

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL



THE CONNECTION



RHANDI M. STITH, EDITOR

"FORTIFYING OUR FAITH WHILE FOCUSING ON OUR FUTURE
THROUGH: WORSHIP, LEADERSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP AND
STEWARDSHIP"

Connectional Harriet Tubman Observation March 8, 2015



Every church in Zion should be observing this day or a day
in March, whether with a program or lifting an offering
earmarked for the Harriet Tubman Home, Inc

President Obama Signs Legislation Establishing Harriet Tubman National Historical Park In Auburn Area



With his signature Friday, President Barack Obama established the first national parks honoring an African American woman.

Obama signed the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act into law, a \$577 billion a measure which included language creating the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in the Auburn area and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services committees unveiled the final NDAA agreement earlier this month and the creation of several national parks, including the Tubman sites, were attached to the defense spending measure.

The House of Representatives approved the NDAA on Dec. 4. Eight days later, on Dec. 12, the Senate passed the bill.

The Tubman park in Cayuga County will consist of the Home for the Aged and Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church in Auburn and Tubman's former residence in Fleming.

The park in Maryland will includes sites in three counties — Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot. Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland. She was a conductor on the Underground Railroad and served as a nurse and spy for the Union army in the Civil War. During the latter part of her life, Tubman lived in Auburn. She died at her home in Fleming in 1913 and was laid to rest at Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn. Federal representatives and local supporters have been trying for more than six years to establish a Tubman national park in Auburn. The legislation was first introduced in 2008 and reintroduced in the past three Congresses.

The bill picked up more support in the 113th Congress. Rep. Dan Maffei introduced the legislation in the House and 101 cosponsors, including the entire New York congressional delegation, backed the measure. In the Senate, Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland reintroduced the bill and it was cosponsored by Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand and Chuck Schumer of New York.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved the Tubman parks bill in March 2013. A House subcommittee held a hearing on the legislation in June 2013. In July, the Senate passed the legislation. It was the first time the House or Senate voted on the bill.

After the Senate's approval of the Tubman parks bill, the focus turned to the House. Before congressional leaders announced the NDAA agreement, it appeared unlikely that the House would take up the bill before the end of the year.

Now that Obama has signed the measure, the National Park Service will go through the process to implement the parks.

The parks will cost \$12 million over a five- year period, according to an estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office. The federal share to implement the parks must not exceed 50 percent. A \$24 million offset was included in the provision to help fund the parks.

Officials say the Cayuga County park will have a positive impact on the local economy and tourism industry. The Cayuga County Office of Tourism estimates that the historic site will create 70 jobs and tourism spending will increase by \$3.12 million.

The park could draw an additional 10,000 to 20,000 visitors each year.

Harriet Tubman Pilgrimage May 29-30, 2015 Auburn, New York



Friday, May 29, 2015 – 7:00 o'clock pm – play and musical presentation at Thompson AME Zion Church, Auburn, NY

Saturday, May 30, 2015 – 10:00 o'clock am – grave side service

Immediately following grave side service – Pilgrimage service at Harriet Tubman Home at above address

Hotels available for your use:

Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn – State Street

rates: \$207.20 per room – Double beds; King bed \$191.20 – Group Code ID – 304575 – Phone number 315-252-5511

Holiday Inn in Auburn – North Street

rates: \$161 per room – Double beds – Group Code ID – HTC, Phone number 315-253-4531

Inn at Fingerlakes in Auburn – 12 Seminary Avenue,

rates: \$124 - 1 Queen Bed; \$144 - 2 Queen Beds, Group Code ID – 169956-10705 Phone number – 315-259-5000

Holiday Inn in Waterloo – 2468 NY State Rt. 44,

rates: \$99 – 2 Double Beds – Group Code HTH Phone number 315-539-5011 – please call Hotel only

For anyone who plans to arrive Thursday afternoon - Cresthill Suites – 6410 New Venture Gear Drive, East Syracuse - (approx. 40 minutes from Auburn) is available for the 28 and 29th - 1 bedroom King suites at \$99.00 and 2 bedroom suites (1 King bed and 2 Queens) with full kitchen and lounge. Must make reservation by May 14, 2015. Code (Harriet Tubman Pilgrimage)

Information taken from The New York Conference Harriet Tubman Newsletter

This bronze plaque of Harriet Tubman was purchased by the Connectional Lay Council under the administration of Dr. Yvonne A Tracey in 2009. It will be housed at the Connectional Lay Council Headquarters in Charlotte, N.C.. It is a unique image of Harriet Tubman owned by the A.M.E. Zion Church. There are only 50 plaques of this unique image of Harriet Tubman sculpted by Perry Carsley a reown artist who was also a sculptor of the World War II Memorial in Wahington DC.



A Word From Our President

From the President's Desk

Greetings.

We are glad to share with you what inspires us, through the media of *The Connection* newsletter. The Connectional Lay Council elected officers met during the month of February in an empowering accountability session to review our duties, form a support system, and move forth as one in Connectional leadership.

The Regional Directors met as well, in a Train-the-Trainer leadership session on Friday, February 13th and Saturday, February 14 at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor Hotel at Camden Yards. One thing that I have asked regional directors to implement on all levels of our church is a new agenda item, "School of Laity". The School of Laity should follow the Affirmation for Laity on the agenda in all business meetings and Lay Academy sessions. The School of Laity consist of two items: (1) The reciting of the AME Zion Church Mission Statement in unison; (2) The First Vice President or the President's designee should read the 25 AME Zion Church Articles of Religion following the mission statement.

The School of Laity is to be implemented on the local church level, district level, conference level and regional level. You Ask Why? It's called "KNOWLEDGE" knowing what you are a part of. What you don't know, you can't apply. When you know, you grow! The laity is about growing the Church.

As we move forward in teaching using the Leadership component, I hope you, as leaders would have the experience of coming up with a new idea to inspire others in Christian leadership, plan it, organize it, follow the idea through to completion and have extraordinary success.

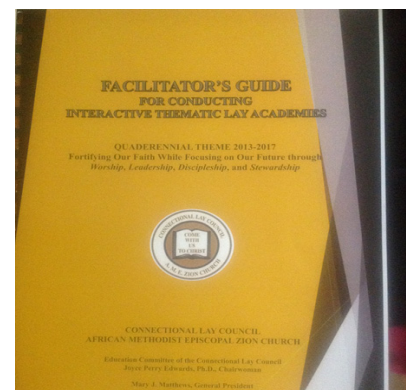
As noted in our Facilitator's Guide for Conducting Lay Academies; leaders should be diligent about developing good character. The character of Christian leaders is so important because they do not only answer to God for themselves; they are accountable for the people whom they lead. Leaders with good character should invest their energies in leading people toward the achievement of a goal to make a difference. Always remember, "Only what you do for Christ will last!"

Save the date! The Tenth Quadrennial Lay Convocation is scheduled for March 17-19, 2016, and will be hosted by the South Atlantic Episcopal District at the Bishop Kenneth Monroe Conference Center in Rock Hill, South Carolina.



