talk about African American culture and how we handle the stigma of mental health. Because of our culture, we are less likely to seek mental help. We are more likely to wait until symptoms are more severe. More likely than whites to refuse treatment. Even though we have prayer to help us sustain, God has provided tools to help us professionally with mental HEALTH.

How can we help?

- Understand what contributes to mental health.
- There are many issues that contribute to mental health.
- What can you do?
- If you know of someone who's going through something for more than two or three days, Stop and Sit with them and have a conversation.
- Suggest they seek professional help. The more we help identify mental health, the more we can help our sisters and brothers.

Mid Day Praise Experience

The Lay Benevolent Auxiliary noon day worship was led by Mrs. Shirley Kicklighter Morgan. Performances were presented with the theme of "What's In Your Bag."

- Florida Conference - Mrs. Jennifer Lawson - The Bag of Faith
- Central Conference - Ms. Delma Brinson - The Bag of Love
- East Conference - Ms. Shirley Harris - The Bag of Prayer
- West Coast Conference - Ms. Ethel Lles Mussintgon and Ms. Carolyn Robinson - The Bag of Joy
- South Conference Ms. Malanie Weatherspoon - The Bag of Peace

The Reverend Dr. Julius McAllister posed a question during the Invitation of Discipleship, "What's In Your Heart?" Reminding us that all of these bags are a part of how we love one another.

The Making of a Bishop from Election to Episcopal Committee to Episcopal Assignment

Presenter: Reverend Dr. Julius H. McAllister, Jr., Senior Minister
Bethel AME Church, Tallahassee, Florida
Reporter: Connie E. Jenkins-Pye (Florida Conference)

Reverend Dr. Julius H. McAllister, Jr. opened the training session with prayer and asked the question "Are Bishops born or are they made? He asked participants to volunteer to provide answers to the question. Some participants stated they are born, made and both, born and made. Carolyn Hill (Florida Conference) stated that a Bishop has to be called by God through divine intervention by our Lord and Saviour. Reverend McAllister stated taking one step farther, you have to love the people (members of your congregation) because "Love Makes the Difference." Being a Bishop is a calling scriptural reference Genesis 12: 1-2. A Pastor striving to become a Bishop should understand that you have to be involved and engaged in your community because community is your parish.

Making of a Bishop requires building relationships rapport with the community, community leaders, and governmental officials. Drawing from their: Experiences, Community Involvement, Ecumenical participation, Spiritual formation, Dealing with challenges and setbacks, The inward work of the Holy Spirit. As an example, failures and successes, Bishop Julius McAllister, Sr. ran for the position three (3) times before being elected at the 2008 General Conference in St. Louis. He read a letter written on July 16, 2004 from Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr., he wrote to the congregants after losing his bid for Bishop by four (4) votes for the third attempt. Reverend McAllister asked the question, what is a servant leader? He asked the young adults under 40 years of age to answer the question. Their replies a humble leader who can do common things that common people do. For example, a pastor picking up paper off the ground and sweeping or mopping a floor that is uncleaned. The Making of a Bishop requires: Serving this present age. Bishops will always have a shepherd's heart and a Pastor's spirit, They want to be a great example of what servant leadership is all about Spiritual Discernment, what they listen too or respond too, and follow their pastoral ministry: if they are compassionate, innovative and creative. A person striving to be a Bishop: Relate well with people, in their eyesight, there are no Big I's or little You's. They do not allow their Public Relations (PR) to go before their production. You are never too important to be nice, and it takes more than preaching to reach the people. In closing, Bishops must have patience and see the good in everyone.

Jubilee Awards Banquet

After a warm welcome, prayer, scripture, and musical selection, the food was blessed and a delicious dinner was served. Following dinner scholarship presentations were made by Mrs. Loretta Coppock, Director of EEDLO Programs & Activities Commission. The following persons were recipients:

- Florida - Tatyana Nicole Pompey
- South - Dominique Estinfil
- Central - Jada Nicole Chambers
- West Coast - Kendrick Phillips
- East - George Anthony Pratt
- Bahamas - Gittavia Goodman

Ms. Lolita Brown, Assistant Director of EEDLO Programs & Activities Commission presented the following awards:

Hall of Fame Inductees:

- Florida - Mrs. Brenda Banks
- South - Ms. Annie Grace Alexander-Edwards
- East - Ms. Sarah McCombs
- East - Mr. Joseph Coppock, Sr.
- Bahamas - Ms. Esther Kelly Ferguson
- Bahamas - Mr. Brian Brown

Anvil

- South - Mr. Willie Williams

Ms. Patricia Wright, President of EEDLO presented the following awards:

The Solider of the Cross

- Florida - Mrs. Ann McCelvy

The Outstanding Lay Person of 2019

- Central - Mr. Tyrone Presley

The Young Adult of 2019

- Florida - Miss Ashley Blakely

The Outstanding Community Service

- West Coast - Dr. Joseph Smiley

The Clergy of the Year Award

- West Coast - Reverend Kirk Bogen

In addition to the scholarships and awards, 47 delegates over the age of 75 formed "CLUB 75."



