



The Lay Communiqué

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



The 14th Edition of the Digital/Web Lay Magazine † 1st/2nd Qtr. Issue † January ~ June 2023

Online Content updates are continuous ~ Please send your events & other AME flyers for publication!



THE ATLANTIS RESORT ON PARADISE ISLAND ~ NASSAU, BAHAMAS | LAY CONVENTION SITE

Content in this Digital Magazine will update as new information is submitted / added within the Issue's time frame
Please send your event dates &/or flyers, photos & features for the Digital Lay Communiqué

Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization President: Ms. Patricia H. Wright † West Coast Conference
EED Lay Organization Director of Public Relations: Ms. Robbyn M. Hopewell † West Coast Conference
Digital Communiqué Magazine design by AJSG ~ EEDLO Web Servant † East Conference



A Presidential Word...

Listen to the 1975 sitcom *The Jeffersons* theme song 'Moving On Up.' The rhythmic beat of the music can still make us sway and the simple pattern of the words compel us to join in. Even after nearly fifty years, we still understand and relate to the concept of moving on up.

Well, we're movin' on up To the east side
To a deluxe apartment in the sky
Movin' on up To the east side
We finally got a piece of the pie.

The Jeffersons entire plot centers around a couple—George and Weezie—who has worked hard and gained enough financial success to enjoy a slice of the good life. How interestingly amazing that they were rejoicing at making it to the East side, for to them, that represented the good side of town. Similarly, we in the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization are rejoicing at our upward trajectory toward the East side for us which represents EXCELLENCE in our work and witness. We are moving to the next level.

This new year is not only a time of thanksgiving, but it is a time to take an inventory of our blessings. Though they are too numerous to list, we are surely grateful to God for His largesse and grace.

During the past year the EEDLO has become the standard bearer for outstanding service, participation and leadership. In spite of several obstacles, we have not been thwarted from attending our churches, providing training opportunities and participating in social justice and disaster relief efforts for our communities. We have continued to embrace change and utilize different approaches. In addition to virtually attending the Learning Retreat and Thursday Night Teaching (TNT), we gathered together in person for the first time since the pandemic shutdown with over 300 persons for our June convention. It was met with rave reviews and was an astounding affirmation of the fact that We Are STILL HERE!

It has been said that every round goes higher and higher.

Indeed it does. I am grateful for you my Eleventh District colleagues for how you rise to every occasion and never shrink from undertaking what ever is asked of you. Listen to the words to "Moving On Up" once more. Do you hear what I hear?

Now we're up in the big leagues Getting our turn at bat
As long as we live, it's you and me **LAITY**
There ain't nothing wrong with that ...

EEDLO, we are moving on up to the NEXT Level!

Patricia Wright #8

Electoral College

Election of Lay Delegates **(At the Local Church)**

2021 Discipline 264

- a. Every pastor shall publish a notice of the **Church Conference** that is to elect lay representatives or delegates from his/her local church to the Electoral College at least two (2) weeks prior to the election.
- b. The election must be held at **least three (3) months prior** to the meeting of the Electoral College. Only full members eighteen (18) years of age and older of said local church shall be eligible to vote or to be elected a delegate. A majority of those present and voting shall determine the elected delegate and alternate delegate, and no proxy vote shall be counted, either at the election of the local church or at the election held in and at the Electoral College.
- c. The young adults shall elect their delegates to the Electoral College at the same time, but in a separate place from the election of the adult delegates.

CONFERENCE	ANNUAL CONFERENCE DATE	ELECTION BY
FLORIDA	September 13-15, 2023	June 13
SOUTH	September 27-29, 2023	June 27
WEST COAST	October 4-6, 2023	July 4
EAST	October 18-20, 2023	July 18
CENTRAL	October 25-27, 2023	July 25
BAHAMAS	November 8-9	August 8

Electoral College **(At the site of Annual Conference)** 2021 Discipline 265

Electoral College shall assemble at the place and time designated by the Annual Conference and shall organize according to the custom of designated bodies. The adult lay delegate from the local church hosting the meeting of the Electoral College shall take the chair for the purpose of presiding and processing the voting to elect a temporary chairperson and temporary secretary. After devotional service the College shall effect a permanent organization, electing a chairperson, secretary, (2) tellers and (2) clerks and then proceed to elect from its members by ballot, delegates, at least one (1) of whom must be a young adult between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35), and alternates, as provided by the law.

South Conference Lay Organization Annual Convention

May 26-27, 2023 ~ Registration \$100

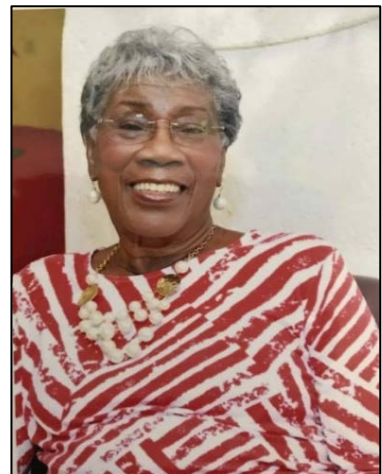
**Adams Tabernacle of Faith A.M.E. Church
18300 Sheridan St. ~ Pembroke Pines, FL 33025**



Frank III & Marlaa Reid
Episcopal Bishop & Supervisor



Patricia Wright
Episcopal Lay President



Katheryn Gillis
South Conference Lay President

Rev. Kimberly Scruggs Tobias, Pastor
Bishop Frank Madison Reid III, Presiding Prelate
Mrs. Marlaa Hall Reid, Episcopal District Supervisor
Mrs. Patricia Wright, Episcopal District Lay President
Ms. Teresa White, Episcopal Director of Lay Activities
Dr. Katheryn Gillis, Conference President
Ms. Vontel Mills, South Conference Director of Lay Activities



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION



TRANSFORMS, TRANSCENDS AND LIBERATES

GET READY



THE

DATES

38TH

Biennial Convention

JUNE 26 - 30, 2023

HILTON CHICAGO HOTEL

720 S. MICHIGAN AVE

**April 30, 2023:
Ends Regular Registration**



***May 1, 2023:
Begins Late Registration**

***Please Note: Late Registrations are not guaranteed a full kit!**

Patricia Wright
CLO - DOLA

Matikane Abednego Makiti
CLO - President

Jamesha Williams
CLO - YAR

Dianne H. Battle - CLO Director of Public Relations



Calling All Vendors!

**THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION OF THE
AME CHURCH INVITES YOU TO JOIN US AT**

THE 38TH BIENNIAL *Convention*

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023 - FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2023

Hilton Chicago Hotel
720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL

COST:

Premium Booth Location (limited availability) (10 x 10) - \$1,250

Regular Booth (10 x 10) - \$1,000

Regular Booth (AME Candidates Only) (10 x 10) - \$750

Stand-up Banner Placement only - \$200

Booth location will be determined on a first-come-first-served basis
which requires full payment prior to securing a booth.

Register Today at www.ameclay.org/clo-biennial-2023
Questions? Email us at CLOBiennialVendors@gmail.com.

Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker, Lay Organization Commissioner
Bro. Matikane Abednego Makiti, President



CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION
OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LAY EVANGELISM

Sunday

THEME

A TIME FOR REPENTANCE,
RENEWAL AND RECONCILIATION.

• 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21 •

MAY 28, 2023

BISHOP STAFFORD J.N. WICKER, LAY COMMISSION CHAIR
MR. MATIKANE ABEDNEGO MAKITI, PRESIDENT
MS. LOVIE AARON, 3RD VICE PRESIDENT
MS. PATRICIA WRIGHT, DIRECTOR OF LAY ACTIVITIES
MS. JAMESHA WILLIAMS, YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVE



2023

79th Annual Lay Convention

Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas

Convention Registration: \$125

To Register go to: eedlo.org and click on tab above symbol and follow prompts.

Hotel rooms: \$169+ resort fees; to reserve room use link below:

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50471092>

HOTEL Registration deadline is May 13.

13
JUNE

Day 1 - Tuesday

11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Settling In
Executive Board Meeting
Worship Experience Tuesday Evening

14
JUNE

Day 2 - Wednesday

2:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Business Sessions, Reports, YA and Lay Benevolent
Program; Awards Banquet

15
JUNE

Day 3 - Thursday

8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Learning Labs; AfterNoon Memorial Service;
Island Exploration and Enjoyment

16
JUNE

Day 4 - Friday

8:00 AM

Day of travel - Many airlines have one morning flight
per day

Attachments include information about scooters, transportation and more.

Eleventh Episcopal District LAY ORGANIZATION

79th Annual Convention!



BISHOP REID
Opening Preacher



RHOSHONDA HERRING
Presenter

Convening in

NASSAU, BAHAMAS

Rejoice!

REGISTRATION

\$125

BOOK YOUR ROOMS

NOW!



LEADING THE WAY

Bishop Frank M. Reid, III

Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Marlaa Hall Reid

Episcopal Supervisor

P. H. Wright

Episcopal Lay President

Teresa White

Episcopal DOLA

Ashley Blakely

Episcopal YAR

SCHEDULE

Tuesday June 13

ExBd Mtg; Worship Experience

Wednesday June 14

Business Mtg; Award Banquet
featuring Bahamas Junkanoo Band

Thursday June 15

Learning Labs, Memorial service;
Central Conference Presentation
Island Exploration - Bahamas Breeze

BOOK YOUR ROOM AT

**ATLANTIS PARADISE
ISLAND**

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50471092>

DEADLINE IS MAY 13, 2023

**Before May 30, 2023 Register for the 79th Annual Lay Convention
by going to
eedlo.org**

Click on bar above symbol and follow prompts.