President Matthews

You may purchase the guide by contacting the Connectional Lay Council office in Charlotte. Just call 704-599-4630 ext. 2566 and ask for a copy of the *Facilitator's Guide for Conducting Interactive Thematic Academies 2013-1017*. Or you may contact your Connectional Lay Council Regional Director for a copy. The cost is only \$10.00.



Decent and In Order: Meaningful Meetings; Resolutions: Research and Writing Parliamentary Procedure Training for CLC Regional Directors

Patricia Lewis, Facilitator



Following the Connectional Lay Council (CLC) General President's slide presentation, *Developing Effective Leaders*, on Friday evening, February 13, 2015, at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards, Patricia Lewis, a Professional Registered

Parliamentarian of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP), contributed to the occasion first, with parliamentary procedure training, *Decent and In Order: Meaningful Meetings*; and last, *Resolutions* training to the regional directors who were assembled. The regional directors were provided with Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR – acronym) In Brief, updated to accord with the 11th edition of the complete manual. This abbreviated edition is a step-by-step guide to the rules for meetings of ordinary deliberative assembly organizations. Additionally, each was given a concise Basic Parliamentary Information leaflet to include the procedure for handling a main motion, rules for debate, pertinent facts about motions and their characteristics, the 13 ranking motions, non-ranking incidental motions and motions that bring a question again before the assembly; and an example of a typical meeting with an order of business.

The handout, "Parliamentary Terms of Endearment—from A to Y," would be a quick and useful reference as the regional directors learn and then pass on that knowledge to others within the Connectional Lay Council entities. The trainer cited 1 Corinthians 14:40 and 14:33, that is, "Let all things be done decently..." and "For God is not the author of disorder but of peace..." endeavoring to make appropriate applications of the Word of God to our conduct (behavior) as well as to the conduct of business and other temporal affairs of the Church. While it is said that the Church is a theocracy—not a democracy, "...in order to preserve the organization's freedom to act, the body must impose regulation—or control; and the needed control must not only "keep order," it must also be geared to getting the business done and resolving any issues that may arise along the way; but even more important, it

must do these things in a way that's fair to everyone taking part in the process..." (RONR In Brief, p. 4)

Sprinkled liberally throughout the presentation were snippets about meetings that brought smiles and added a little lightheartedness to a somewhat daunting subject. As one author, tongue-in-cheek, wrote: Question: What is an agenda? Answer: A gender is the difference between men and women, for example, men are masculine gender and women are feminine gender. This was followed with an explanation as to why it is important that a presider over a meeting have a guide to go by—that is, an agenda; and a sample agenda was provided. No agenda?—no meeting! A handout, *A Meeting for Lay Leaders*, included a definition of a meeting; and an order of business, optional headings; and a simplified order of business, as shown in RONR In Brief.

In today's world, more and more organizations are transacting business by electronic means, generally, by teleconferencing. The trainer gave attendees a sample of meeting rules, that is, ground rules, for the conduct of teleconference meetings. Provisions for electronic meetings must be included in an organization's bylaws supplemented by special rules of order—or by any other name). These rules, when adopted, supersede any conflicting rules in the organization's adopted parliamentary authority. It is a requirement that an electronic meeting, such as video conference or teleconference, allow all persons participating to hear each other at the same time.

Resolutions- Research and Writing: Making short of a long or complicated written motion.

Question: What is a resolution?

Answer: A decision to do something better, often made on New Year's Day but not necessarily. Not exactly what Robert says, that is, Henry M. Robert, that a resolution is a main motion—particularly an original main motion, offered in writing either because of its importance or because of its length or complexity. While there is no requirement that a resolution include a preamble, used to provide background information, a

2016 General Conference Legislation and Summit Meeting



The International Ministers and Lay Association, Rev. Dr. Kevin McGill, President in partnership with the Connectional Lay Council, Ms. Mary Matthews, President, are planning a two day intensive work session of interested lay and clergy of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church to develop legislation for the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference in Raleigh, NC. (Hotel negotiations are still in process)

The meeting is meant to be a-political and proactive in its effort to collaborate and build consensus in the development of relevant legislation to strengthen our beloved ZION. It is also designed to be instructional as it pertains to understanding the legislative process.

We are encouraging all interested Zionites to attend this joint endeavor, especially General Conference Delegates. Participants must be a member of the International Ministers and Lay Association or the Connectional Lay Council. There is no registration fee.

Appropriate committees will be formed based on the need to develop relevant resolutions that impact major aspects of the denomination, with the exception of the areas which are under the authority and jurisdiction of the Board of Bishops.

We are resolute that the time spent will focus on improving the process of emerging legislation that will honor the following tenets:

1. All resolutions developed will be fashioned in the best interest of the denomination and not aligned with special interest groups.
2. Appropriate research will be performed and used to eliminate inconsistency with existing legislation.
3. Resolutions with budget implications will be interfaced with the proposed budget legislation committee.
4. The appropriate Legislation Committees will work collaboratively with the Restructuring Committee, Chaired by Bishop W. Darin Moore.

Our goal is that the summit will affect a more thorough understanding of the legislative process and significantly reduce the number of resolutions generated. It is our prayer and desire that the Legislative Summit and Meeting will most importantly lend itself to a more efficient and productive 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference. We welcome and encourage your attendance and invaluable input.

Included in this issue of the Connection on page 15 is a Legislative Committee Sign-up Sheet requesting:

1. Personal Directory Information
 2. Legislative Committee (i.e. Financial Administration, Budget, Ministerial Concerns, General Administration, Laity, Local Church, Education and Conference Boundaries)
 3. Areas of concern
 4. Remit to Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey. Fax 704-636-4567 or 502 Ferndale Dr., Salisbury, NC 28147
- This form will be placed on the CLC Website once the hotel is identified.

The 2016 General Conference Legislation and Summit Meeting is chaired by Rev. Dr. Melvin Tate and Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey.

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

2016 Connectional Lay Council Convocation Chairperson



Ms. Elvira Faulkner-McLwain is a native of Lancaster, South Carolina where she received her early education at Barr Street High School. She attended Livingstone College, Salisbury, North Carolina. Her education allowed her to hold several positions of responsibility during her working career. Her most recent position being a Site Manager for the Lancaster County Council on Aging.

Her faith and church family is important to Ms. McLwain. As a longtime member of David Stand AME Zion Church Lancaster, South Carolina, by the grace of God she have had the pleasure and opportunity to serve on the following boards; Stewart Board, Usher Board President, President of WH&OMS, Quarterly Conference Secretary, Sunday School Teacher and Administrative Assistance. She continues to remain active in the church as a Class Leader, a Member of Trustees Board and a Local President of Lay Council.

