

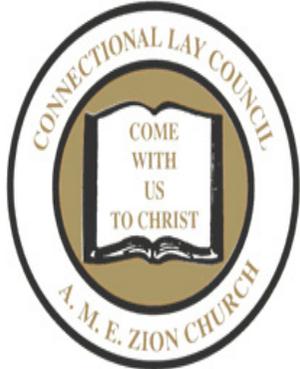


THE CONNECTION

“MAXIMIZING OUR MISSION BY MANAGING OUR MINISTRY:
THROUGH EMPOWERMENT

CELEBRATING CONNECTIONAL LAY SUNDAY Connectional Lay Council Observance Day

Sunday, October 16th, 2011*



“Maximizing Our Mission by Managing Our Ministry Through: Education, Evangelism, Empowerment, and Expansion” with emphasis this year on **“Empowerment.”**

The third Sunday in October, the anniversary of the denomination, is known as Connectional Lay Sunday when the laity is given special privilege to develop connectional interest. All Pastors are asked to support and encourage efforts by the laity to heighten and promote the Lay Ministry of our denomination.

2011 Lay Sunday Offering Appeal

Please mail your contributions to: Connectional Lay Council Office, Post Office Box 26770, Charlotte, North Carolina 28221 and put on the outside of the envelope “Offering Appeal”.

All contributions will be published in a future issue of The Connection.

Lay Sunday might be a good time to kick off and/or culminate your membership drive.

**If the second Sunday in October is not available, any Sunday during the month is permissible.*

2011 Lay Sunday Offering Appeal - We Care: Building Empowering Partnerships with Angola and Episcopal Areas Impacted by Natural Disasters

You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ Acts 35b NLT

As the president of the Connectional Lay Council I am happy to announce that the Executive Board recently adopted another area of focus for the Lay Sunday Offerings to align the contributions received with the current theme component empowerment.

Plus-up the Giving to Plus-up Empowerment

The theme for the 2011-2012 Lay Sunday Offering Appeal is We Care: Building Empowering Partnerships. The funds will be divided to meet the needs of two areas, international and domestic.

First, we are celebrating our newly formed partnership with the laity of Angola to equip classrooms for children in schools operated by the A.M.E. Zion Church. This partnership and project idea is a direct result of the recent visit of this President to the country of Angola with Bishop Warren M. Brown and the Missionary Supervisor Mrs. Aurelia Brown. We need to pay forward with Angola and give empowerment to children living in a country with the highest rates of infant mortality and illiteracy in the world. Equipping classrooms can represent a beginning.

Second, we will attempt to reach out to build partnerships with Episcopal

Areas that have recently been afflicted with natural disasters. Our desire is to make a contribution to the established disaster funds that have been established in the affected Episcopal Areas.

We need to give back to the faith communities of Zion with a gesture of tangible love that we pray will inspire and empower the local congregations to move forward.

The Financial Goal:

The most we have raised in Lay Sunday Offerings is \$6,000.00. Given the opportunities that lie before us I am challenging the laity to raise \$10,000.00. I know that we can do this.

Prayerfully plus-up your giving to plus-up empowerment so God can use our sacrifices to perform miracles. With your generous financial support it does not yet appear the difference CLC can make in Angola and the weather affected Episcopal Areas.

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself. Ralph Waldo Emerson
American Poet

UBUNYE...(African)”we are one”

A Tribute for Denison Dóver Garrett “The Aged Sire Has Gone To Rest”

by J. Fairbanks, Education Committee Chair



Gone, gone---passed and gone,
The Aged Sire has gone to rest; He left the world below,
to rest upon the Saviour’s Breast, escaping every foe.

Gone, gone---missed and gone,
Tho’ kindred dear and friends might mourn, He could no
longer stay:

On angels’ wings he swift was borne to realms of endless
day.

Gone, gone---missed and gone,
His silver locks no altars wreath nor voice earth’s temple
fill:

But where enraptured spirits breathe His voice the regions
thrill.

Woe are we, D.D. is gone, gone—our mentor, brother,
and friend is gone.

Denison Dover Garrett, Sr. In the year of our Lord Twenty eleven, Denison D. Garrett acquiesced to a Master for whom he had labored, it would seem, all of his natural born days. It was the Milton who said, “Death is the golden key that opens the palace of Eternity”. It can be said with certainty that D.D., as he was known to all, had, with design and purpose orchestrated his life so that his golden key fit perfectly in the palace door.

It was very apparent to me, in working with Dennison D. Garrett, that he was a man with a predisposition dipped in preparation, dedication, fortitude, aptitude, and love of God and Zion Methodism. Also, he profoundly articulated these attributes and used all his energies to the betterment of all mankind. His works and attitude toward Zion Methodism has and will fashion and mold many of us for years to come. It is very easy to conjure up the tall straight frame, who did not ‘just go’ to ‘Mike three’, but was extraordinarily cerebral in his deep and on point comments. His warm and genuine smile, could embrace you from across a Board table or a crowded room. He could also pin you to the mat at the same time were you the least bit out of sync. If you were near or far from D.D., you were surely singed by the fire that burned on the altar of his heart for God’s people and Zion Methodism. He

brought acute awareness to the old E.F. Hutton commercial. When he spoke, we all listened.

To say D.D. was an A.M.E. Zion statesman mildly alludes to the magnitude of contributions he made through almost every facet of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion denomination. His verve, knowledge, forthrightness, stick-to-itiveness, polish, and desire for excellence has given inestimable enlightenment for all who shared his dream for a Church Triumphant. Those of us who worked with D.D. are beneficiaries of the love and respect this Christian gentleman fairly manifested at all times. It was my privilege and delight to have worked and served with D.D. He aggressively ‘pressed forward toward the mark of a higher calling’ and he rather insisted that you do likewise.

Gone, gone---passed and gone,
Our friend, teacher, guide, leader,

Gone, gone---passed and gone,

To a land where the saints will welcome such an eloquent voice.

Gone, gone---missed and gone,

Where he will not have to stand in line for ‘Mike’ privileges,

Gone, gone---passed and gone,

To a place where toils and illnesses are passé and, wellness is the order of the day.

Gone, gone---passed and gone,

To a land that is fairer than day, where D.D. will readily use Heavenly rhetoric in praise.

Gone, gone---D.D. is passed and gone

To a place he pressed for daily.