Helpful Bahamas Information:

We have booked our Convention at the Atlantis Resort Paradise Island Bahamas. We have a few rooms on Monday June 12, 2023. You may book rooms as early as Monday, however the convention begins on Tuesday, June 13. We will try to wrap up on Thursday because of Friday flight times.

ATLANTIS RE-OPENING / TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS:

Rest assured your health and that of your attendees is our top priority. Added health measures, expanded cleaning protocols, guest room enhancements are all in place so you can safely experience our remarkable amenities, activities, dining and entertainment. **Important and timely travel information for guests can also be found here:** <https://www.atlantisbahamas.com/travel-updates>.

OTHER HELPFUL LINKS:

The Bahamas Travel Health Visa Instructions - <https://travel.gov.bs/>

Health Travel Visa Application - <https://travel.gov.bs/login>

Atlantis Clean & Safe Promise - <https://www.atlantisbahamas.com/clean-and-safe-promise/>

Atlantis Hotel Rapid Antigen Test Scheduler - <https://paradise.testd.com/start>

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES:

If you are planning on exploring on your own, the link below may help you. Please see below for more information on the exciting experiences Atlantis offers.

https://www.atlantisbahamas.com/thingstodo?itt=Nav_Experiences

CASHLESS:

The Atlantis works with a cashless system throughout the property. Cash is no longer accepted in any of the resort outlets or at the Front Desk upon check-out. All incidental charges are charged to a guest room or be paid electronically by card at the point of purchase. Guests are encouraged to prepare for international use of their credit cards prior to arrival. Atlantis Gift Cards are also available in advance or in any of the gift shops in increments of \$25.

INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING:

We recommend Laser International Freight Transport for any international shipping needs. They can be reached at (305) 633-4274 ext. 3550.

<http://www.laserfreight.com>

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANIES (DMCs):

Destination Management Companies can assist you with transportation and/or off property events etc. you may be planning.

<http://www.atlantisbahamas.com/meetings/conferenceplanning/eventresources/destinationmanagement>

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION:

Atlantis does not provide shuttle service to and from the airport, please see below for our recommended partner. *Additional information can be provided upon request.*

<http://www.atlantisbahamas.com/meetings/conferenceplanning/eventresources/transportation>

CARDINAL MOBILITY

For bookings please contact:
Guest Services in The Royal - Extension 65036
Email: reservations@cardinalmobility.com
Cardinal@scottdaleindustries.com

MOTORIZED SCOOTERS

Cardinal Mobility offers motorized scooters for your convenience, Start button and power steering.

Pursuit® XL 4-Wheel scooter	\$45.00+ per day
Victory® 4-Wheel scooter	\$45.00+ per day
Victory® 3-Wheel scooter	\$45.00+ per day



POWER CHAIRS

Power Chairs are a great way to get around. They turn on much tighter corners than the 3 or 4 wheel scooters. Joystick maneuvering.

Jazzy Power Chair	\$65.00+ per day
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MANUAL/STANDARD WHEELCHAIR ROLLATOR

\$20.00+ per day
\$15.00+ per day



STROLLER RENTALS

Single Stroller:	\$15.00+ per day
Large Double Stroller:	\$25.00+ per day



For additional information please visit:
www.cardinalmobility.com

Prices are subject to change without notice Prices
subject to 10% Value Added Tax (VAT) - 04/19



The Bahamas Conference Lay Organization
is hosting our Annual Episcopal Convention
in beautiful Nassau on Paradise Island



Help us celebrate by purchasing
a Souvenir Journal Ad as we
bring the Lay To Paradise!

Celebrate with us ~ we only turn 79 once!

Be sure to purchase a Souvenir Journal Ad to be part of this historic occasion...

Especially if you're able to attend & Definitely if you're not...

Represent yourself, Church, District, Family or Organization

The funds will be used for teaching and training, scholarships & church support.

All color / Full page ~ \$100.00 | Half page ~ \$75.00



Email your Ad in PDF, JPEG, PNG (or other) to: souvenirjournal@eedlo.org



Download the form from our Website: eedlo.org / Complete & Email with Ad





*79th Session
of the
Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization
Annual Convention
African Methodist Episcopal Church*



Greetings To All:

The Bahamas Conference Lay Organization of the Electrifying 11th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is honored and pleased to host the 79th Annual Convention of the AMEC Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization, June 13-16, 2023, in Nassau, Bahamas. The sessions of this convention will be innovative, informative, challenging and engaging, as we implement the theme: ***“Living a Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transends and Liberates.”*** Scripture Reference: Luke 4:18-19. We request your prayers and attendance.

A Souvenir Journal will be digitally published to help commemorate this momentous convention. We encourage you to place an ad in this journal as a means of support, capturing sentiments, expressing best wishes and as an opportunity for advertisement. This Souvenir Journal will be viewed by many, throughout the Eleventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Church. Proceeds from the sale of the Journal will be used for awarding **Scholarships, Teaching and Training Seminars, Church Support, Disaster Relief, Awards, Benevolence, Publications and more.** What a magnificent way to show your “Presence” and “Support” by including your ad in the Souvenir Journal.

Included with this letter is a **Souvenir Journal Advertisement Form.** Please follow procedures listed for submitting ads and monies. Should you have questions or concerns, please contact: **Mrs. Valderine Evans ~ evansjewel@hotmail.com**

May this year be filled with success as we embrace the Eleventh Episcopal District's theme: ***“VICTORY STARTS HERE!”***

Mrs. Valderine Evans, President
Bahamas Conference Lay Organization



African Methodist Episcopal Church
Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization
Bahamas Conference Lay Organization
SOUVENIR JOURNAL ADVERTISEMENT FORM



Name (Individual) _____

Church/Business Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ E-Mail Address _____ Telephone _____

By signing below, I / we agree to purchase the following advertisement in the Digital Souvenir Journal for the 79th Session of the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization's Annual Convention.

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX

TYPE OF ADVERTISEMENT	RATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page Color / 8.5" x 11"	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Half Page Color / 8.5" x 5.5"	\$75.00

***All Souvenir Journal Ads should be sent camera ready to: souvenirjournal@eedlo.org
Preferred file types are PDF, JPEG or PNG but will also accept Word & Publisher files.
If you would like for us to create your ad, please send images & text that you'd like to put on your ad. **Please be as SPECIFIC as possible with your wording & design request.*****

The Souvenir Journal will be published electronically. Each person / church / business who purchased an ad will receive a link to access their Journal, which includes a PDF download option. **Please be sure to put the Email address you'd like to have the link sent to, on the Email Address line on this form.**

Please submit payment for your ad through Paypal using this link: paypal.me/bahamaslay

If you must submit payment for your ad by Check or Money Order:

***Please make your check payable to Antone Evans and mail to:
4150 Ashford Dunwoody Road NE ~ Apt 1062 | Brookhaven, GA 30319***

Please submit your digital ad, ad form & payment no later than May 30, 2023

If you have questions, please contact: Mrs. Val Evans – evansjewel@hotmail.com

Thank you for your support. We look forward to receiving your ad.

Authorized Signature

Date

Who is on the Executive Board?

ELECTED OFFICERS 2020-2024

Patricia Wright - President

John W. Love

Lothar Cherry

Johnnie Hill

Ethel M. Wooten

Evelyn Odom

Esther Ferguson

Sharon Causey

Priscilla Salter

Rebecca Williams

Teresa White

Deborah Langston

Debra Gilliard

Robbyn Hopewell

Ashley Blakley

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

Donald Russell

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

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Charlie Nichols

ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Tyrone Presley
Judith Hollinhead*

*Rhoshonda Herring
Brian Brown*

LAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**Evelyn Graham-President*

THE EEDLO PRESENCE IN THE CONNECTIONAL CHURCH

Connectional Lay Organization *Patricia Wright-DOLA Charlie Nichols-Chaplain*
Reginald McGill - Social action chair, Dante Buckson & John Love Committee Co-chairs
General Board Members *Reginald McGill, John Love*

*From the Heart of the
Director of Lay Activities*

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!
1Chronicles 16:34 ESV*



Greetings to each of you, my brothers and sisters!

I count it all joy to greet each of you in this New Year of 2023. God has truly been in the blessing business as he has sustained us through hurricanes, tornadoes, sickness and even death. And because of His love and protection, we should all have “a praise of thanksgiving” on our tongues.

Our 2023 Virtual Winter Executive Board will provide us with a unique worship experience, #GIRLDAD! Yes, once again it will be like none other. We are ready for the WORD which will be delivered by a special GIRLDAD CONNECTION, **The Reverend Mark Griffin and daughter, The Reverend Crystal Griffin.**

What makes a girl dad special is the way a father loves and supports his daughters, not just at home but in all their endeavors. The bond they share is undeniable and unbreakable. We look forward to celebrating some awesome GIRLDADS in the Eleventh Episcopal District during our worship experience.

Our prayer is that each of you will be blessed by the WORD and continue to work for the kingdom.

Let us, as laity, continue the work that we have set out to do

*From a Servant's Heart,
Teresa*





FEBRUARY 24-25, 2023

Virtual Enhanced Worship Experience

2 Dynamic Learning Labs that will engage and challenge

REGISTRATION \$40.00 Must be received by February 15, 2023

OUR ANNUAL LAY LEARNING RETREAT

The Registration Process has been made easy.

Registration begins on January 7, 2023.

Visit the eedlo.org website, and follow the prompts.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

EEDLO DID YOU KNOW??