Being very civic minded and involved in her community she is the Lancaster District NAACP Coordinator and Pee Dee Conference Financial Secretary of Lay Council. Here involvement with The South Atlantic Episcopal District Ms. McLwain is under the Leadership of Bishop Kenneth Monroe. You can find Elvira working with Voter Registration Commissioner for her county, NAACP Local Unite, State, Regional and National. In addition, she is focused on the youth of today and volunteers for the Lancaster Fatherhood Project. Ms. McLwain also makes time to help the Second Harvest Food Drive and the Palmetto Citizens Against Sexual Assault.

Elvira considers family as a very important component of her life and is blessed by God to have a beautiful daughter Karimah Aisha McLwain. She has a very close relationship with her two brothers and other relatives. She holds cherished memories of her late parents Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Raymond & Lillar Jane Faulkner, Sr.



SAVE THE DATES



AND JOIN US!

March 17-19, 2016

for the

CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL CONVOCAATION



Elvira Faulkner-McLwain
Convocation Chairperson



Mary J. Matthews
General President



THE KENNETH MONROE TRANSFORMATION CENTER
745 SALUDA STREET - ROCK HILL, SC 29730

Hosted by the South Atlantic Episcopal District
The Right Reverend Kenneth Monroe, Presiding Prelate

Basics For Facilitating Effective Lay Academies

by Joyce Perry Edwards, Ph.D. Chairperson Education Committee



Some lay leaders have indicated a reluctance to conduct lay academies. As laity, we often call on ministers to conduct sessions for us because we are unsure if we have the skills to do so. However, lay leaders are quite capable of conducting lay academies and are encouraged to do so. Moreover, The Facilitator's Guide for Conducting Interactive Thematic Lay Academies for this quadrennium was written to provide a tool to equip lay leaders for conducting relevant academies.

When conducting a lay academy, the lay leader should avoid making a speech. A speech is not an academy. The unfortunate outcome of most speeches is that the only person who learns anything over the long term is the person who prepared and delivered the speech. For lasting learning to occur, people must be involved. Therefore, the Facilitator's Guide encourages interaction. The following are basics for facilitating effective lay academies and are also the rationales that guided the development of the Facilitator's Guide.

(1) **BE VERY CLEAR ABOUT YOUR GOAL.** Broadly speaking, a goal can be considered an objective, an aim, or a purpose. What do you want the participants to learn? How do you want them to answer this question at the end of your academy—"What did you learn from this session?" Being very clear about what you want the participants to learn will help you avoid wandering off topic or including activities that are not related to your purpose. In the Facilitator's Guide, you will find an aim specified for each academy.

(2) **KNOW THE CONTENT.** The good facilitator reviews the content that will be the focus of the lay academy very thoroughly. When using the Facilitator's Guide, the facilitator should read the discussion for each of the subthemes that precedes the four academies for each year in the quadrennium. Reading additional information about the topic will help you to feel a sense of confidence.

(3) **PLAN CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY.** Although, the Facilitator's Guide gives a plans for lay academies, the facilitator will want to write down his/her own plan even though much of it may be copied from the Facilitator's Guide. Writing down the plan will assure that you are thoroughly familiar with what will be done during the session. Also, you may want to change something that is in the Guide. Sometimes changes will be needed to fit the facilitator, the participants, the time available, or to make an improvement. For example, in Academy #8 (beginning on page 46), the Guide calls for the facilitator to emphasize the subtheme for the year. A facilitator may want to make the opening of the session more interesting by asking the participants a well-honed question that is related to the topic. Such a question might be: "What do you think are the qualities of a good leader?" This question will lead directly into the next activity, a PowerPoint presentation on the qualities and actions of a good leader.

Your written plan for an academy should include at least the following seven parts:

- a. The title of your session, which the facilitator should share with the participants to help communicate the focus to the participants.
- b. Your goals for the session; i.e., what do you want your participants to learn or experience?
- c. An opening prayer for God's guidance during the session. You may lead the group in prayer, ask a volunteer or someone you have designated, or read in unison a prepared prayer.
- d. A plan for opening your session. This part of your plan should be well thought out. It should be designed to capture the interest of the participants. Two strategies for capturing the group's attention are asking a question or telling a related story.
- e. A list and description of each activity to be conducted with the estimated time for each. If you have a period for discussion, develop specific questions. Plan your session so that you do not have to rush through the activities. If you are conducting an particular academy for the first time, plan at least one optional activity in case you complete the planned activities before your allotted time has been used.

Connectional Lay Council Membership Campaign February - July 2015

by Effie Woodard, 2nd Vice President and Membership Chairperson



Membership funds from the Connectional Lay Council support ministries, as well as Leadership Training which is necessary to equip Laity for effective ministry. If you are a local member in any church in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church you are considered as the Laity of the church with the exception of ministers; they are considered as our support group, that should encourage all lay members of their congregation to become active members of the Connectional Lay Council. Therefore, we need your help as a Lay member to become part of this vital ministry. To help us attain the Connectional Lay Council Membership goals listed below are a few suggestions to encourage the work.

- Each week during this Membership Campaign with local Lay Presidents and with permission of the pastors put a blurb in your Sunday bulletin or if you have an Audio visual team do a small 1 minutes promotion uplifting Lay Council and its membership
- During this campaign if you are having any Lay Council Academies in your local church, District or Conference level have a table set up with information about the Lay Council how you can become a member. During that period of time is a prime time to emphasize what it cost to become a member and offer some small incentive such as a button to say I am a paid Member of the CLC
- During this campaign have someone talk about the Lay Council who is excited about what the Lay Council is doing; implore that they become members of this vital organization.
- As an incentive challenge any Local Church, District, or Conference level; to begin the Membership Campaign by challenging competitive competition on the District of churches or percentage by conference level. Offer an award such as a certificate to honor those that have met their campaign goal; additionally, feature those persons in the Connection Newsletter.

Always be creative in what you do for the Connectional Lay Council Memberships. What works in your area, share it, this may help others to become creative in what will work in other areas. Therefore, for any Regional Director that meets their campaign goal will be awarded in our Executive Meeting July, 2015 in Orlando, Florida

Our goal by 2017 is 50,000 members to this growing organization. In order to do this you must begin by engaging campaigns in your local churches, by allowing participation of laity in presentations, forums and provide opportunities for laity to share in planned activities. As servant leaders in providing leadership in this campaign we are encouraging all to step out in faith and accept this challenging campaign for February, 2015- July, 2015 listed below. Remember you have the slogan to keep in mind "Maintaining Memberships, While Gaining New Ones."

See Membership Campaign .pg 13

Join AARP and Start Getting Your Benefits Today!

- Discounts on travel and everyday savings.
- Information about health, money and more.
- Free membership for your spouse or partner.

Call the Connectional Lay Council

Office for further information. 704-599-4630



The Countdown To The 50Th Anniversary Of The Passage Of The Voting Rights Act Of 1965 (Part I)

Queen Degraphenreid, Social Political Action Committee Chairperson



ELECTION PRAYER FOR LIFE

O God, we acknowledge you today as Lord, Not only of individuals, but as nations and governments. We thank you for the privilege of being able to organize ourselves politically; and, of knowing that political loyalty does not have to mean disloyalty to you.