To Mrs. Clotea, Son, Michael, other family members and friends, I rejoice with you that there is no need to fret or regret D.D.’s leaving. May I recommend to you what pulled me through at my husband’s demise. Isaiah 57:1-2, where in essence it says “Good men are taken away from the trials and tribulations of this world and in death they lie in peace”. May these verses give you peace as they have me? My prayers are with you.

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.

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*’, 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

‘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-



Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons
Greensboro, North Carolina



Yvonne A. Tracey
CLC President



Mary Matthews
Convocation Chair



Sandra Williams
Host Regional Director

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?”

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

REGISTRATION

On line registration will start on or around December 1, 2011.

HOTEL REGISTRATION

The headquarters hotel is the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons, Greensboro, North Carolina. For hotel registration, go to the Connectional Lay Council website www.connectionallaycouncil.org. Click on the window titled Ninth Quadrennial Convention and the link below.

<https://booking.ihotelier.com/istay/istay.jsp?hotelid=2576&languageid=1&DateIn=&DateOut=&Submit.x=70&Submit.y=16>

Once on the hotel website, click on groups (top of page) and a box will come up requesting an attendee code which is ZION12 (not case sensitive). The cut off date for the block of rooms is Feb. 27, 2012.

From The Desk Of The General President

Greetings to my Sisters and Brothers in Zion:

I pray that you will take to heart the following information and share with others in the lay ministry.



Annual Lay Day

The third Sunday in October, the anniversary of the denomination, is known as Connectional Lay Sunday. Every local Lay Council President or convener should be working with the pastor to plan how to lift up one or more of the objectives of the Lay Council within the framework of our Quadrennial Theme: Maximizing our Mission by Managing Our Mission through: Education, Evangelism,

Empowerment and Expansion. The component for 2011-2012 is Empowerment.

“Christ’s teachings EMPOWER us with the ability, knowledge and the where withal to implement His will here on earth”. (A Theological Treatise - CLC Education Committee)

Should your local church calendar may not permit the celebration on the third Sunday in October

it is permissible to settle on another date within this fiscal year (August 1, 2011-July 31, 2012.) It matters not the date-just remember to teach, learn and celebrate!

The theme for the 2011-2012 Lay Sunday Offering Appeal is We Care: Building Empowering Partnerships. The funds will be divided to meet the needs of two areas, international and domestic. We need to give back to the faith communities of Zion with a gesture of tangible love that we pray will inspire and empower the congregations to move forward.

M&L General Conference Legislative Summit in partnership with the Connectional Lay Council

October 18-20, 2011 all roads lead to Dorothy Walls Conference and Retreat Center, Black Mountain, NC. I know that it will be a sacrifice, but you owe it to God and your thrust toward preparation for the General Conference as a duly elected delegate or observer to be engaged in the development of resolutions. This important legislative activity should help to position our great denomination for growth and expansion in support of the mission of the church, to make disciples for Jesus Christ. It will prove to be a highly productive two days of immersing yourselves in the ways, means and challenges of crafting resolutions with Zionites from each Episcopal District.

Membership

A membership in the Lay Council is an investment in Zion Methodism. Please remember to join and to keep your dues current. An organized Lay Council means that you have elected local leadership; an active Lay Council means that your dues are current. Life Members, we pray that you will continue to support the organization with a contribution of \$5.00 for one year, \$20.00 for four years or \$125.00 for a Life Membership.

President’s Travel

Please connect with the following Regional Directors for details regarding my travel plans to the following areas for the months of October - December: October- Sandra Williams (Piedmont) Marie Baxter (Northeastern), Rynette Nixon (Western), and November - Dr. W. Edwyn Baird (Eastern North Carolina).

The R.C. Rochon Music Academy and the Regional Lay Academy will simultaneously convene at 1st Church San Francisco on Friday, October 21, 2011 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Yvonne A. Tracey will conduct the Lay Academy and Mr. Othello Jefferson, Minister of Music the Church Music Academy. Rev. Malcolm Byrd is the Pastor. Come join us if you are in the area.

For Christian Educators traveling to the CED Winter Meeting in Los Angeles, please join me for a Regional Lay Academy on Wednesday, December 27th from 10:00 AM – 12 Noon in the host hotel. Please check the hotel monitor for the room location.

Visit the Connectional Lay Council
Official Website for the latest
news & updates:

www.connectionallaycouncil.org

Empowerment Helps

By J. Fairbanks, Education Committee Chair



J. Fairbanks Leach

The story is told of a small congregation in Europe whose Church was demolished by a storm. There were only a handful of members and a large percentage of them were blessed to be in the uppermost area of age. Most had been farmers and builders; they were wonderful, country, Church attending people. Their biggest problem was that they had limited spiritual vision. They hardly saw past the need for their presence in the House of God weekly, and doing routine, non-inspired things. They were blessed to have a caring and loving Minister who encouraged them to rebuild as that was the only Church for miles around. Working from sun-up to sundown the foundation was finally laid and, they stood wiping sweat while yet rejoicing for their progress. The hod carriers steadily Empowered masonries who worked feverishly erecting the brick walls. They stopped only when the wives arrived with covered baskets laden with warm biscuits, beef, pork, sour cream cake and milk. Soon they were ready to put on the roof and all was done. Finally, they removed the scaffolds and stepped

back to view their endeavors. The men in their driven pace never noticed no one had framed for windows. There was not one window in the building. The workers panicked when their mistake was brought to light. The minister advised them to go home, rest and come back for an evening service and asked they each, husbands, wives, children and everyone, even the onlookers, return to the service bearing a lantern. Dejectedly they returned to see what the minister had to say about folk too occupied with their work to notice they were building a Church without windows. They were feeling anger, defeat and calling themselves country buffoons. It is not written what they were calling their leader. The very Christian minister, sagacious in nature, waited until all the membership and onlookers had gathered. The pastor asked that they light their lanterns at the same time. When all the lanterns were lit, The Church was illuminated beyond description. It was as though the building had walls that were interrupted with windows every twenty feet through which the sun shone at its zenith. The minister mounted the rostrum and took his text from Matthew 5:14, 16. “You are the light of the world.” “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.” NKJV. These people, with the gentle, yet firm ‘jack-hammering’ of God’s Word were empowered to readjust, not only the building, but their way of thinking, lifestyle, hearing, and doing. They were Empowered to be, not just absent-minded hearers, but doers of the mandates of the Word of God. Their lights shone happily ever since. No, not their lanterns, but their lives which had been Empowered by a conduit of the Holy Spirit in their pastor.