The Annual Conference cycle will begin in several months. Prior to that, at the meeting of YOUR LOCAL church conference one item of business on the agenda should be the ELECTION of a delegate to the Annual Conference and the election of a young adult delegate.

CHURCHES CAN HAVE MORE THAN ONE CHURCH CONFERENCE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

ANOTHER election should also take place this year PRIOR to the Annual Conference.

It will be the election of an electoral college delegate and a young adult electoral college delegate. At the seat of the Annual Conference, in a separate setting, the lay delegates will meet to hold an election for delegates who will attend and serve during the General Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Each Annual Conference has been assigned a specific number of delegates. One does not have to be a member of the lay organization to run for lay delegate, but lay delegates need to be INFORMED lay persons. **EEDLO YOU KNOW** that Informed lay persons are members of the organized LAY ORGANIZATION.



Connectional Lay Organization Theme

“Living a Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends and Liberates”

The Scriptural Reference: Luke 4: 18-19

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Living a Global Witness Ministry means that we intentionally, on purpose, in an unabashed way, in a public way, in a relational way, desire to bring witness that is different, daring, innovative, engaging and liberating.

We serve a church that spans 39 countries, 5 continents, speaks countless languages, is governed by democracy, aristocracy, monarchy amid a plethora of cultures and yet believes in **THE SAME GOD**. We are separated by miles, resources, agendas, political interests and for the past 18 months we can add pandemic to the mix of reasons that we are apart. We have been kept together through the innovation of technology, the willingness to transform to a different way of thinking and worshipping and witnessing. We have had to transcend the usual way of doing things so that all could be privileged to a liberating gospel. We as the Organized Lay Organization have had to step up and be demonstrative of the outcomes we are desirous of seeing. In other words, Living A Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends and Liberates is where our mission rests.

Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transforms is real life ministry. Everybody seems to be using the word “transformation” to describe the impact of what they are doing. There is transformational leadership, transformational management, transformational development, transformational business, transformational care, transformational learning, transformational marketing!

Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transcends goes beyond borders and boundaries. It is the charge and chance for us to extend ourselves beyond our comfort zones to communicate and create avenues that will reach generations, open minds and activate people to engage in a unifying work.

Living A Global Witness Ministry that Liberates frees one to be liberal in praise, in service and witness. The gospel is a message of freedom and liberation — the ministry of Jesus was that of liberating captives. The gospel tells us that it is through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that we can courageously leave our comfort zones to reach, teach, preach and serve others just like Christ did in the synagogues.

AS YOU PLAN YOUR LAY PROGRAM...

Use the Connectional Theme in your programs. The artistic rendering that supports the theme is included here. It is NOT the lay Logo, but a rendering. Feel free to use it, coupled with the theme, as you plan your lay programs.

In planning your lay programs and activities try to incorporate the theme or components thereof as a way to continuously keep persons aware of it.



This is the Lay Logo.
It is the **ONLY** Lay Logo. It does not change.

Artistic rendering for the Current Connectional theme.
It is **NOT** the Lay Logo!



The Bishop is on the MOVE...



The itinerancy is a traveling ministry. It is the portal through which the clergy moves. In the AME Church one thing that is certain is that movement will occur within the leadership of our Zion. Nothing makes that point more clearly than a review of what will and may occur in 2024 with mandated movement for over 55% of the Bishops in AME Church.

Indicated with **GREEN shaded box** below are moves that must occur in 2024. A **RED shaded box** indicates no move is mandated but one can still occur. The Ecumenical and Located Bishop may also impact the assignment rotation. 2024 will be a time of Episcopal Moves. Stay Tuned!!!

Mandated Movement				
YES	NO	DISTRICT	Bishop	NOTE
GREEN		1	Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr.	Retirement Date 2024
GREEN		2	Bishop James Levert Davis	8 Year Law
	RED	3	Bishop E. Earl McCloud Jr.	Assigned - GC 2021
GREEN		4	Bishop John Franklin White	Retirement Date 2024
GREEN		5	Bishop Clement W. Fugh	Retirement Date 2024
GREEN		6	Bishop Reginald T. Jackson	8 Year Law
GREEN		7	Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green Sr.	8 Year Law
	RED	8	Bishop Stafford J. N. Wicker	Assigned - GC 2021
GREEN		9	Bishop Harry Lee Seawright	8 Year Law
GREEN		10	Bishop Adam J. Richardson Jr.	Retirement Date 2024
GREEN		11	Bishop Frank Madison Reid III	Retirement Date 2024
GREEN		12	Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell	8 Year Law
GREEN		13	Bishop E. Anne Henning-Byfield	Retirement Date 2024
	RED	14	Bishop Paul J.M. Kawimbe	Assigned - GC 2021
	RED	15	Bishop Silvester S. Beaman	Assigned - GC 2021
	RED	16	Bishop Marvin Clyde Zanders II	Assigned - GC 2021
	RED	17	Bishop David Rwhynica Daniels	Assigned - GC 2021
	RED	18	Bishop Francine A. Brookins	Assigned - GC 2021
	RED	19	Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford Sr.	Assigned - GC 2021
	RED	20	Bishop Frederick Allen Wright	Assigned - GC 2021
	ECUMENICAL	Ecumenical	Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath	Assigned - GC 2021
	LOCATED	Located	Bishop Wilfred Jacobus Messiah	Assigned - GC 2021

EPIPHANY

THE REVEALING OF CHRIST

Epiphany / Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Epiphany of the Lord January 6, 2023	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Baptism of the Lord January 8, 2023 <i>1st 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 15, 2023	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 22, 2023	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 29, 2023	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
Presentation of the Lord February 2, 2023	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 5, 2023	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 12, 2023	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
Transfiguration Sunday February 19, 2023 <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

Lenten Season

A time for Prayer, Penance, & Alms Giving



Reconciliation Revival Renewal



A F R I C A N M E T H O D I S T E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

Lent Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Ash Wednesday February 22, 2023	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or <i>Isaiah 58:1-12</i>	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
First Sunday in Lent February 26, 2023	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
Second Sunday in Lent March 5, 2023	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17 or <i>Matthew 17:1-9</i>
Third Sunday in Lent March 12, 2023	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 19, 2023	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
Annunciation of the Lord March 25, 2023	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 45 or <i>Psalm 40:5-10</i>	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
Fifth Sunday in Lent March 26, 2023	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
Liturgy of the Palms April 2, 2023 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Matthew 21:1-11	
Liturgy of the Passion April 2, 2023 <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.



HOLY WEEK



Holy Week Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Monday of Holy Week April 3, 2023	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 36:5-11	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
Tuesday of Holy Week April 4, 2023	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 71:1-14	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
Wednesday of Holy Week April 5, 2023	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 70	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
Maundy Thursday April 6, 2023 <i>Holy Thursday</i>	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday April 7, 2023	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25 or <i>Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9</i>	John 18:1-19:42
Holy Saturday April 8, 2023	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>

As evening approached,
there came a rich man from
Arimathea named Joseph,
who had himself become
a Disciple of Jesus.

Matthew 27:57



God Loves You This Much

50 DAYS TO *Pentecost*

Easter

CELEBRATE THE RISEN SAVIOR!

The Lord has risen indeed. Luke 24:34



Easter Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Easter Vigil April 9, 2023	Old Testament Readings and Psalms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 • Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 and Psalm 46 • Genesis 22:1-18 and Psalm 16 • Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 and Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18 • Isaiah 55:1-11 and Isaiah 12:2-6 • Baruch 3:9-15, 3:32-4:4 or Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 and Psalm 19 • Ezekiel 36:24-28 and Psalm 42, 43 • Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 143 • Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Psalm 98 New Testament Reading and Psalm ~ Romans 6:3-11 and Psalm 114 Gospel ~ Matthew 28:1-10			
Resurrection of the Lord April 9, 2023 <i>Easter Day</i>	*Acts 10:34-43 or <i>Jeremiah 31:1-6</i>	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4 or <i>Acts 10:34-43</i>	John 20:1-18 or <i>Matthew 28:1-10</i>
Easter Evening April 9, 2023	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 114	1 Corinthians 5:6b-8	Luke 24:13-49
Second Sunday of Easter April 16, 2023	*Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Psalm 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
Third Sunday of Easter April 23, 2023	*Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
Fourth Sunday of Easter April 30, 2023	*Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
Fifth Sunday of Easter May 7, 2023	*Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
Sixth Sunday of Easter May 14, 2023	*Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
Ascension of the Lord May 18, 2023	*Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 or 93	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
Seventh Sunday of Easter May 21, 2023 <i>(If Ascension not observed here)</i>	*Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11

pentecost sunday

May 28, 2023
Readings will post soon

THE 2023 LITURGICAL COLOR CALENDAR for The African Methodist Episcopal Church

2023 LITURGICAL COLOR CALENDAR

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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COLORS FOR THE AME CHRISTIAN YEAR

In the Christian year of our church, we recognize two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. Between each cycle follows an ordinary time of growth symbolized by the color green in the Seasons After the Epiphany and After Pentecost. Therefore, there is a sequence of seasons using purple, white, and green in that order twice each year.

PURPLE is a color of both penitence and royalty used during the preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent. Alternative colors of royal blue or violet may also be used during Advent.

WHITE and **GOLD** are joyous and festive colors used during the Christmas and Easter seasons (except on the Day of Pentecost) and in other seasons on festive days such as Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration, Trinity, All Saints, and Christ the King. White may also be used at weddings. At services of Holy Communion white linens on top of the Lord's Table are the tradition of the AME Church, and are used on the first Sunday, regardless of the Holy Season that is celebrated. Therefore, even if the first Sunday of the month is the first Sunday of Advent, the color used in the pulpit remains white.