We thank you for your law, which our Founding Fathers acknowledged, and recognized as higher than any human law.

We thank you for the opportunity that each election puts before us, to exercise our solemn duty not only To Vote, but to influence countless others To Vote, and To Vote correctly.

Lord, we pray that your people may be awakened. Let them realize that while politics is not their salvation, their response to you requires that they be politically active. Awaken your people to know that they are not called to be a sect fleeing the world; but rather a community of faith, renewing the world. Awaken them that the same hands lifted up to you in prayer are the hands that pull the lever in the voting booth; that the same eyes that read your Word, are the same eyes that read the names on the ballot. And, that they do not cease to be Christians when they enter the voting booth. Awaken your people to a commitment to justice.

Lord, we rejoice today that we are citizens of your Kingdom, may that make us all the more committed to being faithful citizens on Earth. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Fr. Frank Pavone

Be An Active, Informed Citizen!

www.PoliticalResponsibility.com

1867 – Civil Rights Act of 1866 grants citizenship, but not the right to vote

1869 -- Congress passes the 15th Amendment giving African-American men the right to vote.

1940 – Only 3% of Blacks in the South are registered to vote.

1964 – Poll taxes are outlawed with the adoption of the 24th Amendment.

1965 – More than 500 non-violent civil rights marchers are attacked on the Edmund Pettus Bridge while marching from Selma to Montgomery. Historic event became known as: "Bloody Sunday."

1965 – President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law, permanently prohibiting any election practice to deny the right to vote on account of race,

1970 – President Nixon signed an extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

1975 – President Ford signed an extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

1982 – President Reagan signed a 25-year extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

2006 – Congress extended Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 for an additional 25 years.

RESULTING PRIMARILY FROM THE PASSAGE OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965, THERE ARE MORE THAN 10,000 BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE UNITED STATES, PRIMARILY IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.



....Parliamentary Procedure *Continued from page 5*

custom of The A.M.E. Zion Church General Conference is that propositions and amendments to the denomination's Constitution and other legislation be offered in the form of resolutions; and most include a preamble. The preamble of a resolution begins with the word "Whereas." A resolution can consist of more than one "Whereas" clause and more than one resolving clause written as "Resolved." A "Resolved" clause is important because it states what action is to be taken (by the assembly) by adoption of the resolution. A simple way to remember what's most important in a resolution is that the bottom line(s) is/are the actions(s) being proposed—even though offered as a fancy-dancy motion.

Trainer's Advice: In writing a main motion in the form of a resolution or one to amend something previously adopted for consideration by the General Conference, include in the "Whereas" clause(s), the affected page(s), chapter, section and/or paragraph, and subparagraph of the Constitution or other legislation—and the exact wording as found in the specific year's Book of Discipline; and then follow through using the same pattern for the action (Resolved) clause(s) and by wording the "Resolved" clause(s) in a concise, unambiguous, and complete form. Search the current Book of Discipline for any other provisions related to the same category or subject of the proposed resolution to determine if any other provisions need also to be cited, for conformity, in the background information (Whereas) clauses and/or the action (Resolved) clauses.

When reading many proposed resolutions, read the action clauses (Resolved) first; then read the background information clauses (Whereas).

Question: How many periods (.), a punctuation mark, should there be in a resolution?

Answer: one (1)—placed at the end of the first and only—or last Resolved clause.

If your interest has been curiously piqued and you are so inclined, read pp. 105-109 in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (11th ed.) to discover more about the form of writing resolutions. You might find yourself saying, "...I didn't know that"; or you might have another "aha" moment; and you may find it easier to write a thorough and persuasive resolution for consideration by the 2016 General Conference.

There was much interaction between the trainer and the regional directors as information was shared, comments listened to, and questions answered. The time passed swiftly—and before we knew it, our parliamentary procedure training for the evening drew to a close—and we had only touched the 'tip of the iceberg.'

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Patricia Lewis, a member of St. Peter's A.M.E. Zion Church, Cleveland, Ohio, is the president of the Cleveland District Lay Council; and the president of the Ohio Annual Conference Lay Council. She served The A.M.E. Zion Church General Conference as its parliamentarian in 2008; and as the assistant parliamentarian in 2000. She is a credentialed member of the National Association of Parliamentarians, that is, a Professional Registered Parliamentarian; has served as a district director and a member of the Board of Directors, 2007-2011; and president of the Ohio Association of Parliamentarians (2000-2002). She creates parliamentary procedure puzzles, games, and brain teasers to use as teaching tools in workshop presentations that make learning fun. Her spiritual gift of poetry is adapted to foster the use of parliamentary procedure in meetings.

Editorial Observation Reminders

When using the Lay Council Theme Song "Onward Christian Laity", Affirmation for Laity or Lay Council Closing Prayer on anything that is to be distributed, please don't forget to give the author credit.

Please do not use the Lay Council logo with the lines going thru the Bible. That logo was replaced years ago. If you do not have access to the correct logo, you can go to the CLC web site www.CLC.org and cut and paste it from there. Click on the word Information and then General Information on the drop down menu..

....Effective Lay Ministries***Continued from page 8***

- f. A closure activity. The best closures require some type of response from the participants. One way to close a session is to ask the participants to respond to a question about their experience; for example: What do you want to remember from the session today? What did you learn or relearn from the session today? How might you use the information from the session today?
- g. A closing prayer. Use either of the three methods specified above in c.

Once you have planned, be sure to make a list of all the materials you need. Note that the first section of each academy in the Facilitator's Guide lists the materials needed. Before the day of the academy, make sure all your materials are ready! List them, test them, and check them off. One sure way to ruin what might have been a productive session is not having the necessary materials ready and organized.

(4) MATCH THE METHODS TO THE GOAL. The aim of teaching is either to help participants to know something (declarative knowledge) or to be able to do something (procedural knowledge).

If you want the participants to know something at the end of the session, you must provide opportunity for them to rehearse the information during the session so that they can remember the information. Giving participants the opportunity to engage with the content in different ways will accomplish the necessity for practice. For example, content might be presented using a multimedia presentation followed by a discussion in dyads on some aspect of the content, and lastly summarized using a puzzle or a game. You will find that the academies in the Facilitator Guide provide for engaging with the same content as least twice.

If you want the participants to be able to do something as a result of the session, the facilitator should first model the behavior and then give participants time to practice the new behavior or skill. Practice does not have to be in front of the large group, but may occur in dyads or triads. For example, if a facilitator is trying to teach public prayer, (1) the facilitator might first share a prayer with the participant and discuss the various parts of the prayer, (2) have participants outline a prayer in dyads or triads, (3) and lastly have one or more members of the triad actually pray the outlined prayer in the small group. The Facilitator's Guide incorporates some strategies for developing procedural knowledge.