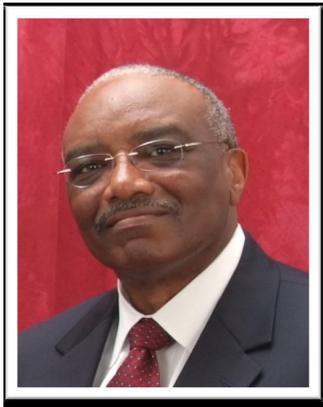
Our Connectional Lay Council Theme, “Maximizing our Mission by Managing Our Ministry Through Education, Evangelism, Empowerment and Expansion”, is the matrix for the work of the Lay Council and is indeed an intriguing theme mandating deep thought and dedicated implementation. It is certainly our prayer that we have faithfully celebrated the first two components, Education and Evangelism. Why? Simply because all of our components are intricately woven, or should be, for excellence in Maximizing and Managing our Ministries. We come now to the most important facet of our theme, Empowerment (perhaps you have noticed that I think they all are the most important). Dare I risk thinking that you already know what Empowerment is or trust that you will do research so that you will adequately know whereof you think, speak, act and, of a surety, witness? Just in case, you’re too busy let me share this meaning. According to all of my sources, Empowerment, basically, refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social or economic strength of individuals and communities. Further, I’m told it often involves having confidence in one’s own capacities.

Indulge me by allowing me to tout just a few words of Leach Theology regarding Empowerment. Many of us have the notion that we operate on our own and have pulled ourselves up to, wherever it is we are, by our own ‘bootstraps’. Boots are, by and large are leather. Research tells me that leather comes from the tanning of the skin of primarily, cattle hide. It can be said that hardly any of us ever raised cattle and if we did, it is not likely that we performed the mechanics of raising, killing, tanning, and making shoe lasts, etc. Therefore, all this negates the scant possibility of you and I getting to wherever it is that we are by our own bootstraps. All of this to say that wherever we are, we engaged in some sort of Education, hopefully, we dealt deeply in the many areas of evangelism, thus becoming Empowered to do the work of the Lord by the Holy Spirit.

Have you heard this statement before? “Some Churches are four (4) miles wide and three (3) inches deep”. Already, you know that these are not Empowered Churches. They are not churches filled with people who are filled with the Holy Ghost. Have I mentioned yet that that is where Empowerment comes from? Well I should have. For your edification please read John 14:16-17. Then go to John 14:25-26. Empowerment, when sought, comes from on High. It is sort of like being always there awaiting our willingness to become a conduit of the Power.

Bottom line . . . If you’re a structure without windows, all is not lost. If you think you’ve arrived all by yourself, all is not lost. Should you lack confidence in your own capacity to serve, all is not lost. If you can’t spell or enunciate Empower you are in the right position for the Empowerment of the Holy Spirit. He will Maximize your very intent. He will cover your lethargy for the work placed in your hands. He will regenerate your interest and energies toward Managing your particular Ministry. Empowerment is ours through the visitation of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that that I said to you”. John 14:26b NKJV. One final suggestion, sing, or pray, “Send Him on down, Send Him on down, Lord; let the Holy Ghost come down.” Be Empowered by the Empowerer for the edification of the Saints. Paul said He’d prefer we’d not be unaware.

**Thank You,
Trubbie Roland Leeper!
10 Years of Service
President, Lincolnton District Lay
Council**



The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord and He delighteth in thy way.
Psalm 37:23

You have served us well!

We, the members of the Lincolnton District extend out heartfelt thanks and best wishes to you! The Lincolnton District is proud to call you one of our own.

Trubbie is a lifelong member of Neely's Grove AME Zion Church, Gastonia, NC. where he serves as the Preacher's Steward and a Class leader. He serves on the District Budget and Finance Committee. He is a Life member of the Lay Council and has served as President for the Lincolnton District Lay Council for 10 years! Trubbie is also a member of Trustee Board for Dorothy Walls Conference and Retreat Center (formerly Camp Dorothy Walls Conference and Retreat Center). He was a 2008 Delegate to the 48th Session of the General Conference of the AME Zion Church. Also, in 2008, he was the recipient of the Rev. S. I. Clement Service Award from the Lincolnton District. More recently he was elected in 2009 as the Treasurer of the Connectional Lay Council for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. He is a 2010 graduate of Belmont Abby College. Trubbie is a retired Vice President from First Union/Wachovia with 34 years of service. He volunteers at the Habitat Restore and is a member of the Progressive Christian Coalition.

We are grateful to his wife, Priscilla for lending him and his service to us for 10 years! Trubbie and Priscilla have 3 sons, James, Timothy and Christopher. Affectionately, they are known as Jessi Poppi and

The Connection Reporters

The Editor of the Connection is urging the laity across Zion to submit news to be published in The Connection. Each Episcopal Area has a representative whose name is listed below. Please contact them with your news. All articles must be typed and double spaced. Do not format or use effects (such as text boxes). Use upper and lower case letters when typing, (do not use all capital letters of italics.)

PIEDMONT

Vacant

NORTH EASTERN

Joyce Harrington jhat17@aol.com

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Mary Matthews marym1204@aol.com