GREEN is a color of growth used in the Seasons After the Epiphany and After Pentecost, except when special days call for white or red.

RED is a color of fire, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. It is used on the Day of Pentecost and at other times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. Red is also the color of blood - the blood of Christ and the blood of martyrs. Because of its intensity, red is most effective when used occasionally rather than continuously for a whole season. It is appropriate for evangelistic services, for ordinations and consecration, for church anniversaries and homecomings, Founder's Day, and for civil observances such as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving. It may be used during Holy Week, beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday, to symbolize the blood of Christ.

BLACK is a color of death used on Good Friday and Holy Saturday and for funerals. Gray is its alternative.

Although the use of these colors is based on broad ecumenical tradition, other colors have been and are being used in Christian churches. Creativity and use of alternates with colors bring new meaning to the worship experience. Examples include African prints or variations, pink during the third week of Advent and black on Good Friday.

It is always a good policy when in doubt, to seek guidance from a presiding elder, senior pastor, Christian education director, or other person designated by the pastor. These persons will be helpful in providing information on appropriate colors for preparing the sanctuary.

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ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CALENDAR ~ JANUARY — MAY 2023

- January 6-7** 11th District Lay Organization Executive Board Meeting, Zoom
January 10-13 AME Council of Bishops' Retreat
January 16 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday, Celebrated
January 24-26 Connectional Church Growth and Development Seminar, Nashville, TN

FEBRUARY ~ African American History Month

- February 1-28 Women's History Month for WIM
February 1 Henry McNeal Turner's Birthday
February 5-7 129th Turner Theological Seminary Founders' Day
February 11 Jarena Lee's Birthday
February 14 Birthday of Bishop Richard Allen, 1760
February 14 Birthday of The Hon. Frederick Douglass, 1818
February 16 Presiding Elder's Retreat
February 17 11th District Founder's Day
February 17-19 36th Black Heritage Weekend
February 22 ASH WEDNESDAY
February 24 Daniel A. Payne's Birthday, 1811
February 24-25 11th District Lay Learning Retreat, Zoom
February 26 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH

- March 12 Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 22-24 11th District Midyear Meeting, Rosen Centre, Orlando

APRIL

- April 2** PALM SUNDAY
April 5 Edward Waters University Founder's Day
April 6 MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 7 GOOD FRIDAY
April 7-8 Connectional Lay Executive Board Meeting, Zoom
April 9 EASTER/RESURRECTION SUNDAY
April 13 Lay TNT ~ Thursday Night Teaching, Zoom

MAY

- May 7 Edward Waters College Commencement, Jacksonville, FL
May 7-14 YPD Self Denial Week
May 11 Lay TNT ~ Thursday Night Teaching, Zoom
May 14 Mother's Day
May 18 ASCENSION DAY
May 19-20 22nd District Sons of Allen Retreat, Miami, FL
May 21 ASCENSION SUNDAY
May 28 PENTECOST SUNDAY
May 29 Memorial Day Observed

ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CALENDAR ~ JUNE — OCTOBER 2023

June 4 TRINITY SUNDAY

June 12-16 79th 11th Episcopal District Annual Lay Convention, Bahamas

June 18 Father's Day

June Council of Bishops and General Board Meeting

June 26-30 Connectional Lay Organization Biennial Convention, Chicago-Hilton

June 29 Birthday of Bishop Frank Madison Reid, III

JULY

July 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 19-21 11th District Christian Education, Youth, Leadership Congress (CEYLC)

July 25-28 YPD Quadrennial Convention, Orlando, FL

July 29 YPD to WMS Transition Day, Orlando, FL

July 30-August 3 WMS Quadrennial Convention, Orlando, FL

SEPTEMBER

September 1-30 Sons of Allen "Prostate Health Month"

September 4 LABOR DAY

September 9 Florida Conference YPD Annual Day

September 13 Florida Conference WMS Annual Day

September 13-15 Florida Annual Conference

September 23 South Conference YPD Annual Day

September 27 South Conference WMS Annual Day

September 27-29 South Annual Conference

September 30 West Coast Conference YPD Annual Day

OCTOBER

October 4 West Coast Conference WMS Annual Day

October 4-6 West Coast Annual Conference

October 14 East Conference YPD Annual Day

October 18 East Conference WMS Annual Day

October 18-20 East Annual Conference

October 21 Central Conference YPD Annual Day

October 25 Central Conference WMS Annual Day

October 25-27 Central Annual Conference

ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CALENDAR NOVEMBER — DECEMBER 2023

NOVEMBER

- November 4 Bahamas Conference YPD Annual Day
- November 7 GENERAL ELECTION DAY**
- November 8-9 Bahamas Annual Conference
- November 10 Birthday of Supervisor Marlaa Reid**
- November 15-17 11th District Planning Meeting, Jacksonville, FL
- November 23 THANKSGIVING DAY**

DECEMBER

- December 2 Day of Sharing, Florida Conference
- December 3 Day of Sharing, East Conference
- December 9 Day of Sharing, Central Conference
- December 9 Day of Sharing, West Coast Conference
- December 10 Day of Sharing, South Conference
- December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY**



2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AND VENUES

*****Please note that dates are subject to change*****

FLORIDA CONFERENCE ~ 158th SESSION

Date Wednesday, September 13 - Friday, September 15
Host Church Bethel AME Church, Tallahassee
Host Pastor The Reverend Dr. Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
Host Presiding Elder The Reverend Dr. Carlton Taylor

SOUTH CONFERENCE ~ 133rd SESSION

Date Wednesday, September 27 - Friday, September 29
Host Church Greater Bethel AME Church, Miami Gardens
Host Pastor The Reverend Dr. Mark Crutcher
Host Presiding Elder The Reverend Vincent F. Mitchell

WEST COAST CONFERENCE ~ 83rd SESSION

Date Wednesday, October 4 - Friday October 6
Host Church Allen Temple, Tampa
Host Pastor The Reverend Dr. Glenn B. Dames, Jr.
Host Presiding Elder The Reverend Dr. Patricia S. Wallace

EAST CONFERENCE ~ 148th SESSION

Date Wednesday, October 18 - Friday, October 20
Host Church St. Paul AME Church, Jacksonville
Host Pastor The Reverend Dr. Willie N. Barnes, Jr.
Host Presiding Elder The Reverend Tony D. Hansberry

CENTRAL CONFERENCE ~ 124th SESSION

Date Wednesday, October 25 - Friday, October 27
Host Church St. Mark AME Church, Orlando
Host Pastor The Reverend Terence R. Gray
Host Presiding Elder The Reverend Henry Postell, II

BAHAMAS CONFERENCE ~ 83rd SESSION

Date Wednesday, November 8 - Thursday, November 9
Host Church Cousin McPhee Cathedral, Nassau Bahamas
Host Pastor The Reverend Dr. Ranford Patterson
Host Presiding Elder The Reverend Howard F. Williamson

EED Planning Meeting ~ November 15—17, 2023 ~ Jacksonville, FL

Young People's Division and Women's Missionary Society Annual Days

Florida Conference

YPD Annual Day, Saturday, September 9
WMS Annual Day, Wednesday, September 13

West Coast Conference

YPD Annual Day, Saturday, September 30
WMS Annual Day, Wednesday, October 4

Central Conference

YPD Annual Day, Saturday, October 21

South Conference

YPD Annual Day, Saturday, September 23
WMS Annual Day, Wednesday, September 27

East Conference

YPD Annual Day, Saturday, October 14
WMS Annual Day, Wednesday, October 18

Bahamas Conference

YPD Annual Day, Saturday, November 4
WMS Annual Day, Wednesday, November 8

AME CONNECTIONAL MEETING CALENDAR 2023

FEBRUARY

- February 19 **13th Episcopal District**
Founder's Day: Tennessee Conference | Location: TBD
- February 22-25 **Global Development Council (GDC) 2023** | Monrovia, Liberia
- February 25 **International Health Commission - Virtual Monthly Meeting**
11:00 am (EST) | Zoom
- February 24-26 **13th Episcopal District**
Crowns: 13th District Clergy and Lay Women Conference
Location: Murfreesboro, TN
- February 26 **13th Episcopal District**
Founder's Day: West TN Conference | Location: TBD

MARCH

- March 1-3 **6th Episcopal District**
111th Session of the South Georgia Annual Conference
Hilton Garden Inn Albany | 101 S. Front. Street | Albany, GA 31701
- March 1 **16th Episcopal District**
Women's Missionary Society Convention
- March 2-5 **Windward Islands Annual Conference**
Location: Sealy Memorial AME Church | Barbados
Rev. Carlene Sobers, Pastor & Presiding Elder
- March 2-4 **13th Episcopal District**
Mid-Year Conference | Location: Memphis, TN
- March 15-17 **6th Episcopal District**
127th Session of the Southwest Annual Conference
St. James AME Church | 1002 6th Avenue | Columbus, GA 31901
- March 15 **16th Episcopal District**
Women's Missionary Society Convention
- March 16-19 **Guyana-Suriname Annual Conference**
Location: Franklyn Talbot Memorial AME Church | Guyana
Rev. Andrew C. Morris Grant, Pastor & Presiding Elder
- May 22-24 **AME Church Scholar's Conference (In-Person)** | Location: TBA
- March 19 **International Health Commission: AME Purple Sunday (Virtual)**
4:00 pm (EST) Zoom Call
- March 23 **16th Episcopal District**
Women's Missionary Society Convention
- March 24-26 **Virgin Islands Annual Conference**
Location: St. Luke AME Church | Christiansted, St. Croix US Virgin Islands
Rev. Jermaine Mulley, Pastor | Rev. Uclyn Hendricks, Presiding Elder
- March 25 **International Health Commission - Virtual Monthly Meeting**
11:00 am (EST) | Zoom
- March 29-31 **6th Episcopal District**
158th Session of the Georgia Annual Conference | Location: TBD