(5) USE DIVERSE METHODS. Try to avoid conducting a lay academy or any other teaching session by using only lecture. People like lectures because they can sit back passively and just enjoy themselves. However, keep in mind this axiom that all quality teachers know: The teacher who does all the talking is the only one who

will learn anything. The following are ten (10) strategies that can be used to increase the effectiveness of your lay academy, and most of them are used in the Facilitator's Guide in at least one academy.

- a. Begin with brainstorming where people give different ideas about a subject without anyone critiquing the ideas.
- b. Show visuals: pictures, posters, or PowerPoint presentations.
- c. Organize dyads or triads for discussion.
- d. Ask well-planned questions. (Questions should be open-ended and allow for diverse opinions. Remember to give the participants time to think about the question. Facilitators should avoid answering their own questions.)
- e. Give written work appropriate to the group and the content. (Dyads or triads might be used to complete the work.)
- f. Use prepared or extemporaneous dialogue or skits.
- g. Recite poems or sing songs.
- h. Have participants read choral readings, litanies, or catechism-like question and answer texts.
- i. Incorporate movement.
- j. Summarize content with puzzles and games.

(6) USE TECHNOLOGY AND/OR VISUALS. Very few people learn well by listening only. In fact, in Western culture, most people today are visual learners. Therefore, it is essential to have something for people to look at. A well-planned handout is minimal. However, the diligent facilitator will find pictures to add to each presentation. Pictures projected on a screen are effective for modern audiences who are accustomed to learning from television and other visual media.

Remember the following when using technology:

- a. Set up your equipment for ease of viewing by the participants in plenty of time before the session. Suggested time to give yourself for setup is one hour because details of setup in any given setting are often unpredictable.
- b. Be sure you know how to access and work your equipment and your program. Although you may want to designate another person to help you, in case of the person's unexpected unavailability you need to be able to work the equipment and program yourself.
- c. Have a Plan B! Even with the best planning, equipment may not work properly. As someone said, "Everything created by a person can break." Without a Plan B, a facilitator/teacher may find himself/herself in a predicament.

...Effective Lay Ministries***Continued from page 12***

(7) REFLECT ON YOUR PERFORMANCE. When at all possible, plan to get some type of feedback from your participants on the academy. Use this feedback to help you evaluate your performance. For a closing activity, you may want to ask your participants the following types of questions mentioned in (3) f. above.

Getting written feedback from your participants is very effective for then the participants can reveal their real feelings about the session. If written feedback is solicited, the facilitator can ask these types of questions.

- a. Was the content clearly presented?
- b. Were the goals of the session accomplished?
- c. To what extent was the participant's expectations for the session met?
- d. Was the facilitator easy to understand?
- e. Could the facilitator be heard?
- f. How could the session have been improved?

Where feedback is received orally or in writing, every facilitator needs to process in his/her own mind what went well during the session and what did not go so well. The capacity and willingness to critique oneself is essential for developing as a good facilitator.

As a facilitator of lay academies, you may not be able to incorporate all these procedures immediately. However, careful planning and diligent use of the Facilitator's Guide will assure that you will be on your way to being an effective lay academy leader.

...Membership Campaign***Continued from page 9***

Please note that you must maintain where your statistical number is now to show increase with this campaign.

Campaign goal of 10, 500 Regular/Quad. Memberships and 360 Life Memberships

For period beginning February, 2015 – July, 2015.

Episcopal Districts		
Piedmont Episcopal District	2000 Regular Memberships	50 Life Memberships
Mid-Atlantic II Episcopal District	1000 Regular Memberships	50 Life Memberships
Northeastern Episcopal District	1000 Regular Memberships	50 Life Memberships
Mid- Atlantic I Episcopal District	500 Regular Memberships	40 Life Memberships
Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District	2000 Regular Memberships	50 Life Memberships
South Atlantic Episcopal District	1500 Regular Memberships	40 Life Memberships
Midwest Episcopal District	500 Regular Memberships	30 Life Memberships
Alabama/Florida Episcopal District	1000 Regular Memberships	30 Life Memberships
Southwestern Delta Episcopal District	500 Regular Memberships	10 Life Memberships
Western Episcopal District	500 Regular Memberships	10 Life Memberships
Totals	10,500 Regular Memberships	360 Life Memberships

The Connection Reporters

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WESTERN - Lynda Williams llw@mjlpl.com

Spotlights on CLC Executive Board Members Ira Golden and Hank Dobson



Ira R. Golden is the Financial Secretary for the CLC. He was first elected in 2009 and re-elected in 2013. His two year term will end August 2017.

I was born in Jackson, Tennessee, October 1950. I have 2 older brothers a younger sister and brother.

I attended the Tuskegee University where I studied Electronics Technology. In 1975, I married my home girl, the late Bivens A. Cullins. We were blessed to have 3 sons and 1 daughter and in later years 3 grandchildren. We lived in Gary, Indiana for 9 years, and then moved to White Plains, NY in 1984.

When we moved to White Plains we became members of the Foster Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Tarrytown, NY, where the current pastor is the Rev. Denaise Robinson.

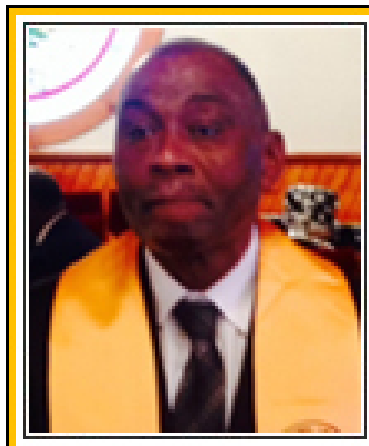
During the 30 years for which I've been a member of Foster Memorial, my ministries have been Financial Secretary with the Board of Stewards, Superintendent of Church School, a member of the Choir and Local President of our Lay Council. On the District level I serve as Treasurer of the Lay Council and am a member of our District Choir. On the Conference level I am the Treasurer of the Lay Council.

I began working for the Metro-North Railroad after relocating to White Plains with continuous service until retirement in February 2013. My career experiences included those of an Electrician, Technical Supervisor, and Technical Training Officer.

In my local community I have been a member of the Woodlands H.S. Scholarship Fund for 20 years and currently serve as its president. I also serve as an Election Inspector with the Westchester County Board of Elections.

My interests are family, music, and history.

See *Golden* .pg 16



Hank Dobson was appointed by President Matthews to serve as the Eastern North Carolina Regional Director

Hank Dobson was educated in the public schools of Duplin County. He continued his education at the Southeastern Community

College, Whiteville, N.C, where he successfully completed his studies of HVAC. Hank has attended numerous leadership and team building seminars and received credits through National Spinning Company during his 34 years tenure with the company. A couple of noted ones are: Toast Masters and Dale Carnegie Leadership Training. Hank is currently completing the requirements of earning an Associate Degree in Fine Arts at Craven County Community College. Hank stated, "going to college during my senior years has sharpened me in my service for the Lord."

Hank left the Missionary Baptist Church as an ordained Deacon to join the AMEZ church in Whiteville after meeting his wife, Presiding Elder E.C. Dobson. Serving as the president of the Male Choir, a Lay Council member, and Christian Education Director helped to enhance the skills and gifts God has given him.