Debora A Roseborough DeboraA.Roseborough@uscg.mil

MID ATLANTIC II

Gail Wade gail.wade@comcast.net

MID WEST

Joanne Collins mommajmc@gmail.com

MID ATLANTIC I

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ALABAMA-FLORIDA

Alesia W. Ross leestigul@yahoo.com

SOUTH ATLANTIC

Elvira Faulkner-McIlwain Karimah_Vira@comporium.net

SOUTHWESTERN DELTA

Lena Golden lenagolden@aol.com

WESTERN

Lynda Williams llw@mjlpl.com

CELEBRATING EMPOWERMENT

Suggested Connectional Lay Sunday AM Worship Service*

Worship Leader:		Lay Council President
Prelude:		Organist/Pianist
Choral Introit:	"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"	No. 218
The Processional:	"Onward Christian Laity"	No. 680
Responsive Call to Worship:		
Choral Response:	"Spirit of the Living God"	
Invocation:	(to be said in unison)	
Choral Response:	"Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome in This Place"	
The Hymn of Praise:	"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"	No. 681
Litany:	(responsively read)	
The Gloria Patri:		No. 712
An Affirmation of Laity:		
The Word Written:		
The Morning Prayer:		Lay Council Chaplain
The Prayer Response:	"Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayer"	No. 163
Choral Selections:	I. "He Has Done Marvelous Things"	
	II. "Woke Up This Morning"	
Announcements/Recognition of Visitors:		Church Clerk & Lay Secretary
The Ministry of Kindness / Regular Offering:	(Offertory Choir)	
Response:	"We Give Thee But Thine Own"	No. 707
Presentation of the Lay Messenger:		Lay Council President
Choral Selections:	I. "Lord Let Your Holy Ghost Come on Down"	
	II. "He's God"	
The Lay Message:	(preferably a Lay person)	
The Call to Christian Discipleship:		The Pastor
Hymn of Discipleship:	"Come Unto Jesus"	
The Call to Altar Prayer and Rededication of Laity (Renewal of Church Membership/Baptism Vows)**		The Pastor
Special Lay Council Offering:***		Lay Council Treasurer & Financial Secretary
Instrumental Organist/Pianist:		
Response:	"All Things Come of Thee, O Lord"	No. 706
Words of Assurance:		Pastor
The Recession:	"Take the Name of Jesus with You"	No. 287
The Lay Benediction:	"Three-fold Amen"	Minister/Choir
Postlude:		Organist/Pianist

**Empowerment
from God
is given to enable us to do a
Spiritual thing in a spiritual way
in an unspiritual world.
--Malcolm Cronk, Paraphrased**

* According to Discipline this should be the third Sunday in October

** The entire congregation is asked to join in.

*** Each local Lay Council is asked to take up this special offering and mail it to the

The CLC Wants to see ...

YOU

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012 - SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2012

CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL
NINTH QUADRENNIAL CONVOCATION

Hosted by the Piedmont Region

at

The Joseph S. Koury Convention Center

Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons
3121 Highpoint Road at I-40
Greensboro, North Carolina

Registration
Information and
Room Rates
Available
at A Later Date

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

The CLC website: www.connectionallaycouncil.org

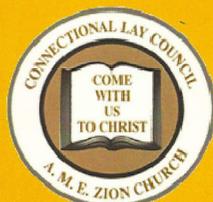
CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
ONE HUNDRED DAYS PLUS OF

Meditation/Hymnody

Sources of Encouragement from Members and Friends of
Zion Methodism

My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King;
My tongue is the pen of a ready writer." Psalm 45:1



"Come With Us to Christ"

Bishop Kenneth Monroe, Chairman
Board of Lay Activities
Yvonne A. Tracey, General President
Connectional Lay Council

100 Days Plus of Meditation/Hymnody

Our Education Committee Chair Speaks . . .
Picture this . . . a little girl, during her pastor's sermon is, with intensity, thumbing through the Hymnal. Her mother is, with the same intensity, following the pastor and his sermon until such time the little girl nudges her mother, rather sharply, cups her hand and says, "Mother, there are no pictures in this book. It is all commercials". Well, this little girl spoke with Providential wisdom. There are no pictures for sure and yet, the pages are replete with commercials. Commercials that attest to the diverse ways God has and will give us hope, joy, understanding, consolation, guidance, peace and even more. I shout Hallelujah! for the Commercials found in the A.M.E. Zion Hymnal. Many of these Hymns I learned at my mother's knee. Further, she taught me the need for and the art of Meditation as well. To say that this has been an exhilarating experience pales the actual. We began this project almost a year ago with determination foreign even to ourselves. When President Tracey verbalized her vision, it was as with Mary and Elizabeth, the seed leapt in the soul of my being. I shared the vision with the Education Committee and they were enraptured with the idea. The rest is History. The process of getting the project to this point has indeed been

a spiritual journey for the editors and me. The Education Committee is grateful to every man, woman and one child who contributed and in such profound ways. ONE HUNDRED DAYS PLUS OF MEDITATION/HYMNODY will be a choice blessing to all who will share its contents. The end product is dedicated to musicologist, scribes and readers across the length and breadth of Zion Methodism. May I paraphrase Homer in speaking to our contributors? "Your contributions flowing from your heart are sweeter than honey". Unabashedly, I claim rights to the finest Committee on four continents. We thank President Tracey for her unstinting buttressing of this endeavor. Thank you, Bishop Monroe, for your constancy in support and encouragement. Thanks be to God for the privilege of servitude in this manner. To God be the Glory.

---J. Fairbanks Leach

Education Committee
Ben Bolton, Margaret Brown, Linda Cratic,
James A. Davis, Aaron Harris, Eloise Homer,
Lula K. Howard, Linda Henry Johnson,
Carl Lovelady, Mary J. Matthews, Yunorma
Moore, H. Selina Nelson, Catherine Rivens
J. Fairbanks Leach, Chair

Social Political Action (SPA) Committee Presents A Three-Phased Voter Empowerment Action Plan for the Upcoming 2012 Election



Queen DeGraffenreid
SPA Committee Chair

The 2012 National Election is a little bit than one year away; to be exact – it's just 13 months away. As this committee has revealed over the past few years, we have seen unprecedented results when African-Americans express political empowerment through both voter registration and actually getting out to vote on election day. For example, resulting directly

from the Voting Rights Act of 1965, we witnessed that the State of Mississippi have achieved to-date approximately 1000 Black Elected Officials (BEOs). In contrast, we are experiencing the unfavorable results when we DID NOT return to the polls in the same numbers and spirit for the 2010 Mid-term Elections as we had done two years prior in the 2008 Presidential Election. Now again, we are fighting for civil rights and social justices battles previously won. Let's remember that there are no rest stops. **Social Justice and Political Power are Ongoing Processes.**

Through the Connectional Lay Council, the Social Political Action Committee will implement the following Voter Empowerment Action Plan for the 2010 National Election.

Phase I: PLANNING AND ORGANIZING STAGE

Time Frame: July 2011 thru December, 2011

- Meet with Local Pastor to present and get approval for your plan of action.
- Select an NAACP Liaison at each local AME Zion Church.
- Review all state elections laws (there may have been some revisions since 2008 election).
- Meet with all local church's department heads and auxiliaries to include voter empowerment in their activities; include all age groups and genders.
- Select significant and historical dates and specific events around your voter empowerment activities (information available below and on CLC website).

