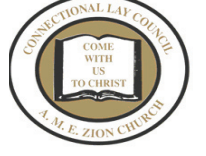




THE CONNECTION



"MAXIMIZING OUR MISSION BY MANAGING OUR MINISTRY: THROUGH EVANGELISM"

Ninth Quadrennial Lay Convocation

March 29 – April 1, 2012

"Fulfilling the Mandate Through Education, Engagement and Empowerment"

WHAT YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS.....

CLC LIVE"

The A.M.E. Zion Connectional Lay Council invites you to be a part of the first innovative "CLC Live". This will be held Wednesday evening March 28, 2012 before the Convocation Boot Camp on Thursday morning. Plan to come early, relax and laugh out loud with the Lord. This will be an informal occasion for us to purchase food, have karaoke, participate in, "Name that Bible Verse" contest, and enjoy music and other exciting events. Spread the word! There is no charge for this event.



The Joseph S Koury Convention Center
Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons

open up the 'Hatch', and come to 'General Quarters', so that we can prepare you to be the best General Conference Lay delegate. Come and seek the information first hand. It will be a great opportunity to practice 'Drills', and become more familiar with everything you will need in order to; know protocol for the General Conference Floor, how to research resolutions, and your role as a General Conference Lay Delegate. Our goal is to make sure you are so prepared when we are done there will be no need for 'A School' later.

See you at the Ninth Quadrennial Lay Convocation!

(Definitions of italicized 'Boot Camp' terms):
Reveille - Bugle call to wake up
Racks - Beds
Hatch - Door
General Quarters - Gathering together
Drills - an exercise in training
A School - Training school after boot camp

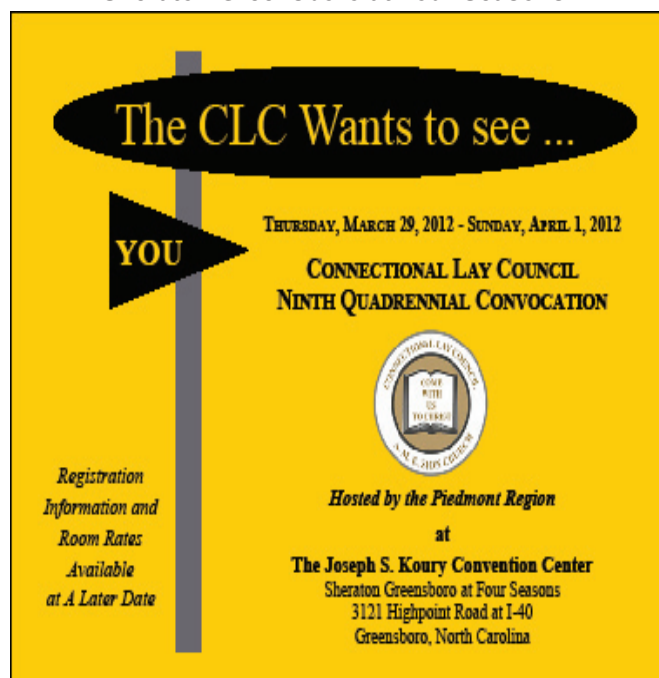
CALLING ALL GENERAL CONFERENCE LAY DELEGATES ATTENTION

'Get Ready For Boot Camp at the Convocation'

By Rynette L. Nixon,
Western Episcopal District Regional Director

Who but the Connectional Lay Council of the A.M.E. Zion Church under the direction of our General President, Yvonne Tracey, would consider incorporating a 'BOOT CAMP' into the Ninth Quadrennial Lay Convocation? On March 29, - 2012 we will be doing just that. 2012 is the General Conference year, what better way to provide leadership and planning to the General Conference Lay Delegates. We will have several known Zionites to bring this wealth of information

So at the sound of 'Reveille', get out of your 'Racks',



'STATE OF THE CHURCH' PANEL

A panel discussion is planned to discuss "The State of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church" with a focus on Embracing the Vision of our forefathers and mothers in the early years and moving forward to the Twenty-First Century. This will include looking at: Who We Are; Where We've Been; and Confusion/Problems.

We propose to look at the Twenty-First Century Church from the year 2000 to the present with statements similar to "We have taught to make disciples." "We teach to make disciples." And answering questions such as: "What are the Fruits of Making Disciples in the 21st Century?" or "The Church is on life support system. Why?"

2011 - 2012 QUADRENNIAL THEME

Maximizing Our Mission by Manging Our Ministry Through: Empowerment

Empowerment –August 2011 - July 2012

The Power or right to do something after having received proper training and authorization for said duty. To be enabled, in this case, by the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul relates in I Timothy 1:12, "And I thank Jesus Christ our Lord, who has enabled me, for that he counted me, faithful, putting me into the ministry;" Verse 14, "And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus". Our efforts are made possible with His blessings.