APRIL

- April 12-14 **6th Episcopal District**
109th Session of the Augusta Georgia Annual Conference
Bethel AME Church | 623 Crawford Avenue | August, GA 30904
- April 13-15 **Department of Christian Education**
Annual Ministries in Christian Education Meeting

AME CONNECTIONAL MEETING CALENDAR 2023 ~ (April Cont'd)

- April 13 **16th Episcopal District**
Women's Missionary Society Convention
- April 14-16 **European Annual Conference**
Location: Richard Allen AME Church | London, England
Rev. Lucinda Burgess Jones, Pastor & Presiding Elder
- April 14-15 **Connectional Lay Organization Executive Board Meeting (Virtual)**
- April 15 **AME Sunday School Union Cornerstone Dedication**
- April 19 **16th Episcopal District**
Women's Missionary Society Convention
- April 20-23 **Jamaica Annual Conference**
Location: Chapel of Christ Our Redeemer AME Church | Kingston, Jamaica
Rev. Emily Pardue, Pastor | Rev. Shawin Reynolds, Presiding Elder
- April 22 **International Health Commission - Virtual Monthly Meeting**
11:00 am (EST) | Zoom
- April 26-28 **6th Episcopal District**
140th Session of the Macon Georgia Annual Conference
St. Paul AME Church | 2501 Shurling Drive | Macon, GA 31211
- April 27-29 **2nd Episcopal District**
207th Session of the Baltimore Annual Conference
- April 27 **Women's Missionary Society Annual Convention** | Thursday
Business, Training, & Worship | Thursday - Saturday, April 27-29
Opening Annual Worship Service | Thursday, 6:30 pm
- April 28 **Ordination Worship Service** | Friday, 10:00 am
Lay Worship Service | Friday, 6:30 pm
- April 29 **Young Peoples' Division** | Saturday, 8:00 am
Closing and Commissioning Service | Saturday, 11:00 am

MAY

- May 4-6 **2nd Episcopal District**
73rd Session of the Washington Annual Conference
- May 4 **Women's Missionary Society Annual Convention** | Thursday
Business, Training, & Worship | Thursday - Saturday, May 4-6
Opening Annual Worship Service | Thursday, 6:30 pm
- May 5 **Ordination Worship Service** | Friday, 10:00 am
Lay Worship Service | Friday, 6:30 pm
- May 6 **Young Peoples' Division** | Saturday, 8:00 am
Closing and Commissioning Service | Saturday, 11:00 am
- May 10-12 **6th Episcopal District**
149th Session of the Atlanta-North Annual Conference
Big Bethel AME Church | 220 Auburn Avenue NE | Atlanta, GA 30303
- May 18-20 **"The Power of a Thinking Church"**
Department of Research and Scholarship
AME Church Scholars and Practitioners Conference
Location: Emory Conference Center, Atlanta, GA
- May 18-20 **2nd Episcopal District**
157th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference
- May 18 **Women's Missionary Society Annual Convention** | Thursday
Business, Training, & Worship | Thursday - Saturday
Opening Annual Worship Service | Thursday, 6:30 pm
- May 19 **Ordination Worship Service** | Friday, 10:00 am
Lay Worship Service | Friday, 6:30 pm
- May 20 **Young Peoples' Division** | Saturday, 8:00 am
Closing and Commissioning Service | Saturday, 11:00 am

AME CONNECTIONAL MEETING CALENDAR 2023 ~ (May Cont'd)

- May 19-20 **13th Episcopal District**
Bishop Henning-Byfield's Unleash Conference
Location: Nashville, TN
- Date: TBD **International Health Commission: Mental Wellness Webinar (Virtual)**
- May 24-26 **6th Episcopal District Planning Meeting** | Location: TBD
- May 25-27 **2nd Episcopal District**
154th Session of the North Carolina Annual Conference
- May 25 **Women's Missionary Society Annual Convention** | Thursday
Business, Training, & Worship | Thursday - Saturday, May 25-27
Opening Annual Worship Service | Thursday, 6:30 pm
- May 26 **Ordination Worship Service** | Friday, 10:00 am
Lay Worship Service | Friday, 6:30 pm
- May 27 **Young Peoples' Division** | Saturday, 8:00 am
Closing and Commissioning Service | Saturday, 11:00 am
- May 27 **International Health Commission - Virtual Monthly Meeting**
11:00 am (EST) | Zoom
- May 30-31 **2023 International Stewardship & Economic Empowerment Summit (Hybrid)**
(Dept. of Retirement Services and the Commission on Economic Development)

JUNE

- June 8-10 **2nd Episcopal District**
131st Session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference
- June 8 **Women's Missionary Society Annual Convention** | Thursday
Business, Training, & Worship | Thursday - Saturday, June 8-10
Opening Annual Worship Service | Thursday, 6:30 pm
- June 9 **Ordination Worship Service** | Friday, 10:00 am
Lay Worship Service | Friday, 6:30 pm
- June 10 **Young Peoples' Division** | Saturday, 8:00 am
Closing and Commissioning Service | Saturday, 11:00 am
- June 10 **International Health Commission: Annual IHC Training (Virtual)** | Zoom
- June 19-21 **Council of Bishops and General Board** | New Orleans, LA
- June 26-30 **Connectional Lay Organization Biennial Convention** | Chicago, IL

JULY

- July 6-8 **13th Episcopal District Learning Academy** | Location: TBD
- July 16 **International Health Commission:**
Faith Based Health, Wellness, Nutrition and Fitness Webinar (Virtual)
11:00 am (EST) | Zoom
- July 23-
August 3 **20th Quadrennial Convention of the**
Women's Missionary Society and Young People's Division
- July 23-28 **YPD Convention** | Transition Day: July 29
- July 30 **WMS Convention** | July 30 - August 3

AUGUST

- August 5 **International Health Commission:**
Clergy and Clergy Family Wellness Webinar (Virtual) | 11:00 am (EST)
- August 19 **9th Episcopal District**
Women's Missionary Society & Young People's Division Annual Conference
- August 23-25 **14th Session of the Alabama River Region Annual Conference**
St. John's AME Church - Montgomery
Rev. Roosevelt Williams III, Host Pastor
Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson, Host Presiding Elder

AME CONNECTIONAL MEETING CALENDAR 2023 ~ (August Cont'd)

- August 25 **12th Episcopal District**
Women's Missionary Society Day
August 25-26 **Oklahoma Annual Conference**
August 27 **Young People's Division Day**

SEPTEMBER

- September 2 **International Health Commission:**
Disaster Preparedness and Church Security Webinar (Virtual)
11:00 am (EST) | Zoom
- September 2 **9th Episcopal District**
WMS & YPD Annual Conference
- September 6-8 **14th Session of the Northwest Alabama Annual Conference**
Daniel Payne Community Plaza
Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Host Pastor
Rev. Dwight Dillard, Host Presiding Elder
- September 6 **13th Episcopal District**
Women's Missionary Society Convention
- September 7-10 **East TN Annual Conference**
September 9 **Young People's Division Meeting**
- September 16 **9th Episcopal District**
WMS & YPD Annual Conference
- September 20-22 **14th Session of the Southeast Alabama Annual Conference**
Hines Chapel AME Church - Dothan
Rev. Paul Horn, Host Pastor
Rev. Dr. Frederick Sherrod, Host Presiding Elder
- September 20 **13th Episcopal District**
Women's Missionary Society Convention
- September 21-24 **Kentucky Annual Conference**
September 23 **Young People's Division Meeting**
- September 23 **International Health Commission - Monthly Meeting**
11:00 am (EST) | Zoom
- September 30 **9th Episcopal District**
WMS & YPD Annual Conference

OCTOBER

- October 4-6 **9th Episcopal District**
14th Session of the Northeast Annual Conference
Washington Chapel AME Church - Tuskegee
Rev. Dr. Isaac N. Hudson, Host Pastor
Rev. Dr. Letitia Watford, Host Presiding Elder
- October 3 **13th Episcopal District**
Women's Missionary Society Convention
- October 4-8 **West Tennessee Annual Conference**
October 7 **Young People's Division Meeting**
- October 14 **9th Episcopal District**
WMS & YPD Annual Conference
- October 18-20 **14th Session of the Alabama Annual Conference**
Bethel AME Church - Mobile
Rev. Trevor Woolridge, Host Pastor
Rev. Charles Lewis, Host Presiding Elder

AME CONNECTIONAL MEETING CALENDAR 2023 ~ (October Cont'd)

- October 17 **13th Episcopal District**
Women's Missionary Society Convention
- October 18-22 **Tennessee Annual Conference**
- October 21 **Young People's Division**
- October 28 **International Health Commission - Monthly Meeting**
11:00 am (EST) | Zoom

NOVEMBER

- November 2-4 **9th Episcopal District Planning Meeting**
Daniel Payne Community Plaza
1500 Daniel Payne | Birmingham, AL 35214
- November 9-11 **13th Episcopal District Planning Meeting**
- November 18 **International Health Commission - Monthly Meeting**
11:00 am (EST) | Zoom

DECEMBER

- December 16 **International Health Commission - Monthly Meeting**
11:00 am (EST) | Zoom Call

2024 CONNECTIONAL MEETINGS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED

- January 27, 2024 **International Health Commission - Monthly Meeting**
11:00 am (EST) | Zoom
- February 24, 2024 **International Health Commission - Monthly Meeting**
11:00 am (EST) | Zoom
- August 21-28, 2024 **AME Church General Conference** | Columbus, OH



GET READY! PRELIMINARY INFO BELOW...