- Include voter empower literature in church bulletins, on bulletin boards and websites.
- Bookmark the CLC and the AMEZ web sites on your web browser. CLC will be providing ongoing updates for ALL local, district and conference lay councils throughout Zion
- Be sure to take advantage of all available technologies to "get the word out".
- Outline a calendar of events with pastor and church leaders as well as the NAACP and other community leaders. **BE SURE TO INCLUDE OUR YOUTH.**

Phase II: IMPLEMENTATION STAGE

Time Frame: January 2012 thru June 2012

- Conduct voter registration at designated times and sites.
- If permissible, make your church a regular voter registration site.
- Get to know your board of elections officials and precinct captains.
- Know all voting laws and regulations for all citizens, including homeless and incarcerated persons or have been—they have rights, too.
- Get a copy of all polling sites as they may have change, primarily resulting from the recent 2010 Census data.
- Strategize with other members of the Get-Out-To-Vote coalition to ensure an effective operation and to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Be a part of the local media and public relations initiatives.
- Publicize reliable telephone contact numbers for prospective voters.

Phase III: "GET OUT TO VOTE" STAGE

Time Frame: July 2012 thru November 2012

- Know and publicize the last date for voter registration in your state.
- Work closely with the voting coalition

- to ensure that target communities are canvassed. Be sure to include our youth.
- Let's citizens know current polling sites and times (some states have Early Voting options). Some sites may have changed since 2010 Census.
- Work with coalition to ensure that older citizens and persons with disabilities have transportation to polls.
- **NOVEMBER 6, 2012 -- SOULS TO THE POLLS DAY!!**

Significant Historical Dates (insert dates in above Time Frames as necessary)

- January 15 – Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- February 12 – Founding of the NAACP in 1909
- February 26 - Carter G. Woodson began Black History Week, now Black History Month
- February 14 - Birthday of Frederick Douglass
- March 7 – "Bloody Sunday" – impetus for the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- March 4 – 24 – Freedom Riders through the South
- March 24 - Birthday of Dr. Dorothy I. Height
- April 4 - Death of Martin Luther King
- May 19 – Birthday of Malcolm X
- June 12 - Mississippi NAACP Field Secretary, Medgar Evers is murdered at his home
- June 23 – US Supreme Court upholds Bakke case in Affirmative Action challenge
- July 4 - Independence Day
- July 10 - Birthday of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune
- August 6 – President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- August 28 - March on Washington in 1963
- September (1st Monday) – Labor Day
- September 17 – Illinois first state to honor Dr. King's birthday
- November 4 - Election of Barack Obama, first American-American President

Key Websites For Additional Information:
 Connectional Lay Council - www.connectionallaycouncil.org
 African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church - www.amez.org
 Leadership Conference on Civil Rights - www.civilrights.org
 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – www.naacp.org

Summit at Black Mountain.... Don't Leave Home Without Your

Holy Bible for corporate and private devotions

2008 A.M.E. Zion Discipline

Official Minutes of the 8th Quadrenial Session off the General Conference A.M.E. Zion Church

Robert's Rules of Order (11th Edition)

2008 Resolutions (if available)

(2008 Disciplines and Official Minutes will be for sale on site)

FROM THE EDITOR:

We would like to remind you that the main thrust of "The Connection" remains to help publicize and promote the Lay Council programs throughout the denomination. Many informative and exciting events are taking place and we want to share them with you. We hope the articles in this Newsletter will inform, and inspire, instruct and guide, encourage and challenge. Hopefully the Lay Council will continue to use this to promote Lay Councils. But I want to remind you that we also would like to receive articles pertaining to the Lay Council from the local, church, Presiding Elder District, Annual Conferences and Episcopal Districts (300 WORD LIMIT). So that the whole denomination knows what your Lay Council is doing or plans to do.

Articles and pictures (please identify people in the photo) may be mailed, e-mailed to the Editor, Miss Rhandi M. Stith, Carrington Arms Apt. 8H, 33 Lincoln Avenue, New Rochelle, New York 10801 1 (914) 235-3596.

Emergency 7

by Reverend Dr. T. Anthony, Chair of Religious Affairs, North Carolina NAACP and Senior Pastor Clinton Tabernacle A.M.E. Zion Church, Hictory, NcC

On Tuesday, May 24, seven faith and community leaders affiliated with the NAACP, HK on J and NC Council of Churches were arrested at the North Carolina Legislature. Having been repeatedly ignored and rejected in our efforts to meet with congressional leaders, we went to speak with them in the legislature itself, and to ask two questions: First, why won't you meet with us? Second, as the prophet Micah asked so long ago, "What does the Lord require of you?"

Our government is not working justly; frontal attacks are being launched on the poor and marginalized. There are insidious attempts to undo the just legislation recently passed while introducing unjust legislation that will cause massive regression across the state. Vicious attempts to silence the voices of those willing to be the voice of the voiceless have accelerated at breakneck speeds. The poor people of North Carolina are being actively oppressed.

Our values and consciences are rooted in our faith, and we brought that ancient question of Micah's to the legislature because we believe that it should inform their decisions regarding the direction in which the state is moving. We believe that the current legislature is making a host of decisions which are contrary to the teachings of Christianity, and we felt called to resist those actions with our very bodies, if necessary. Some may say that the actions of the legislature are legal and mandated by the people, and it is therefore suspect to oppose them. I contest that some of the actions are legal (sound public education is guaranteed by the North Carolina Constitution, for example, but is being systematically gutted by the current legislature), but it's not the legal argument we were making.

Rather, we argue that what is right and what is legal sometimes come into conflict, and when they do, our allegiance to God's teaching should be stronger than our allegiance to the state's rules. To repeal the Racial Justice Act, to gut public education funding while offering vouchers for private schools, to prevent federal unemployment benefits from reaching needy state recipients (when this has no impact on the state budget), to restrict access to the polls by requiring photo IDs (spending an estimated \$20 million to do so), stopping same-day registration, stopping Sunday voting, etc., to stop a whole host of services to the poor, from disability funding to health programs to legal representation, to block federal money for unemployment — these things are unconscionable and immoral.