In 2004 we were transferred to St. Julia AMEZ Church, Jacksonville, NC. During the 10 ½ years at St. Julia he served as a member of the Male Choir, President of Lay Council, Adult Sunday school teacher and Director of Christian Education.

In 2012 we were appointed to the New Bern District, NC Conference. My wife was appointed Presiding Elder of this district. We became members of St. Peter's AMEZ Church where I teach Adult Sunday school and serve as President of the Men's Ministry.

Hank is the North Carolina Conference Sons of Varick Director and the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District Lay Council Director. He works faithfully with the ministries on the New Bern District and NC Conference.

See *Dobson*.pg 16

....Dobson

continued from page 14

Hank has humbled himself through prayer because He knows spending time and communicating with God keeps him focused in true ministry. Because of the transformation in his life, he is convinced that God will change things in other men.

Hank is married to Presiding Elder, E.C. Dobson and they reside in New Bern, NC. They have 5 children and 12 grandchildren. The Elder keeps Hank motivated in the Works of God.

....Golden

continued from page 14

I am appreciative to have had the opportunity to serve as CLC-Financial Secretary. In Christian service I think some key words to be continually mindful of are: Honesty, Trustworthy, and Reliable. With God's guidance I will keep these in the forefront of my mind while I continue to serve Him wherever I Can, for whoever I can, for as long as I can.

To Obtain the Complete CLC By-Laws Articles 1 - 16
visit www.CLC.org



Connectional Lay Council
COME WITH US TO CHRIST
A.M.E. Zion Church



CORRECTION:
Article IV Section 3, Election,
Term of Officer and Tenure.

CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH
BYLAWS
Ratified at the 49th General Conference (2012)

ARTICLE I
NAME
The name of this organization shall be the CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH, hereinafter referred to as the Connectional Lay Council (CLC), or the Council.

ARTICLE II
OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES
The purpose...

Regional News

Piedmont Episcopal District

**Bishop George E. Battle, Sr.
Presiding Prelate**

Ms. Sandra Williams, Regional Director

Piedmont News

Submitted by Maxine D. Davis, President, Greensboro District Lay Council

The Second Purpose Driven Seminar of the Greensboro District for this conference year, under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Michael E. Ellis, Presiding Elder, experienced a profound Lay Academy on Saturday, November 22, 2014, which lifted up the current Connectional Theme, "Fortifying Our Faith While Focusing On Our Future Through Leadership." The session convened at McAuley Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, Mt. Gilead, North Carolina, Rev. David M. Wooley, Host Pastor.

Mrs. Cassie Rush, Local Lay Council President, St. Stephen A.M.E. Zion Church, High Point, North Carolina, Rev. Kinston Jones, Pastor, very passionately expounded on the qualities of Christian Leadership. Committed Church Leaders must continually seek to fortify or strengthen their faith. A successful leader must have a relationship with God.

A successful leader has the ability to get others to willingly follow. A leader must have a clear Vision, and know how to achieve this vision. A successful leader must be Honest and have Integrity, must be able to Communicate and Listen, must be a Motivator, must know Strengths and Weaknesses and must be able to Make a Decision. Most of all a successful church leader must listen to God through the study of God's Word and through Prayer.

Mrs. Rush clearly defined the attributes of leadership. Visionaries see the big picture and create strategies for achieving their goals. The most valuable asset of a leader is honesty. Another closely related aspect of a leader is integrity. Once a leader compromise on his or her integrity, it is lost.

Leaders must know their own strengths and weaknesses. They recognize their shortcomings, open themselves to feedback, and are willing to make changes when necessary. A successful leader must be able to communicate clearly and passionately. Communication is the key to being a great leader. A leader must be able to communicate his or her vision

in terms that cause followers to buy into it. A leader must be able to make a decision, to delegate and to motivate.

"In conclusion, let it be known that the greatest leader of all time is Jesus Christ. Let us think of Jesus' leadership traits: Jesus was a great visionary, He was honest, He knew the strengths and weaknesses of his disciples, He was a great communicator, He was a quick decision maker, He was pro at delegating, and He certainly motivated others. He was humble, He was a servant and He loved everyone." Author Unknown

North Eastern Episcopal District

**Bishop Dennis V. Proctor,
Presiding Prelate (New York, Western
New York and England)
Bishop Mildred Hines
Presiding Prelate (New England and
the Bahamas)**

Ms. Shelly Henry Regional Director

The Varick Church Hosts 2014 Annual New York Conference Love Feast and Fellowship

Submitted by Lovell Jackson, Local President
Mother A.M.E. Zion Church

On Saturday December 20, 2014 the New York Conference Lay Council gathered together at the Varick Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church for their Annual Christmas Love Feast and Fellowship Luncheon.

The Feast was opened with the singing of I WILL BLESS THE LORD led by Rev. Monica Marshall. Sister Marie Baxter Westchester District President offered the opening prayer, followed by opening remarks by Sister Virginia Montague New York City District President.

Rev. Patricia Phillips explained the meaning of the Love Feast ritual of water, bread and the candle, along with the communal meal and blessing. The spoken word delivered by Rev. Monica Marshall. Her message was about how we celebrate Christ's coming; the relationship He has with us, and the relationship we have with one another as the Body of Christ.

We shared our own stories of how we have been blessed along with prayers. We lit candles in remembrance of the Light of Christ that has come into the world to illuminate the darkness in our lives and shared our substance.

Regional News

Sharon Murray the Director of the Albermarle Family Residence in Brooklyn, N.Y. was acknowledged. The Albermarle Residence is a family shelter, for families with three (3) to five (5) children. The New York Conference Lay Council has donated gifts to put a smile on the faces of the children and parents during the holiday season. The Varick A.M.E. Zion Church Lay Council has adopted this program as an Outreach Project.

sister Rhandi Stith New York City Conference

President gave the closing remarks.

We left feeling blessed and closer to Christ, as we went back into the world.

Sister Vertell Govan, Host Local President
Sister Virginia Montague, Host District President
Sister Rhandi M. Stith, Conference President
Reverend Monica H. Marshall. Host Pastor
Thanked all for their attendance

Mid Atlantic I Episcopal District Bishop Louis Hunter, Sr. Presiding Prelate Mrs. Helene Zacharias, Regional Director



Connectional Lay Council
COME WITH US TO CHRIST
A.M.E. Zion Church

MID-ATLANTIC I REGIONAL LAY ACADEMY

"Fortifying Our Faith While Focusing on Our Future Through:
Worship, Leadership, Discipleship and Stewardship"

April 10, 2015 to April 12, 2015

The New Jersey Lay Council would be honored and abundantly blessed to have you participate and fellowship with us as we transform our Lay leaders and inspire greatness in all of our churches!