Scriptures –
Psalm 8:3-9
Psalm 29:10
Luke 22:26-27

John 10: 5:26-27
John 19:11
Romans 13:1
I Corinthians 15:24-28
I John 2:17

Choral Selections -
Hymn – "I Need Thee Every Hour"
Anthem – "Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates"
Spiritual – "Fix Me Jesus"
Gospel – "He Touched Me"
Contemporary Gospel – "I'm Walking with Authority"

CLC Processing of Memberships Moving to the "NEXT LEVEL" ELECTRONIC FILING

By Effie Woodard, 2nd Vice President

At the urging of our General President Yvonne A. Tracey, the Connectional Lay Council is "going green" in the management of our memberships. It is our Christian responsibility to be good stewards of the resources provided for our subsistence. To this end, we would like to implement the following guidelines that provides for the electronic submission and management of memberships. This new process should minimize the cost of ink, paper and time in the processing of memberships. We urge you to convert from the Postal Mail and begin using Electronic Filing.

The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.
Psalm 24:1

Guidelines for Electronic Submission of Membership Rosters and Forms

Items Required

1. Electronic Local Church Membership Roster(s)
2. Electronic Membership Form
3. Hard copies of current roster(s) of members who paid for new and/or renewal of memberships.
4. Record of membership dues collected.

Request Electronic copies of the Local Church Membership Roster(s) and the Electronic Membership Form from the CLC Central Office email: clc.joyce@att.net or Call: 704-599-4603 (Ex. 332).

Membership Rosters

1. Download and SAVE the Local Church Membership Roster(s) and the Electronic Membership Form.
2. Open the Local Church Membership Roster(s) document. In the first blank column use one of the following codes to indicate the membership status for each name listed on the Local Church Membership Roster:
 - P** - Paid Membership- Renewal
 - D** - Deceased Member
 - T** - Transferred to another AME Zion Church (note on roster name of church if known)
 - X** - Delete, no longer member of local Church
3. SAVE the file.

Electronic Membership Form

1. Download and SAVE the Electronic Membership Form.
2. Open the CLC Electronic Membership Form document.
 - a. Fill in the heading: Episcopal District, Conference, Presiding Elder District, Local Church, Pastor, and Local President.
 - b. List the names of new members or members changing categories.
 - c. Each name listed is followed by the code for the type of membership, for example, (R) Regular Membership, (Q) Four Year Membership or (L) Life Membership.
 - d. Insert an address for each member or the address of the local

- church.
- e. Note the names of any deceased Life Members in the space provided.
3. Financial Summary Section:
 - a. Complete the financial summary section to equal the check amount for each classification of the dues structure. (Check the math to make sure the correct amounts is typed on the form.)
 - b. SAVE the file.
4. Complete the following:
 - a. Local Contact Person - Name, Address, Email Address, Telephone Number
 - b. Date
5. Check spelling of names to ensure that names are spelled correctly.
6. E-mail the copy intended for the Connectional/Regional Lay Council to clc.joyce@att.net.

Internal Processing

7. Once the Membership Roster and Membership Form have been received at the Office of the Connectional Lay Council the documents will be kept on file and matched with the membership dues required for payment.
8. Membership dues must be received within five business days of receipt of Membership Form and Roster.
9. If not received after the 5th day, an email reminder will be sent to the contact person listed or a reminder letter from the Connectional Lay Council Office by USPS (United States Postal Service) will be sent to you if there is no email listed as contact information.
10. Memberships will not be processed until full payment is received.
11. After receipt of check or money order for memberships, the funds will be reconciled with Membership Form/Roster and the memberships will be processed.

Local Distribution

12. Email or retain a printed copy of the Membership Roster and Form for the Local Church.
13. Provide the appropriate copies to District & Conference Membership Chairperson along with the appropriate financial obligations required.

Using the Postal Service

Churches may continue to send edited hard copies of Local Church Membership Rosters and Membership Forms with check or money order via mail to the Office of the Connectional Lay Council.

Questions Contact:

Central Office: 704-599-4630 Extension 332 Email: clcjoycez@att.net
OR Use Contact us on the CLC website: www.connectionallaycouncil.org

Message From the Desk of the General President

Let's Remain Centered Through Prayer and Fasting!

15 I hope all of you who are mature Christians will agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. 16 But we must be sure to obey the truth we have learned already. 20 ... we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. Philippians 3:15, 16, 20 (NLT)

In Paul's letter to the Philippians he provides instructions for Christian maturity and bids them to have steadfast courage in the mist of challenging times. We have come to realize that the Christian's model for living a life full of Godly character is found in Jesus the Christ

As we await with great anticipation the dropping of the gavel that commences the business of the 49th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 2012, let us include in our biblical orientation for inspiration and guidance Philippians 3: 15-20.

We, the members of Zion Methodism must not let our relationship with God become over shadowed with non-productive rhetoric coupled with charismatic chatter of aspiring candidates or legislative matters that compromise our Christian ethics. Without God there are no moral absolutes. Without moral absolutes, there is no authentic knowledge of right and wrong. (Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr.)

And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?

Mark 8:36 (NLT)

Now is the time for prayer and fasting for a discerning spirit to enable us, the steadfast and faithful Zionites, to make every effort to do what is right for the growth and expansion of our beloved African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

14 Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLT)

AMEN



Yvonne A. Tracey