The budget shortfall is not an unfortunate but inevitable fate, but a manufactured crisis. Continued tax cuts for the wealthy, corporate loopholes, repeal of the popular 1-cent sales tax for education and similar policies have robbed the state of its ability to function effectively in serving its people. The regressive policies being enacted now are not 'fiscal responsibility,' but systematic implementation of far-right-wing ideology.

When Jesus began his ministry, he said "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor." The direction of the current legislature is very bad news indeed for the poor, and as people of faith, it is our responsibility to oppose it. There are many ways to oppose it, of course, and we encourage others to explore how they are called to do so. Whatever shape our action may take, though, we must act. It is difficult to reconcile inaction and faithfulness.

We did not go to Jones Street to be arrested, but we were aware that the possibility existed, and we do not regret it. It has called attention to the goals and tactics of the current leadership, and it is necessary that the people of North Carolina know what is happening there. If we do not continue to call attention to these issues, our struggles will become much more difficult to bear. We must take action.

When asked which commandment is the greatest, Jesus said "Love the Lord God with all your heart, mind, strength and spirit, and love your neighbor as yourself." 'Love,' in this case, is not an emotion. Rather, it speaks of how we treat each other. In a representative democracy, we decide what matters and who matters through our governmental process. If we are to be faithful to Christ's teachings, we must be active in that process, because in the eyes of God (though apparently not in the eyes of much of the NC legislature), everyone matters, not just the privileged and the powerful.

The question has been asked, why were you arrested? We were arrested for our right to resist being marked out as "the Other." We were arrested for being incapable of wearing the clothing of invisibility. We were arrested for following in the tradition of Bartimaeus who although "blind" was able to "see" more clearly than those who had their sight. When he was commanded to be silent, he shouted all the louder to expose his sorrowful case.

We were locked up for the pregnant mother whose unborn hopes are daily being killed by a decadent system; we were locked up for the father fallen prey to a bitter chastening rod who cannot keep his home out of foreclosure because of continuous unemployment. And we were locked up for the children who are daily victimized by a poor education system that produces a 46% plus dropout rate. That is why we were there Tuesday and that is why we will keep going back. We will return, especially, for the sake of the children, until government of the people, by the people, and for the people is fully restored.

Remember to use the Lay Council Closing Prayer

Oh, God, our Father, pour out your steadfast love upon us and keep us in your care, now and forever more. Amen.

Written by Miss Mildred R. Faulkner

New York Conference

Western Episcopal District 2011

Annual Lay Academy & The R.C. Rochon Church Music Academy

"Maximizing Our Mission by Managing Our Ministry Through: Education, Evangelism, Empowerment and Expansion"

COME OUT TO BE TRAINED & EMPOWERED - YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS



Othello Jefferson,
Minister of Music



Yvonne Tracey, General
President, CLC



R.C. Rochon,
CLC Marshal

THE LAY ACADEMY:

COME JOIN US AS THE GENERAL PRESIDENT TEACHES, TRAINS & ENLIGHTENS US ON THE CLC THEME OF EMPOWERMENT.

RC ROCHON CHURCH MUSIC ACADEMY:

ONE OF THE CONNECTIONAL YOUNG ADULT/YOUTH INITIATIVE'S (YAYI) MISSION IS TO TRAIN YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUTHS OF THE CHURCH, THE PURPOSE OF ENHANCING THE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE AND APPRECIATION OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHURCH MUSIC AND THEIR PROPER USE IN ZION METHODIST WORSHIP. A MUSIC ACADEMY PERFORMANCE WILL TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING DAY AT THE LIFE MEMBERS TEA.

WHEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2011

TIME: 6:30 - 8:30 PM

WHERE: 1ST A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

2159 GOLDEN GATE AVE.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

REV. MALCOLM BYRD, PASTOR



Mr. Ronald Baker, Bay Cities Director

Ms. Angela DeSheilds, Central Valley Director

Ms. Lynda Williams California Conference President

Mrs. Rynette Nixon, Regional Director

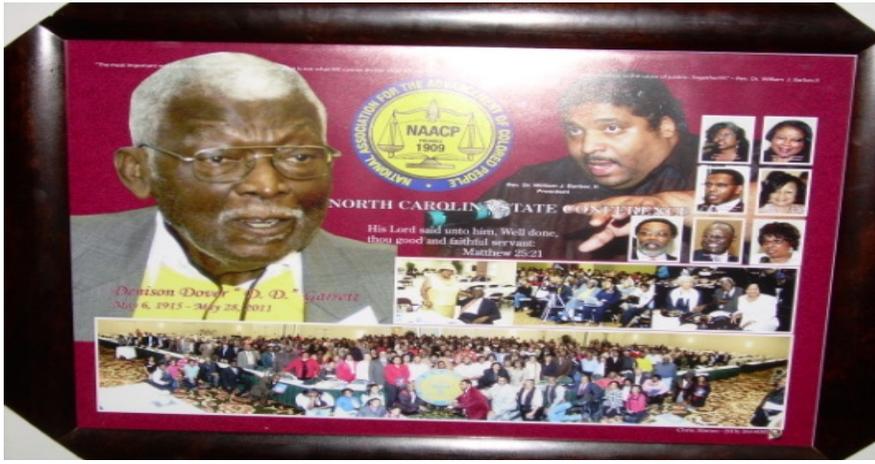
Mrs. D. Diane Proctor, Missionary Supervisor

The Right Reverend Dennis V. Proctor, Presiding Prelate

CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE LEGEND MR. DENISON DOVER GARRET

The Amazing Contributions he made to the AME Zion Church and the Community

by Mary Matthews



I considered it an honor to attend the celebration of life for this legend (D. D. Garrett), celebrating his life and memory. The service for Mr. D. D. Garrett was held on Saturday, June 4, 2011, 11:00 a.m. at the Philippi Church of Christ in Greenville, NC; Rev. Charles Wilkins, pastor of the St. Stephen's AME Zion Church, presiding. The Old Testament scripture, Psalm 23 and the New Testament scripture, I Corinthians 15:51-54 was read by Rev. Lester Jacobs, pastor of York Memorial AME Zion Church. Dr. C. B. Gray gave the Prayer of Comfort. Reverend Dr. Lawrence A. Miller, former pastor of the York Memorial AME Zion Church and Presiding Elder of the Durham District, Central NC Conference, delivered the eulogy.

