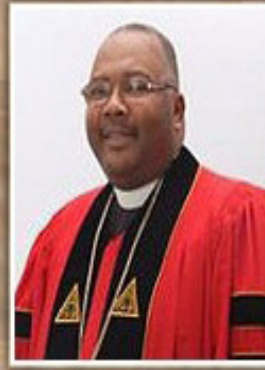


2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE LEGISLATION AND SUMMIT MEETING

DOROTHY WALLS CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER | OCTOBER 18 - 20, 2011



SPONSORED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MINISTERS AND LAY ASSOCIATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL

A clarion call for the “brain trusts” of Zion (lay and clergy) to gather in Black Mountain, Dorothy Walls Conference and Retreat Center to COLLABORATE - COMPROMISE AND BUILD CONSENSUS on proposed legislation for the 49th Quadrennial General Conference.

The cost is packaged to include sleeping accommodations, meals, (at the Camp Dorothy Walls Conference and Retreat Center) taxes and information/program packet

Rooms

Double- (2 double beds) 28 rooms total; Room rate: \$111.54 Single; \$149.76 Double; All Taxes meals/snacks included Handicap-Accessible - (1 queen bed) 3 rooms total; \$111.54 Single; \$149.76 Double; All Taxes meals/snacks included
 Queen - (1 queen bed) 3 rooms total; \$111.54 Single; \$149.76 Double; All Taxes meals/snacks included
 Triple Suite - (3 full size beds) 16 rooms total; \$132.99 Single; \$170.53 Double; \$208.07 Triple; All Taxes meals/snacks included

The International Ministers and Lay Association Summit Meeting is now open for reservations with the following information:

1. All room reservations require a two night minimum stay.
2. To make your reservation call Mon-Fri 9AM - 5PM 1-828-419-9200 ask for Brandon, Front Desk Manager- no online registration for this event. Provide the name of the meeting - 2012 General Conference Legislation and Summit Meeting.
4. All reservations require the name of your Episcopal Area and the names of individuals sharing the same room. A credit card is required to reserve the reservation, but will not be charged unless you fail to arrive by 11:00 PM.
5. An overflow hotel with a negotiated meeting rate and meal plan will be available once the Dorothy Walls Conference and Retreat Center reaches its capacity.

Please note:

- A) This is a working meeting. Everyone in attendance will be assigned to (or you may choose) a committee to work with. The cost and the agenda were not designed to accommodate observers.
- B) There is no registration fee however; all persons attending must be current members of the Int'l M&L Association and the Connectional Lay Council. Int'l M&L dues can be collected on-site; Connectional Lay Council dues must be paid through your local church, please plan ahead.

- C) Contact: Yvonne A. Tracey via e-mail: ytracey@bellsouth.net or call 704-637-8687, should you need assistance or have questions.

Preliminary Meeting Information

Purpose: To focus on the development and adoption of 2012 General Conference Legislation through the following committees:

- 1) Budget
 - a) Expense
 - b) Assessments
- 2) Restructuring
 - a) General Departments
- 3) Schools and Colleges
- 4) Ministerial Concerns
 - a) Minimum salary
 - b) Pension
 - c) Pastor's Bill of Rights
- 5) Conference Boundaries
 - a) Domestic
 - b) Overseas

Other committees may be added.

Persons may sign up for committees at the Connectional Lay Council and Int'l M&L Association Exhibit Tables at the WH&OMS Quadrennial Convention in Houston, TX.

There will also be a support group to critique resolutions drafted by individuals and other constituencies of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Preliminary Time line:

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

- Check into Dorothy Walls Conference & Retreat Center (All day)
- Visit Information Area to pick-up meeting ID badges and information packet
- Opening Fellowship Dinner (5:00 PM)
- Orientation, organization and initial meetings of General Conference Legislation Committees (7:00 PM)

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

- General Conference Legislation Committee Meetings

Thursday, October 20, 2011

- Presentations by committees and adoption of International Ministers and Lay Association General Conference Resolutions.
- Closing at 12 Noon

AN OPEN LETTER TO ZION

A special appeal to the steadfast and faithful members of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and especially to the delegates elected to the 49th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Dear Zionites:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 1Corinthians 1:3

“O Zion, what’s the matter now?”

Some of us may answer this question with a long list of concerns; others may pose a shorter list. Whatever the length, it should not be pigeonhole as “it is, what it is”. Recently, a challenge went forth to the Ohio Conference to consider...It does not have to be what it is...it can be better!

The summit meeting is designed serve as a prelude to the General Conference as a special legislative session. The purpose is instructional pertaining to the legislative process, and the development of pertinent legislation which will strengthen our beloved ZION.

Zion, now is the prime opportunity to bring

individual and collective concerns to the table in Black Mountain and offer up thoughts and ideas to eradicate the “boils” that are holding back the trans formative progress of our great denomination.

On “Zion’s Mountain”, the goal is to make significant progress in drafting legislation, in the same spirit that Paul directed the church in Corinth... “but all things should be done decently and in order” 1 Corinthians 14: 40. We anticipate a productive retreat as we build consensus, collaborate and work through compromises resulting in proposed legislation that will transform and sustain our Zion.

We are adamant that this session will at all times be A-Political. There will be committees dealing with every major aspect of the church including brief presentations on General

Conference Rules, Robert Rules of Order and the role and responsibilities of delegates.