Host Church: Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church
204 Sunset Road
Burlington, New Jersey

Host Hotel: Hotel ML
915 Route 73
Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054

Lay Concierge Line: 1-800-524-2109
RESERVATIONS: 1-877-494-2626

Rooms are reserved under the AMEZ Church block at a discounted rate until March 16, 2015

King w/ Pullout Sofa	\$109 per night
Double	\$119 per night
Junior Suite	\$159 per night
One Bedroom Suite	\$218 per night

Helene Zacharias
Host Regional Director

Dorothea Stevens
Host Conference President

Bishop Louis Hunter, Sr.
Presiding Prelate

Regional News

Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District

Bishop Louis Hunter Sr., Presiding Prelate
(Cafe Fear Conference)

Bishop Kenneth Monroe, Presiding Prelate
(Central North Carolina and Virgin Islands Conferences)

Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Presiding Prelate
(Albermarle Conference)

Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate
(North Carolina Conference)

Mr. Hank Dobson, Regional Director

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ACADEMY



ENCED
Eastern North
Carolina
Episcopal
District Lay
Academy
January 15, 2015

ENCED LEADERSHIP

The Meeting was held at Millers Chapel AME Zion Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina where the Reverend Patsy Faison is the Pastor and Presiding Elder Franklin L. Rush, Host Presiding Elder. Ms. Daniele Overton offer praise dances the tune of "The Battle is not yours, and Broken, But I'm Healed". They were very inspirational.

Connectional President Mary Matthews gave a powerful presentation on Leadership which she offered for anyone to use at their Conference, District or Local Lay Academies.

Highlights: She is taking Eastern North Carolina wherever she go.

- What is Leadership
- Three Styles of Leadership
- Scriptures to base the finding in her PowerPoint presentation.
- Tips for successful Leadership
- Exploring Leadership as a team " ...Alone we can do so little; but together we can do much"
- Autocratic verses Democratic
- Know that we cannot do it all alone, while remembering we are doing this work for God.

Each Conference President that was in attendance made reports and announcement of upcoming events in their conference.

Highlights and Goals:

- Visit every Conference so they would be able to associate the name with the face. He has achieved that goal.
- The fruits of our labor will be realized if we continue to trust God and God will give us the increase. Let us continue to plant and be leaders in laity and God will give us the increase.

Events:

Cape Fear Conference: September 19, 2015 Lay Banquet will be held in Wilson, NC.

- ENCED: June 12th – 13th, Mr. Dobson is will secure the Lay Council a spot in the Leadership Institute, with activities for the Laity.



Regional News

**Mid West Episcopal
District**
Bishop Darryl B. Starnes,
Presiding Prelate
Ms. Lynda Byrd, Regional Director

Chicago District

Submitted by Lynda Byrd, President

The Chicago District Lay Council celebrated its 30th Annual Black History Seminar on Saturday, February 21, 2015. This year's seminar was dedicated to Mr. Theodore E. Shaw. Mr. Shaw, who recently passed, was the architect of the Chicago District Lay Council and this seminar. He had been a member of the Executive Board of the CLC and headed the Legislation Committee at one time. He was also an early inductee into the Laity Hall of Fame. He was the first president of the Chicago District and Michigan Conference Lay Councils. Mr. Shaw was a member of the Amistad Research Center and an avid collector and archivist of articles and information on the history of the Black American. His collages were donated to the center in 2003.

More than 30 years ago Mr. Shaw initiated the annual seminar in Black American History. Over the years a myriad of topics have been explored by the Chicago District Lay Council from African Kingdoms to the African Diaspora to a celebration of literary figures including James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, Richard Wright, Zora Neal Hurston, Maya Angelou and all topics from politics to a history of the A.M.E. Zion Church. Mr. Shaw will be remembered as the spark for our study of our history. Used on every seminar program since the beginning is this quote:

"Someone asked, "What happened to the Black people of Mesopotamia. They were here once but they're disappeared. What happened to them?" Came the response, "They lost their history and thus ceased to exist."

We study and teach so that our history is not forgotten, that we can pass it on to our children so that they will not forget!

The Chicago District Lay Council celebrated its 30th Annual Black History Seminar on Saturday, February 21, 2015. Hosted by Martin Temple A.M.E. Zion Church in Chicago pastored by Rev. Dr. Eric L. Leake, the theme was "Tracing Black History through Music."

From African drums to Rap and hip Hop, the seminar traced the roots of Black music in America. With the use

of narrative, video and live performance, the Chicago District enjoyed a day of learning about Black history through music.

Local musicians added to the day: Author and percussionist Arthur Burton of South Suburban College played conga drums and traced African rhythms, Ed Beard, organist/pianist at Greater Walter provided keyboard accompaniment, the trio of songbirds known as the Celestials (Dionne Smith, Daphne Smith-Marsh and Sheryl Sawyer-McGill) brought us from slavery times with "Soon Ah Will Be Done" to "People Get Ready", and the trio/choir of singers (Gwen Johnson, Fran Alexander and Richard Powell) provided the background for a presentation of "Songs of Soil and Soul" written by Mrs. J. Fairbanks Leach.

Other presentations were delivered by Hattie Washington, Andrew Nixon, Walter Johnson, Liz Loggins, Patricia Anderson, Peggy Bryant. A highlight of the program was the duet of Theresa Perry and Jernone Smith as they presented an original rendition of a blues song based on the theme, "Mrs. Perry. I don't have my homework." In true blues fashion, for each excuse the student gave the audience delivered the proper response in "blues" format. Each person present was given a homework assignment to write their own blues song by the next Super Saturday in March. It should be fun!

The entire day was a tribute to the resilience of the African-American and to our ancestors who came through "many dangers, toils and snares" to allow us the freedoms that we enjoy...and MUST work daily to keep.



Pictured is Presiding Elder Joel D. Miles, Rev. Ruby Miles, Lynda Byrd, Chicago District Lay Council president, seminar participants from Fisher Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in Evanston, Illinois. Included on the picture are Peggy Bryant Denise Jackson-Willis, Carolyn Crockett and youth participants Jordan and Jeremiah Jackson.

Regional News

Western Episcopal District

**Bishop W. Darin Moore
Presiding Prelate**

Mrs. Rynette Nixon, Regional Director

**"Let Us Go Into the House of the Lord and
Give Him Praise!"**

Submitted by Sis Angela DeShields
California Conference Lay President

The California Conference held its Annual Gospel Explosion on Saturday January 17, 2015 at 3:00 pm. Truly it was a Celebration through Songs of Praise, Dance and Spoken Word. The event brings together the Laity of both the Central Valley and Bay Cities Districts. The Host Church was Kyles Temple AME Zion in Sacramento, CA where the Rev Gloria Clemmons-White is pastor.

This Wonderful event began under the direction of our past CA Conference Lay President, Sis Lynda Williams.

If you would... follow, as I share the event in words.