Tributes celebrating the life of D. D. were given by: Mrs. Taffye Clayton, East Carolina University; a new exhibit at the Verona Joyner Langford North Carolina Collection of East Carolina's J. Y. Joyner Library explores the contributions of this long-time community leader; The Honorable Mayor Pat C. Dunn, City of Greenville, NC; Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, President of the North Carolina NAACP; Mr. Joseph K. Davis, President of the Association of Christian Education (ACE) read a resolution of behalf of the Executive Committee of ACE; Rev. Lester Jacobs, Pastor of York Memorial AME Zion Church; Ms. Rosa Alexander was escorted to the podium by the oldest elected CLC officer (in tenure) Mr. Jasper McCormick to speak as the representative for the Connectional Lay Council; as members and former members of the CLC Executive Board stood to honor the memory of this Churchman and prominent African American leader and Rev. Denison Dover Garrett, Jr., spoke on behalf of the Garrett family.

Letters of condolence from Governor Bev. Perdue, President Barack Obama, the National office of the NAACP, Mr. Benjamin Todd Jealous, President; and the Philippi Church of Christ were read.

Congressman G. K. Butterfield, 1st Congressional District of North Carolina made the following tribute via video clip from the North Carolina House of Representatives in session. Congressman Butterfield asked and was given permission to address the House for one minute saying:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Denison Dover Garrett, a towering giant who has passed away at the age of 97. A lifelong resident of Greenville, North Carolina, we affectionately referred to Mr. Garrett by his initials, D.D.

D.D. Garrett was a man of great courage who led by example. He worked tirelessly to ensure that the African American community had a voice in public policy. Through his work in the AME Zion Church and the Pitt County Branch of the NAACP, D.D. constantly exposed injustice. He insisted that the American Dream must be a reality to every American regardless of their station in life.

As the first African American county commissioner, D.D. led the way in African American political participation in his community. As the founder of a substantial insurance and real estate firm, D.D. was a successful businessman and mentor to many.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this great life. We extend condolences to his wife, Mrs. Clotea Williams Garrett; their sons, D.D., Jr., and Michael; and the entire Greenville community. Greenville, North Carolina, is a better place to live and work because of the enormous contribution of Denison D. Garrett.

From the Office of the Pitt County Board of Commissioners, Greenville, NC; the following resolution was read:

OFFICE OF THE PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA RESOLUTION HONORING
Denison Dover "D.D." Garrett, Sr.

WHEREAS, Denison Dover "D.D." Garrett, Sr. was born May 6, 1915 in Pitt County, and called to his eternal home on May 28, 2011 at the age of 96; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garrett was a resident of Pitt County, North Carolina. He was a graduate of the North Carolina College for Negroes, now North Carolina Central University. He had nearly completed his junior year when he enlisted in the Navy during World War II. When the war ended, he returned to college and

graduated; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garrett was Greenville's first black realtor and certified public accountant. He opened the community's first black-owned insurance agency; and

WHEREAS, in May of 1965, D.D. Garrett initiated the integration of the previously all-white neighborhood of Greenville Heights through the sale of a modest dwelling at 1112 Ward Street; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Garrett became the first African American elected to a county-wide office in Pitt County, when he won a seat on the Pitt County Board of Commissioners. He was also responsible for registering hundreds of black voters during the Civil Rights movement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garrett lead the Pitt County Chapter of the NAACP for nearly twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garrett was a strong community activist and leader in Pitt County. Some of his community affiliations include the following: First black candidate for Greenville's Board of Alderman, Member of the Pitt County NAACP, Member of the Pitt County Board of Commissioners, Member of the AME Zion Church, Member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and Mt. Herman Lodge #35.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pitt County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor

Denison Dover "D.D." Garrett and offers condolences to his remaining family and friends. (This resolution was adopted by the Pitt County Board of Commissioners on June 20, 2011)

The obituary was silently read.

THE OBITUARY

Denison Dover Garrett, Sr. was born May 6, 1915 in Fairmont, N.C. He was the seventh of nine children born to the late William Henry and Annie Sumrell Garrett. During his early childhood, the family moved to Pitt County and "D.D.", as he was known, attended the public schools. He graduated from the Greenville Industrial High School and continued his education at North Carolina College for Negroes (now North Carolina Central University) where he earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration in 1946. He entered the U.S. Navy and served during World War II. During these years, he met and married the love of his life, the former Clotea Williams. In 1946, he opened the D.D. Garrett Insurance Agency at 107 East Second Street in Greenville. The Agency offered bookkeeping and tax services and became the first black-owned real estate agency in Pitt County. Aside from entrepreneurship, D.D. Garrett was a pioneer in Pitt County in the areas of civic affairs and civil rights. His several unsuccessful campaigns for a seat on the Greenville Board of Alderman precipitated minority voting and thus paved the way for himself and others to become black elected officials.

In 1988, he became the first black person to become a Pitt County Commissioner. He served as President of the local NAACP for nearly (20) years. He was devoted to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and served within it as an officer on the local and national level. He served as a delegate at every A.M.E. Zion General Conference and every Annual Session of the N.C. Conference since 1949.

His courage in fighting for equal employment, housing, and educational opportunities during the "Jim Crow Era" was nothing-less than legendary. Prior to his advocacy and leadership, job opportunities for young black people in Pitt County were mostly limited to working in agriculture. He fought hard for opportunities in entry level jobs such as store clerks, fast food workers, and clerical jobs in the city and county administrative offices: opportunities that are often taken for granted today. The same was the case in opening segregated neighborhoods to all people regardless of their race. He arranged for the racial integration of the Greenville City Schools in 1964. Amazingly, he fought many fights but was never known to be bitter, angry or loud in his demeanor. In so doing, he earned the respect of even his most ardent adversaries. He knew how to get along with people.

In recognition of his service, he received more than a hundred awards for various achievements down through the years. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the North Carolina NAACP, former member of the Greenville-Pitt County Board of Realtors and the Chamber of Commerce; President of Precinct #3 of the Pitt County Democratic Party and a member of American Legion Post #160. He was recognized as Pitt-Greenville Citizen of the Year in 1992 by the Chamber of Commerce. He founded the Bishop George J. Leake Scholarship Fund. For more than half a century, he was a member and officer of York Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church. At the time of his passing, he was a member and Sunday School Teacher at St. Stephen's A.M.E. Zion Church. He was a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Mount Hermon Lodge #35. The history of his life recently became a part of the archives of the Joyner Library of East Carolina University.