THE SWEETER THE KNOWLEDGE 2.0

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This is the book for Brothus and Sistuhs TOGETHER

We will create a Printed Color Souvenir Journal Book of FULL Page Ads

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Fraternal Organizations, Eastern Stars, Masonic lodge members,
Jack and Jill, Links, et cetera...

Your Print ready ad may be submitted to eedlo1@gmail.com, or a request for your ad to be created may be sent to the same; the dates will post on our upcoming flyer. There will be a link available through **RegFox** where you can submit your funds securely... **STAY TUNED!**

PARTNER WITH FRIENDS TO DO AN AD TOGETHER!!

Securing 200 ads will allow us to increase the number of scholarships we award and support registration of more persons attending the 2023 Connectional Lay Biennial Convention in Chicago.

Our first project was successful because of your help, we Thank You! For 2.0, we look forward to sharing ALL Organizations & Groups' ADs as you REPRESENT creatively. Plan now to secure your special page in "THE SWEETER THE KNOWLEDGE 2.0!"

African Methodist Episcopal Church
The Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization



"THE SWEETER THE KNOWLEDGE"



78th Annual Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention Edition

The Lay Communique

Published by Robbyn Hopewell ~ Director of Public Relations
for The Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization



The Lay Communique

78th Annual Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention Edition

Worshippers charged to 'speak life' into A.M.E. Church

The 78th Annual Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention kicked off on Tuesday, June 21 with an exciting night at the Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church in Gainesville, Florida.

Eleventh District Presiding Prelate Bishop Frank Madison Reid III served as the evening's messenger and delivered a word from Proverbs 18: 21 titled "It's a Matter of Life or Death."

Bishop Reid spoke to current situations in the A.M.E. Church including the pension fund discrepancy. He encouraged the crowd of more than 300 worshippers to stop the infighting in congregations and organizations and start speaking life into the church for "death and life are in the power of the tongue."

Reid said a vocabulary of life-giving words is truthful, trustworthy, transforming, comforting and conquering. "All God has to do is speak a word to revive the A.M.E. Church," Bishop Reid said.

During the two-hour worship experience, the crowd was blessed with selections from the powerful East Conference Choir and a soul-stirring liturgical dance performance from EEDLO Young Adult Representative Ashley Blakely.

East Conference Lay Organization President Nicholas Causey welcomed his guests from around the Episcopal District to the convention, thanking all his supporters. "[The East Conference is] not going to stand to the side, we are taking over with you Bishop," Causey joked.



Eleventh Episcopal District Presiding Prelate Bishop Frank Madison Reid III (above) and Young Adult Representative Ashley Blakely (below) at the 78th Annual EEDLO Convention Opening Worship Service at Greater Bethel A.M.E. in Gainesville, Florida.



Executive Board dedicates retreat proceeds to 2023 registration costs

The Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Executive Board met at the Female Protection Society of Gainesville on Tuesday for a business meeting.

EEDLO President Patricia H. Wright presented a plan to support mem-

bers in attending the Connectional Lay Organization Biennial in Chicago and the EEDLO Convention at the Atlantis Resort in Nassau, Bahamas in 2023.

President Wright proposed that proceeds from the 2023 EEDLO

Virtual Retreat be used to pay registration costs for members attending from each conference. If 300 people register for the retreat, the EEDLO can support 24 people (four from each conference) to attend each meeting. The board

voted unanimously to move forward with President Wright's proposal.

It also voted to continue the pursuit of 501(c)3 designation for the organization.

Bishop Frank Madison Reid III, Presiding Prelate of the 11th Episcopal District
Ms. Patricia H. Wright, Connectional Lay Organization Director of Lay Activities and Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization President
Mrs. Robbyn M. Hopewell, EEDLO Director of Public Relations

First-time attendees get comedy, history at orientation

Connectional Lay Organization Chaplain and Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Charlie Nichols presented the 78th Annual Convention First Time Attendees Orientation at 4 p.m. Tuesday to group of 15 newcomers eager to learn more about the church.

Nichols regaled the group with lay history, a breakdown of current episcopal lay and conference lay leadership and explained nuances of the week's activities including the seating by delegation and voting.

Attendees also heard about the schedule for the week and got in-depth explanations of all the activities to come—especially the first-ever FamiliLAY

Game Night hosted by the Young Adult Representatives. While explaining that conferences will be playing Family Feud against one another, Nichols shared a funny moment from the Steve Harvey-hosted TV show.

"Steve asked for a word that follows pork, and that man stepped up to the mic confidently and said 'upine'," Nichols joked. The presentation ended with a robust discussion of Black history centered on the Rosewood presentation set for Thursday.

"Every other group—the Japanese and Native Americans—have received reparations, except us," Nichols shared.



Meet the First-Timers



Kathy Luke, St. Mark A.M.E. Church-Orlando

"This is my first time in the Lay Organization and I am a local officer (Director of Public Relations). I just wanted to know more about the organization."



Tekiyah Lewis, Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church-Houston

"I loved the orientation! I love history. The explanation of the schedule was great because I didn't know some of the terminology."



Rev. Vaseal Montgomery, Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church-Houston

"I am scheduled to give the Bible study on Friday and my daughter is a part of Lay. I wanted her to see what is going on."

East Conference Lay offers warm welcome to convention guests

For a third straight year, the East Conference Lay Organization welcomed the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization as hosts of the annual convention. The meeting was delayed by two years because of the global coronavirus pandemic.

East Conference Lay Director of Lay Activities Rhoshonda Herring welcomed the visitors from around the state of Florida and the Bahamas to Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church in Gainesville Tuesday with a heart-filled video presentation and words of thanks.

"We say the sun rises in the East, but really, it's you who brought the sunshine. Thank you for coming," Herring shared.

Video greetings from the East Conference Presiding Elders Rev. Elizabeth E. Yates, Rev. Tony D. Hansberry and Rev. Karl V. Smith, Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Kim A. Barton, County Commissioner Cynthia Moore Chestnut were screened in the sanctuary.

Alachua County Commissioner Shirley Green Brown, a resident of Alachua city, offered her

We say the sun rises in the East, but it's you who brought the sunshine. Thank you.

—Rhoshonda Herring, East Conference Lay
Director of Lay Activities

greetings in-person. "God is awesome," she exclaimed.

The Lay Communique

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'FamiLay Game Night' brings the fun to annual convention

The party began as soon as the doors opened to the first FamiLay Game Night hosted by the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Young Adult Representatives. Old school tunes serenaded more than 70 attendees as they prepared for an evening of good old-fashioned fun and games.

EEDLO YAR Ashley Blakley welcomed the conference teams, each wearing a specific color to the evening festivities. All six conferences competed in fierce rounds of Family Feud, a TV game show where teams must come up with the most popular answers to survey questions. After three rounds, the Central Conference Lay Organization and the South Conference Lay Organization competed in the final. In the end, Team South

(Wesley Gillis, Dr. Judy Johnson, Deborah Langston, Anessa Read and Dorothy Reid prevailed.

Players also got a chance to sing out in a game of Lyrically Correct— Gospel Edition, where they were challenged to sing the correct lyrics to old favorites. Treasurer Sharon Causey shone bright for the East Conference Lay Organization.

EEDLO Director of Lay Activities Teresa White led the dance party in between games, surrounded by her West Coast Conference Lay crew.

To close the night, Bishop Frank Madison Reid III made a guest appearance to encourage the laity in a fellowship that blessed all who attended.



Team South (left to right above) Anessa Read, Dorothy Reid, Wesley Gillis, Deborah Langston and Dr. Judy Johnson won Family Feud on Wednesday. Bishop Frank Madison Reid III (left in the center) took a picture with game night coordinators (left to right) EEDLO YAR Ashley Blakely, WCCLO YAR Raven Gainous, SCLO YAR Shrin Bryant, Florida Conference Lay YAR La'Tasha Jones, Central Conference Lay YAR Dominique Washington and East Conference Lay YAR Dante Buckson. (Right) EEDLO President Patricia Wright led the line dance.



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EEDLO President Wright decrees 'We are S.T.I.L.L. H.E.R.E.'

"It's been a long two-and-a-half year journey, but we're still here."

That theme echoed throughout the President's Message during Plenary Session I of the 78th Annual Convention of the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization.

In her message, EEDLO President Patricia H. Wright invoked the Harlem Renaissance writer Langston Hughes saying, "Life ain't been no crystal stair." The Lay Organization, like the mother in Hughes' poem, kept climbing, kept reaching landings.

The president also had a "Sankofa moment." Sankofa is an African concept that as we look back, we also look ahead. "I can say that as an organization, you have demonstrated determination in the midst of adversity and challenge. ... Despite



Connectional Lay Organization Director of Lay Activities and EEDLO President Patricia H. Wright presented a broad view of organizational success in her end of year report.

this new terror, you came back stronger, you came back better." The president's words were met with choruses of "Amen" and hand-claps.

In July 2020, the EEDLO held its first virtual convention and regis-

tered more than 500 people. The president said the organization became a model for what "could be."

"We never missed a beat," said President Wright. "Folks from all across our connectional church

began to take notice of the little 'ole Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization." By the hundreds, they came.