- The Praise and Worship Team (representation from various Churches within the Conference) opened the program with song, preparing our minds and hearts.
- The Invocation was given by Rev. Gail Jack of St. Stephens AME Zion Church, North Highlands, CA
- The Welcome was shared by Sis Patricia Beachum
- Scripture reading was given by Bro D'Wayne Underwood, shared from the book of Ephesians 4:11-16
- Kyles Temple AME Zion (Sac) – Inspirational Choir sang "Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land"
- Sis Gail Smith then blessed us with a Praise Dance, the song, "Shifting the Atmosphere"
- Song was shared by the Kyles Temple AME Zion (Sac) Inspiration Choir – "Mighty God"
- Sis Vickie Underwood shared a Poem she wrote entitled "Our Gospel and Hymns of Praise"
- A request went out to the congregation for a Lay person to come up, when asked, and pray for:
 - A – "The Lost"
 - B – "Hope for Tomorrow"
 - C – Acknowledgement – "My Will Be Done"
- We then had a song rendered by a member of the Community, Sis Jackie Moore – the song, "His Eye is on the Sparrow"
- The first prayer request... for "The Lost"

- A song by Rev Jacquie Day, "Faithful To Me"
- Sis O. Jean Rogers then sang "Old Ship of Zion"
- The Second prayer request... "Hope for Tomorrow"
- Praise Dance to the song "Today is your Day" by Bro Charles Bibbs
- The Purpose and Vision of the AME Zion Laity was briefly shared followed by the song "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" by Sis Eileen Jones.
- Sis Courtney Brown sang "That Name" (by Yolanda Adams) Need I say more...
- The Third prayer request... "Thy Will Be Done"
- Sis Charlotte Johnson led the congregation in singing the hymn "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"
- We then had open-mike time, a time for anyone that wanted to share in the celebration to come forth.
- Another song was sung by a visiting person from the Community
- Poems were shared by the Sister Team of Denise Williams and Phyllis Stroupe
- The Organist of Kyles Temple (Sac) Bro Rahsaan Ellison led the congregation with the song "He Keeps on doing Great Things for Me"

Then we had a good time with the musicians as they rendered a "Gospel Jam Session" Bass- Bro Earnest Hales, Drums- Bro Anthony Warren and Bongos – Bro Joseph Conway

At the close of the Celebration, Rev Jacquie Day led the congregation in song, singing... "It is Well with My Soul" which was absolutely beautiful!

We dismissed from Praise/Worship and moved to the adjoining room to Fellowship with refreshments.

A Wonderful time we had... All Praises to God!

A Special Thanks to Bro Oliver Rogers for capturing the Essence of Our Spiritual Experience and Love on DVD...

We the Members of the California Conference would like to welcome all to come and share in Worship with us if you happen to be in the Northern California area. (North of the Grapevine)

Want to contact us? Write us... PO Box 126935
Sacramento, CA 95816

Peace and Continual Blessings,

Lay Sunday Harvest Offerings*

*(Monies received by March 1, 2015)

PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL DISTRICT		Love Grove AME Zion Church	\$ 154.50
Rock Hill AME Zion Church	\$ 125.00	Union Chapel AME Zion Church	\$ 25.00
White Rock AME Zion Church	\$ 100.00	Hunters Chapel AME Zion Church	\$ 50.00
Doggett Grove AME Zion Church	\$ 45.00	Franklin Chapel AME Zion Church	\$ 40.00
Shiloh AME Zion Church	\$ 161.49	Douglas Chapel	\$ 50.00
Union Hill	\$ 55.00	St. Peter's	\$ 50.00
New Zion	\$ 65.00	Good Hope	\$ 31.00
Slades Chapel	\$ 73.40	St. Luke	\$ 200.00
Lincolnton District	\$ 200.00	St. Mark	\$ 176.00
Trinity	\$ 225.00	St. Mark	\$ 25.00
Little Rock	\$ 175.00	Norrington	\$ 100.00
Ardis Chapel	\$ 50.00	St. Luke	\$ 25.00
Charlotte District	\$ 200.00	Mt. Olive	\$ 150.00
Sills Creek	\$ 45.00	Metropolitan	\$ 150.00
Winston-Salem	\$ 300.00	Pitts Chapel	\$ 37.00
MID-ATLANTIC II EPISCOPAL DISTRICT		Alice Pearl Hudson (Donation)	\$ 10.00
Hood Temple AME Zion Church	\$ 100.00	Paradise	\$ 100.00
Stephen Gill Spottswood	\$ 50.00	New Bern District	\$ 250.00
Full Gospel	\$ 100.00	Rush Metropolitan	\$ 151.00
Tynes Chapel	\$ 50.00	SOUTH ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT	
First AME Zion Church	\$ 50.00	O'Zion	\$ 100.00
Trinity AME Zion	\$ 624.00	Augusta District	\$ 76.00
John Wesley	\$ 250.00	Faith	\$ 25.00
St. James	\$ 100.00	Ebenezer	\$ 96.00
Philadelphia Eastern Shore	\$ 50.00	Pee Dee Conference	\$ 500.00
St. Mark	\$ 50.00	Jones Memorial	\$ 150.00
Petersburg District	\$ 485.00	New Prospect	\$ 151.00
Newport News District	\$ 310.00	MID-WEST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT	
NORTH EASTERN EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CHURCHES		Johnson Chapel	\$ 50.00
Walls Temple AME Zion Church	\$ 75.00	St. Mark	\$ 38.00
Bell AME Zion Church	\$ 77.00	Metropolitan	\$ 153.00
St. Mary AME Zion	\$ 94.00	Knoxville District	\$ 389.00
St. Stephens AME Zion	\$ 76.00	Stoner Memorial	\$ 100.00
Centennial AME Zion Church	\$ 115.00	St. Paul	\$ 05.00
St. Johns	\$ 150.00	ALABAMA-FLORIDA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT	
Shaw Temple	\$ 135.00	Jefferson District	\$ 179.00
Clinton Memorial	\$ 125.00	SOUTHWESTERN DELTA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT	
Smith Thompson	\$ 50.00	Houston San Antonio	\$ 50.00
Greater Centennial	\$ 250.00	Caleb	\$ 150.00
Mount Hope	\$ 100.00	John Wesley	\$ 50.00
Institutional	\$ 50.00	Outland Memorial	\$ 200.00
Hope Chapel	\$ 46.00	WESTERN EPISCOPAL DISTRICT	
Hartford District	\$ 182.00	Kyles Temple	\$ 222.70
Boston District	\$ 100.00	Miracle Mountain	\$ 60.00
MID-ATLANTIC I EPISCOPAL DISTRICT		Spottswood	\$ 50.00
Greater St. Augustine	\$ 70.00	Community AME Zion	\$ 130.00
St. Peter's	\$ 35.00	First AME Zion Church	\$ 211.00
First AME Zion Church	\$ 201.00	TOTAL	
Beth-El	\$ 36.00	\$ 11,266.09	
Greater Emmanuel	\$ 100.00		
Shrewsbury	\$ 100.00		
EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT			
Centennial AME Zion Church	\$ 50.00		

Please continue to encourage churches, districts and conference, to give; our goal is \$20,000. These funds will benefit the laity through the Connectional Lay Council's program of work