His survivors include his wife of 69 years, Clotea; two sons, Denison Jr. and Michael; (5) grandchildren, David Garrett, Celinda Conteh, Holley Marie DeLaCruz, Christina Cox & Candace G. Daly; (8) Great-Grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

Interment took place at the Brownhill Cemetery, Greenville, NC.

BISHOP GEORGE J. LEAKE, III SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION COMPLETION CHECKLIST

Completed application form, including personal statement.

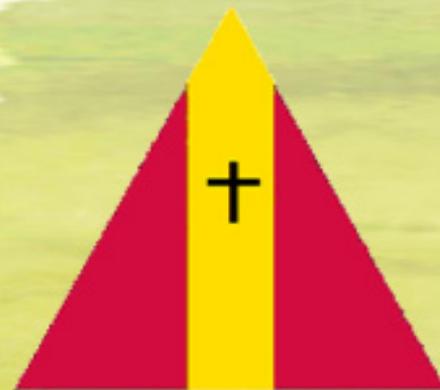
- ✓ Three (3) recommendation forms that have been sealed and signed on the flap of the envelope.
- ✓ Official unopened transcript from college/university/seminary with the cumulative GPA listed.
- ✓ Acceptance letter from Hood Theological Seminary, if applicable.
- ✓ Evidence of financial need from the HTS Financial Aid Department.

Submit all materials together. Type or use black ink to complete application. Blue ink or pencil is not acceptable.

Send completed application to:
The Connectional Lay Council
 Attn: Scholarship Committee
 P.O. Box 26770
 Charlotte, NC 28221-6770

Applications can be downloaded from the Connectional Lay Council Website
WWW.CLAMEZION.ORG

Zion's Laity
 Supports HTS Education
 For the Clergy



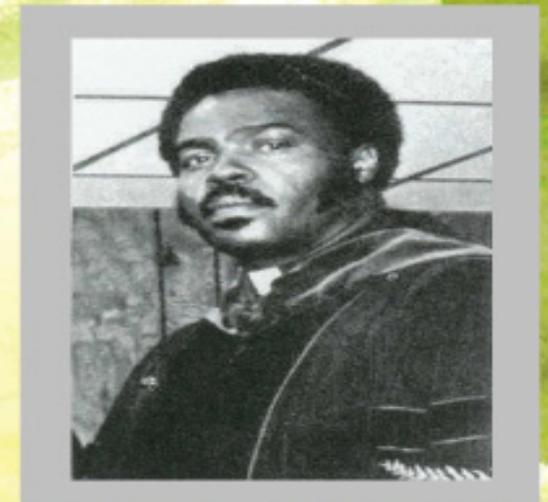
Hood Theological Seminary

Connectional Lay Council
 P.O. Box 26770
 Charlotte, NC 28221-6770

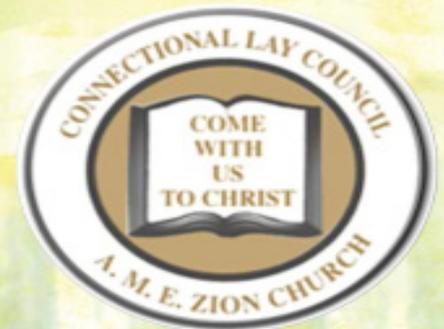
Phone: 704.599.4630
 Fax: 704.688.2551

**BISHOP GEORGE J. LEAKE, III
 SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL
 A. M. E. ZION CHURCH



**BISHOP GEORGE J. LEAKE, III
 SCHOLARSHIP FUND**



**EDUCATING ZION'S
 CLERGY**



Yvonne Tracey, CLC President

The Connectional Lay Council established the Bishop George Junius Leake, III Scholarship in 1981 under the presidency of Dr. Betty V. Stith. The scholarship is designed to perpetuate the legacy of Bishop Leake by offering financial assistance to A.M.E. Zion students enrolled at Hood Theological Seminary who are committed to entering into the ordained ministry.

Bishop Leake was a proponent of academic excellence and spiritual growth. He strongly advocated educational preparation for those called to proclaim God's Word and to lead His people to Kingdom building. Therefore, the purpose of the scholarship is to encourage and enable members of the A.M.E. Zion Church to fulfill their calling to the ordained ministry via religious studies.

Bishop Leake was born November 21, 1929 in Wilson, NC. He entered the traveling ministry in 1950. Bishop Leake graduated from Livingstone College in 1957 and received a Masters of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary in 1960. He was elected to the Episcopacy in May 1972 and died June 15, 1981. Bishop Leake urged the Connectional Lay Council to "make a difference" and it is in that spirit that the scholarship fund was initiated to perpetuate his memory and dedication to Zion Methodism.

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Eligibility Criteria:

- College or university graduate
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater
- Accepted/Enrolled as a full-time student in the MDiv., MTS or DMIN program at Hood Theological Seminary.
- Documentation supporting leadership qualities, volunteer and civic services. Member in good standing of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Amount of Award:

Up to \$1,500 per semester or \$3,000 annually (The scholarship award will be given to the institution in the name of the recipient. The student will not receive cash.)

Number of Awards Per Semester:

- (1) One award per semester, with flexibility to award
- (2) two awards per semester if equally qualified candidates (academically and financially).

Application Process: Applicants must submit the following documents on or before the established deadline to the Bishop George J. Leake, III Scholarship Selection Committee:

- Completed Bishop George J. Leake, III Scholarship Application.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation documenting status in local church, leadership qualities, volunteer and civic services.
- Official transcript, bearing college/university/seminary seal
- Acceptance letter to Hood Theological Seminary, new/transfer students only.



Selection Process:

A selection committee will meet bi-annually to review applications and select the finalist. Committee members with acquaintance/knowledge of applicants will excuse themselves from the selection process on a per incident basis

- Decisions of the selection committee are final.
- The Scholarship Committee will notify recipients and HTS of the scholarship award.

Recipient Requirements:

Recipient must maintain a full-time student status, membership in good standing in the A.M.E. Zion Church and a cumulative GPA of 3.0

Deadlines:

Applications will be accepted:

- Fall Semester from July 1st through September 1st
- Spring Semester from November 1st through January 1st