In a more somber moment, the president had attendees look to their left, then their right. She asked them to make note who wasn't there. "Perhaps it was your riding partner, your roommate, a person that you always called" when it was convention time. Everyone was encouraged to call the names of those who might be "hushed up in death."

First-time conference attendee Vera Gibbs of Flipper Chapel in Tallahassee found the message inspiring and encouraging. "I'm happy to see that our president is an outstanding leader. She knows how to get the job done."

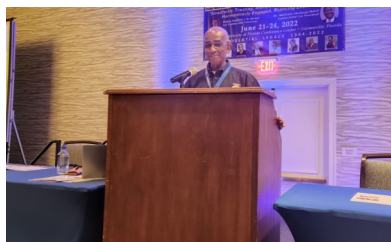
President Wright "Told us how we weathered our storms and that we still have COVID-related obstacles. She was very inspiring," said Wayne Dickens of Hurst Chapel in Winter Haven.

EEDLO constituents to get member cards, directories

Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization members are about to get more connected thanks to initiatives from First Vice President John Love and his team.

Love reported that all members present at the EEDLO Convention would receive a membership card this week and a directory with contact information for officers at the connectional, episcopal, annual conference and district of the annual conference levels in January 2023.

Love shared that Lay membership across the Episcopal District has increased by 5 percent—a boost reflected in the Registration



Report given at the convention's first Plenary Session on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Tyrone L. Presley of Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church said, "I am very optimistic that this directory will be effective. It will provide valuable information for all Lay to keep close contact."

Second Vice President Lothar Cherry reported she will be focusing on membership and creating a database for communication.

Third Vice President Johnnie Hill held virtual meetings focusing on evangelism with confer-

ences Third Vice Presidents discussing getting members involved in evangelism ministry. He also created an evangelism guide which has been submitted for further review.

Convention Registration Report

Conference	Lay	Clergy
Bahamas	3	2
Central	33	11
East	66	22
Florida	37	11
South	27	15
West Coast	47	24
Total	213	85

Conference Lay presidents celebrate increase, outreach to young adults

The Conference Lay presidents are busy with the work of the Lay Organization.

Among all six conferences is a common thread of increasing membership. Most notably, West Coast Conference Lay President Lolita Brown aimed to expand the membership of men in the WCCLO and did so by hosting an annual

membership drive which increased membership overall by 12%.

An overall theme among the conference presidents is the increase in young adult involvement.

Across the Eleventh Episcopal District, Conference Lay presidents are making a conscious effort to be inclusive with young adults by

creating programming and activities targeting that population.

EEDLO First Vice President John Love said it was great to see the presidents were using their resources.

Florida Conference Lay Young Adult Representative La'Tasha Jones questions validity of how

inclusive the conferences are.

She says Inclusivity means more than just adding young adults to programs, it means including them in the intricate parts of the Lay Organization. Overall, Conference presidents are setting goals and successfully meeting them with the assistance of those around them.

Newly elected CLO Biennial delegates look forward to Chicago 2023



Valderine Evans, Bahamas Conference Lay Organization President
"The excitement!"

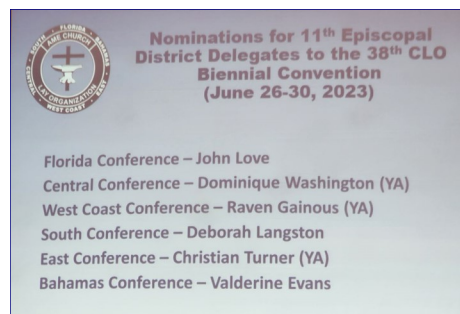
On Wednesday afternoon, the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention unanimously elected a slate of six delegates to attend the Connectional Lay Organization Biennial in Chicago in June 2023 with financial support from the EEDLO. For the first time, three of the elected delegates are young adults (aged 18-35). EEDLO Advisor Rhoshonda Herring and EEDLO Young Adult Representative Ashley Blakely commended the conferences for their support of young adults. We asked the elected delegates in attendance what they were most looking forward to in Chicago.



Raven Gainous, West Coast Conference Lay Organization Young Adult Representative
"I am thankful/grateful for the opportunity. I am looking forward to the experience that this Biennial Convention will offer. This is my second Biennial as a Lay member, but my first time as a delegate."



Deborah Langston, Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Chaplain
"I am so thankful for the opportunity to represent and do the work."



John Love, Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization First Vice President
"The workshops!"

Cups overrun, spirit overflows at Annual Lay Benevolence Program

Wednesday's Lay Benevolent Program of this 78th annual convention will go down in the history books as a power-packed, spirit-filled event. Worship leader Phillis Filer's enthusiasm filled the room as she led program participants who were eager to lift the name of Jesus.

Reginald Robinson gave a spirit-

filled prayer that was surely heard by God himself and the musician played and sang a melodiously tribute to the Lord. All this set the foundation for worshippers to hear from God, and they were not disappointed as the messenger poured out her heart and left everyone better than they came. The preacher of the hour was the Rev. Brittany Bryant from St. Luke

AME Church of Alachua, Fla. Her sermon was titled, "Excuse Me; Watch My Cup," Genesis 26:1-3, 12 was her Scripture reference.

Rev. Bryant reminded worshippers to "stay connected to the right people, the right source and in the right alignment of the vision." Just as Issac was blessed because he was connected to Abraham, we

too can be blessed if we stay connected to God, said Rev. Bryant." There will be times that people around us will wonder what is in our cup and will question why is our cups are always filled. They will soon realize that because of our obedience and divine connection with God, his favor will be on our lives."

Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention Public Relations Committee

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Robbyn Hopewell,
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Debra Gilliard,
EEDLO Historiographer

Shirley Thomas,
West Coast Conference Lay Organization Director of Public Relations

Joyce Pink,
West Coast Conference Lay Organization Historiographer

Brian Brown,
Bahamas Conference Lay Organization Director of Lay Activities

Shrin Bryant,
South Conference Lay Organization Young Adult Representative

Robyne Edwards,
Suwanee-North District Lay Organization Treasurer

Kathy Luke,
St. Mark A.M.E. Church-Orlando Director of Public Relations



Judge Meshon Rawls (left) delivers her keynote. Mr. Kevin Sharpe (above right) shares a selection.

'The truth is told' at the LEDP breakfast

The Honorable Alachua County Court Judge Meshon T. Rawls gave her life to Christ in 1989, but it wasn't until 1994 that she learned that she needed to rely on the Lord in times of struggle.

Judge Rawls shared her testimony in her keynote speech at the annual Lay Economic Development Program breakfast at the Hilton-University of Florida Conference Center on Wednesday morning.

At age 22, her 2-month-old son had died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, her marriage was on the rocks and she had a bachelor's degree but no job. A friend named Hope called her and encouraged Rawls to apply for law school, even though she didn't feel qualified. Rawls stepped out on faith, applied and received a scholarship. That experience reminded her of II Corinthians 1:8-9 and guided

her message for breakfast attendees, "If the Truth Be Told." Paul let the people of Corinth know that being saved does not mean you will not face hardships, and that "It is okay to feel the pressure," Judge Rawls said. "It happened so that I know not to rely on myself. I have to rely on God."

Dr. Kevin Sharpe, a concert pianist from Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church in Gainesville, shared two selections "Love is in Need of Love Today" and "Wind Beneath My Wings," as guests ate.

The LEDP Board honored Joseph Coppock Jr. for his long service to the organization with an ovation during the event.

LEDP Secretary Reginald Robinson presided over the event and gave special recognition to Phyllis Filer for her dedicated work in coordinating the event.

Commission chairs report great progress at Wednesday afternoon session

The EEDLO received empowering and uplifting reports from each of its Commissions Wednesday.

Some of the main focuses of the Commission on Organization and Structure, led by Florida Conference President Donald Russell, are on enforcing the bylaws, engaging social action and the effectiveness of the officers. To prepare the Lay Organization for the legislation process, the commission will provide

education on how to properly propose and amend legislation.

The Commission on Program and Activities Chairperson Loretta Coppock recognized the members of the scholarship committee that were in attendance to the 78th Lay Organization Convention during her report.

She also advised that the Denim and Pearls awards banquet on

Thursday night will announce this year's scholarship recipients.

Chair Coppock solicited those in attendance to become a champion who mentors scholarship recipients to help them better matriculate. "Consider being a champion and make a difference in the lives of our YOUTH," she exclaimed.

Commission on Personnel and Procedures Chair LuCretia

McBride reported her committee is vigorously helping to provide technology training to our "young seniors," adhere to CDC guidelines to keep us healthy, and to make sure proper and updated information is provided to the director of lay benevolence.

Every committee is very hard at work to enhance the Lay Organization and the Eleventh Episcopal District as a whole.

The Lay Communique

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Laity and clergy honored at Denim and Pearls Banquet

On a night of formal recognition for their work in the vineyard, Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization members and clergy put on their best denim outfits and pearl jewelry and gathered in the ballroom of Hilton-University of Florida Conference Center Ballroom for a night of elegance. EEDLO President Patricia H. Wright received a surprise honor at the end of the evening's program in recognition of her retirement from area superintendent for the Pinellas County School System up coming on June 30.

President Wright also presented EEDLO Young Adult Representative Ashley Blakely with the Soldier of the Cross Award, given to lay persons who give their service to the organization in excellence and love.

Banquet attendees (top left) anticipate the next portion of the evening. DOLA Teresa White (top right), Treasurer Sharon Causey and President Wright received the VIBE Award from the Episcopal District's Sons of Allen. At left, YAR Ashley Blakely is congratulated.