Friday, June 21, 2019

- Health Activities
- Devotion/Bible Study
- Plenary Session 4
- Closing Business Session
- Continuation of Reports
- Resolutions and Final Recommendations
- Committee/Commission Recommendation
- East Conference Presentation
- Closing Remarks - Acknowledgements
- Memorial Service

12:00 P.M.

PARTING MISSIVE

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

- Prayer for Membership
- Lay Benediction/Adjournment

The Right Rev. Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.
Resident Bishop, 11th Episcopal District

The Rt. Rev. E. Earl McCloud, Jr.
Lay Commission Chair

Dr. Connie Speights Richardson
Episcopal Supervisor

Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell
Connectional Lay President

Ms. Patricia H. Wright
11th Episcopal District President

Mrs. Mary Brown Silva
11th District
Director of Public Relations

Business Office Staff
Ms. Sharolyn T. Wood
Ms. Rebecca D. Williams
Mrs. Sharon Russell
Mrs. Connie E. Jenkins-Pye

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**

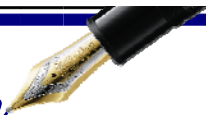
LEADER: *An organization that survives for a decade is quite remarkable. An Organization that survives, thrives and revives for 75 years is an uncommon occurrence that surely must be held in high regard by a God given to greatness.*

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 President's Pen



By now hopefully and prayerfully, you have made it back to your places of abode. Let me share with you my exuberant thanks for a riveting and engaging Executive Board meeting. This board meeting yielded great results and bodes well for our upcoming 75th Annual Convention.

This greeting comes, primarily, to serve 3 purposes:

- (1) to thank those in attendance during all or any part of the weekend
- (2) to review and remind us, in a brief way, some of the highlights
- (3) to inform and link those who were unable to attend

We engaged in rich discussion about disaster relief and our commitment to push forward benevolence to Florida Conference through our gift card project. Mrs. Francine Postell issued a challenge to other Districts of the Annual Conference Presidents. Several of the district presidents accepted her challenge to match her district's contribution. Project will end February 22 (Annual Retreat Gathering).

Other highlights include the appointment of Mrs. Sharon Causey to serve as one of the co-chairs of the Statistics and Finance Commission and the appointment of Mr. Hugh Yancy, Jr. as EEDLO Treasurer.

Additionally, we moved toward continuous process improvement by making final revisions to the Benevolence Guidelines and EEDLO Letter of Intent which will be used in each of our Annual Conferences. An amendment to the Anvil Award and Hall of Fame Award applications was made to include a category for 'lay activities.' The Conference President reports were top notch, especially as each chose a special moment from the Annual Conference Lay Worship Experience to share.

Aside from the business of what I deem the Lay Organization at Work, I must shout out to and about the Preachers' Wives!!! Friday night our worship experience featured the Preacher's Wife is Preaching... And Preach They Did! From three Powerfully Prepared Preaching Wives came messages of hope: "I Trust God" "Due Season" and "You Can't Stop My Praise!" Special thanks to the REVERENDS Ava Curry, Tamira Bouie and Alicia Hudson! And the Preachers' wives brought the preachers, for besides being accompanied by their respective Pastor/Spouse, several other pastors/clergy were in attendance, including two chief pastors: Presiding Elder Joyce J. Moore and Presiding Elder J. O. Williams.

We were graciously hosted and served by the great folk of Victory AME Church. Pastor Michael Price stayed the entire meeting and worked tirelessly to make our meeting a success. We certainly extend our appreciation to him and his people who were very attentive.

FINALLY, taking a stanza from our celebratory litany: ***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.***

Thank you!

EEDLO – You Know!

(Now go tell somebody!)

Pat Wright - 2019

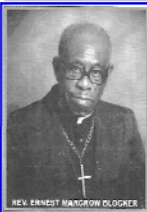
From the Laymen League of the Eleventh Episcopal District to the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization

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 Breckinridge 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 Tallahassee, 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

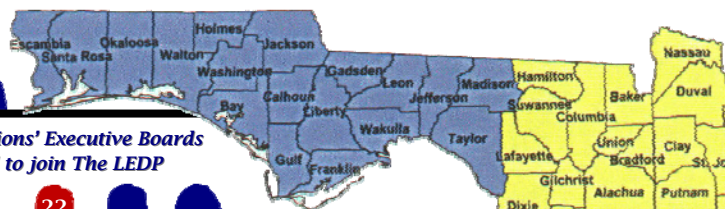


All Officers of Leadership at all levels of each Lay Organization within the 11th Episcopal District should have membership in the LEDP. Though it's Not a requirement, we strongly encourage ALL Officers to join, maintain membership, get involved & help us to help others. Make the LEDP a serious obligation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

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!

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!

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!