The General Conference is only for seven (7) days and it is vitality important that every delegate and alternate have a thorough understanding of the functionality of the General Conference, the legislation and it’s affects upon the old ship of Zion “the trans formative church in the 21st Century”.

We are encouraging all interested Zionites to attend this joint endeavor, especially General Conference Delegates.

If you desire to work on any of the committees or have a suggestion for a committee, you can contact Reverend Medis Cheeks 804-425-7402, mwcheek@cavtel.net, or Mrs. Yvonne A. Tracey 704-637-8687 (email: ytracey@bellsouth.net).

North Eastern Episcopal District Cultivates Denominational Loyalty by Stoling 11 Life Members in the Bahamas

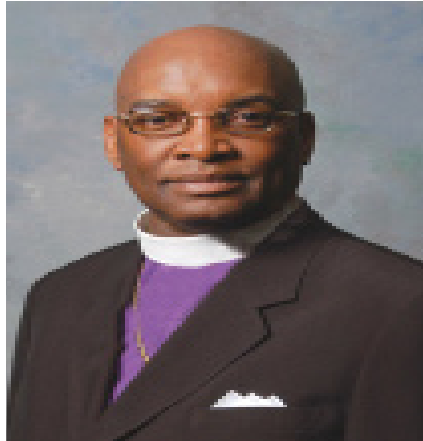
Birth of Bahama Islands Conference Lay Council

By Ruth Gough, Eastern District Lay Council President

During the 2010 Bahamas Islands Conference Sis Ruth Gough, Eastern District Lay Council President and Bro James West, Western District Lay Council President both of the New England Annual Conference encouraged the laity of the Bahamas Islands Conference to join the Connectional Lay Council of The A.M.E. Zion Church. Bishop George E. Battle, Jr. commissioned The Rev. Dr. Barbara White, the pastor of Evans Memorial Church in Norwich, CT to raise funds to purchase Connectional Lay Council Life Memberships and Life Member stoles for the Bahamas Islands Conference.

Thanks to the vision Bishop George E. Battle, Jr., who saw a need for the Bahamas Islands Conference to have organized Local Lay Councils to bring all his conferences into compliance with the Book of Discipline, and the hard work of Rev White, eleven members of the of the Bahamas Islands Conference were presented with Life Memberships in the Connectional Lay Council. The Northeastern Region now has a full compliment of Connectional Lay Council members.

On Thursday evening January 20, 2011 Mrs. Marie Baxter North Eastern Regional Director, Mrs. Ruth E. Gough Eastern District Lay President with the help of Rev. Dr. Barbara White who raised the money for the stoles presented the eleven new Life Members of the Connectional Lay Council to Bishop Battle for stoling. Bishop George E. Battle and P.E. Rev Dr. W. Darin Moore conducted the Life Members Stoling Ceremony. After the Life Members Stoling Ceremony Bishop Battle presented the newly stoled Life Members to the Bahamas Islands Conference.



Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.
North Eastern Episcopal
District Presiding Prelate



Reverend Barbara White

151st Session of the Bahama Islands Annual Conference Lay Council from Vision to Reality

by Marie H. Baxter, Regional Director

But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6: 33 was the Conference theme for the Annual Conference

The members, delegates and visitors to the Bahama Islands Conference were blessed by the Holy Spirit from Wednesday evening through Sunday's act of worship. However, something wonderful and spiritual happened that lifted the ministry of the laity through the Connectional Lay Council to higher heights. The special highlight was:

A surprise gift to eleven faithful servants of the Bahama Islands Conference occurred with a Life Membership and Life Member Stole of the Connectional Lay Council donated by the Rev. Barbara White. The recipients of this special gift were: Heather Johnson, Joan Dean, Jennifer Carey, Gail McKenzie, Una Romer, Desiree Barr, Nicole Forbes, Barbara Morris, William Butler, Norma Hield, and Kenequeka Clarke.

On Sunday during the reading of the appointments, Desiree Barr was appointed President of the Lay Council of the Nassau District. To God be the Glory!

We thank Bishop Battle and Presiding Elder Moore for their insight of selecting Ms. Barr as President for the ministry of the Lay Council. We extend a special thanks and gratitude to The Rev. Barbara White for her gift of love from the New England Conference Eastern District. Conference President, Ms. Marion Seay, District President, Ms. Ruth Gough.

Desiree Barr, the North Eastern Episcopal Region of the Connectional Lay Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, we welcome you as our President of the Nassau District, Bahama Islands Conference.



L-R: Reverend Barbara White, Mrs. Ruth Gough and Mrs. Marie Baxter



**Bahama Islands Conference
Life Members**

Ninth Quadrennial Lay Convocation

"Fulfilling the Mandate Through Education, Engagement and Empowerment"

March 29 – April 1, 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

CLC Live (Fun and Fellowship planned for the evening of March 28th for early arrivals)
Boot Camp (For new and interested General Conference Delegates)
State of the Church Panel Discussion
Empowerment Hour
Communion Worship Service
Welcome Program and Reception
Prayer Breakfast
Challenge Luncheon
Candidates for Bishop and General Officers Forums
Saturday Morning Regional Cluster Breakfasts - Meet the Candidates
Youth and Young Adult Forums
R.C. Rochon Church Music Academy
Life Members Social – Meet the Candidates
Bishop George J. Leake Scholarship Black and Gold Banquet and Benefit Concert



**Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel Joseph S. Koury Convention
Center, Greensboro, NC**