Bishop Frank Madison Reid III, Presiding Prelate of the 11th Episcopal District
Ms. Patricia H. Wright, Connectional Lay Organization Director of Lay Activities and Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization President
Mrs. Robbyn M. Hopewell, EEDLO Director of Public Relations

EEDLO presents scholarships and awards at first banquet since 2019

Five dynamic high school seniors and four stalwart laypersons were awarded the for their efforts at the Denim and Pearls Award Banquet on Thursday night. The students each received a \$2,000 Selmo Bradley Scholarship and a certificate commemorating their achievement. Four Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Hall of Famers were also inducted into the 20th class.

The Selmo Bradley Scholarship recipients are:

- Hannah Francis of Bethel A.M.E. Church, Tallahassee, who plans to attend Florida A&M University.
- Chase Jenkins of St. James A.M.E. Church, Titusville, who plans to attend D'Youville University.
- Alexandria Frazier of Victory A.M.E. Church, Progress Village (Tampa), who plans to attend the University of Miami.
- Cynthia Jones of St. Stephen A.M.E. Church, Miami Gardens, who plans to attend Florida International University.
- Stefphon Turner of St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Jacksonville, who plans to attend the University of North Florida.

The 2022 EEDLO Hall of Fame inductees are:

- Linnell Baker, West Coast Conference
- Sharolyn Wood, Florida Conference
- Etta Anderson, South Conference
- Dorothy Andrews Reid, South Conference



President Wright presents scholarship awards to Hannah Francis (above) and Stefphon Turner (below left). Linnell Baker (below right) was one of four named to the Hall of Fame.



Presiding Elder uses personal testimony to bring lesson, laughs

Thursday morning's Power Session "Laughing Your Way Through," presented by Presiding Elder Jimmy J. Thompson, was a comedic presentation full of humorous anecdotes and impersonations, as well as ways that laughter can lift us.

He shared that laughter releases endorphins, creates a sense of well-being, raises energy, relieves tension, and alters your bad attitude. Sometimes, it's necessary to laugh in order to keep from crying, Presiding Elder Thompson explained.

Using his personal experience of having a stroke in February, he presented us with a course of action he used to lift himself up. He encouraged Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Convention attendees to be constant in prayer, read the word, develop a playlist of inspiring songs, and protect your space from negativity.

Presiding Elder Thompson ended his session with a spirit-filled praise moment that brought the audience to their feet. Takiyah Lewis of Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church in Houston said, "Elder Jimmy Thompson was a blessing during the 'Laughing Your Way Through' seminar. Not only did we laugh, but learned throughout his presentation."

Suwanee-North District Young Adult Representative Garian Cason truly enjoyed himself. "Presiding Elder Thompson's presentation was both entertaining and informative," he said.

For East Conference Lay Organization Director of Lay Activities Rhoshonda Her-ring, Presiding Elder Thompson delivered. "As usual, Presiding Elder Thompson did not disappoint. I was in stitches! Laughter is truly the best medicine," she said.



Presiding Elder Jimmy J. Thompson is known for his ability to laugh and to make others laugh. Thursday's session was no different. He leads the "Lively" Lakeland District of the West Coast Conference.

Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center helps preserve Gainesville's Black history

Sankofa is a principle derived from san, meaning to return; ko meaning to go; and fa meaning to fetch. Gainesville's The Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center expresses this principal clearly.

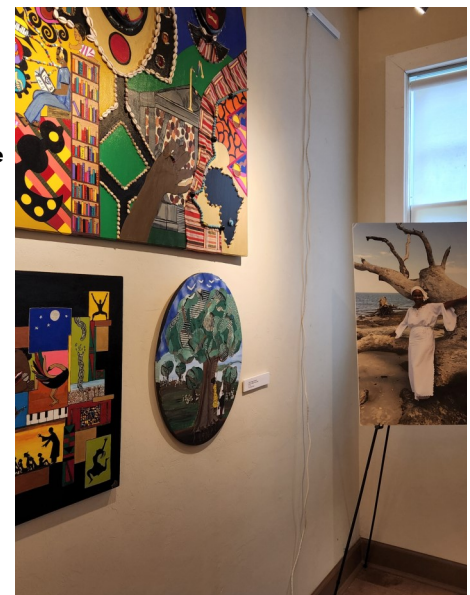
Owned by a non-profit that originated in the Mount Olive A.M.E. Church, the CCMCC is unique in its story. Walking inside the prefabricated building allows visitors to "go back" to an earlier time when it was Perry Movie Theater, the Cotton Club, the Blue Note Club and a furniture warehouse.

Fast forward to 1995, when Dr. Vivian Filer was charged by her pastor to "go get" the space and re-imagine it. Filer serves as the executive director and chair of the not-for-profit corporation that preserves the historic site while creating a space that promotes and instills pride in the African-American culture.

Under the knowledgeable eye of Deloris Rentz, facilities coordinator, constituents of the EEDLO recently viewed exhibits including of elaborate gourds and Sankofa birds created by the-late Patricia Hilliard-Nunn,

their presence reminding us to drink up droplets of Black heritage. Additionally, "American Idols" portraits of music artists from Sade to Childish Gambino by artist Yvonne Ferguson lined the museum's walls.

"The air of pride was stifling," said Daisy Bush of Saint Hebron A.M.E. Church in Quincy. Visiting the museum is instrumental in encouraging the culture of yesteryear and secures the spirit of tomorrow, making the CCMCC theme, "Preserving the Past...Building the Future" one of relevance, and devotion.



Dr. Vivian Filer, executive director of the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center (left), leads a talk. (Top right) She gives a tour of the center where the art of the late Patricia-Hilliard-Nunn is displayed (below).



Rosewood expert shares her family's story of survival

Lizzie Robinson-Jenkins received her charge to keep at the tender age of 5 and has carried forward her mission to the 21st Century.

The former Alachua School teacher was told the story of her relatives' escape from the massacre at Rosewood, Florida in 1922.

From that time on, Robinson-Jenkins has worked to tell her family's story, one of survival

and perseverance. As the leader of the Rosewood Foundation non-profit, she has been working on a book set to be released in January that will correct the misinformation shared in the movie.

Robinson-Jenkins credits the kindness of white citizens for preventing further tragedy in the wake of a senseless event. She said following a woman being beaten by her lover and blaming it on a Black man to

appease her husband, store owner John Wright hid fleeing citizens in his home until Sheriff Bob Walker was able to get them on a train out of town.

Robinson-Jenkins beseeched the EEDLO members in attendance at her special presentation at the Mount Olive A.M.E. Church in Gainesville to visit her website rosewoodflorida.com and support the Rosewood Foundation.



Lizzie Robinson-Jenkins, director of the Rosewood Foundation, gave an informational presentation.

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Joyce Pink,
West Coast Conference Lay Organization Historiographer

Connie E. Jenkins-Pye,
Tallahassee District Lay Organization First Vice President

Shrin Bryant,
South Conference Lay Organization Young Adult Representative

Robyne Edwards,
Suwanee-North District Lay Organization Treasurer

Daisy Bush,
Saint Hebron A.M.E. Church-Quincy



Dante Buckson (left) presents his Power Session. Attendees we given Marigold to plant (above right).

Convention goers get into the weeds at Power Session led by Dante Buckson

Seeds and weeds. Planting and pruning.

Dante Buckson used gardening metaphors and symbolism during the "We Are STILL HERE" Power Session held on Thursday morning. The East Conference Lay Young Adult Representative started with the familiar Scripture from Ecclesiastes when saying, "To everything there is a season."

Attendees were asked to reflect on a few questions. "What fruits are you bearing in this season?" "What are some of the weeds in your life or your ministry that you need to get rid of?"

Buckson said with authority that, "Plants and humans thrive under the care of a master gar-

dener." He didn't have to explain who the master gardener is.

Session co-presenter Teresa White brought the gathering to a close with the talk of sowing. "The young people talk about us sowing into them, but you don't know how many of them sow into us." She then spoke of those who call to check on her wherever there is a challenge in her life.

The EDLO DOLA then presented a gift to attendees: a small box containing items needed to grow a plant. She pointed to the instructions and then gave a few of her own. "You've to press your way through. You've got to persevere. There is a master gardener, and it's okay to consult with the master gardener."

Bishop Reid surprises Health committee during morning fitness walk

Bishop Frank Madison Reid III doesn't just talk the talk about health and wellness. On Thursday, he walked the walk.

The Presiding Prelate of the Eleventh Episcopal District surprised Health Walk Committee Chair Connie E. Jenkins-Pye and Co-Chair Melanie Weatherspoon by joining the group on their morning fitness walk before the day's workshops began.

We can't wait to walk in the Bahamas!

—Connie E. Jenkins-Pye, Health Walk Activity Committee Chair

"He displayed that walking and keeping your body in good condition is serious matter," Jenkins-Pye said.

Walkers departed from the Hilton

University of Florida Conference Center Hotel at 5:30 a.m. to walk the neighborhood home of the Gators. Jenkins-Pye said she is thankful for the support of the members who came out to walk with her daily from Wednesday to Friday. "Shout out to Marie Dixon-Jones, Dessie P. Matthews and Sue Henry who did not find it robbery to ensure their temples God gave them are in the best condition they can be in," she added.

The Health Walk Activities Committee reports to the Commission on Personnel and Procedure chaired by LuCretia McBride. Sheron Ellis of the East Conference provided an extra special treat of custom hats for some walkers.

Encouraged by the turnout the committee is excited for what is to come in 2023. "We can't wait to walk in the Bahamas," Jenkins-Pye exclaimed.