

# Presidential Salutation

*To Everything there is a Season...*

Greetings to each of you,

I am beyond excited to greet and welcome you to our first Virtual Annual Convention! I view this new way of connecting as an opportunity to pique or renew interest in our beloved Lay Organization. I am glad about it!

A few months ago we were full of the promise and hope that comes with a new year. It appeared that year 2020, a year like many others, would indeed deliver. I mean, really, what could awry in a year with the numbers 2020? After all, we equate those four numbers, in that order, with acuity or sharpness of vision. Yes, this would be our year, and many of us had grand thoughts about how we would capture and leverage all of the things we had calendared. But then, life happened, and our 2020 vision became a bit obscured.

Thanks be to God, though we are in the midst of chaotic crises of economy, health and racial unrest, **we have not suffered a crisis of faith.** We have kept our focus and remained ever more resolved in our commitment to serve and be of service in our mission to teach and to train. As a result, here we are today, unfettered, undaunted, and at the seat of our 76th Annual Convention going full-steam ahead!

I am grateful to God who far exceeds anything we can ever imagine! Not only are we in this groundbreaking convention, but we have made it the most highly registered in our history, with 532 registrants.

There are so many who have contributed to the making of this convention. In an effort to not leave anyone out, I simply say, "Thank You, EVERYBODY!" I am appreciative to Bishop Richardson for participating in EVERY Convention since he has been with us. I thank Bishop McCloud and President Makiti for bringing greetings and spending time with us today. Thank you to all who registered and encouraged others to do the same. Thank you for every call, email, word, and/or positive effort expended in support of this work. Thank you to the **ZOOMspert** team of Robbyn, Rhoshonda, Ashley, Linnell, led by Teresa, which has coalesced to make the technology appear effortless. The practice classes were key! To guests, leaders, friends and colleagues across the Connectional Church, we celebrate your presence, and invite you to join us again for other events. ***Who would have thought we would be here, digitally speaking?***

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

**GOD IS...**

**Patricia Wright ~ Prez#8**

