



The Connection

Newsletter

September 2018

Connectional Lay Council
The A.M.E. Zion Church

COME WITH US TO CHRIST

2018 CLC Evangelistic Retreat

Are you ready for a spirit-filled mountaintop experience? Then the Connectional Lay Council Evangelistic Retreat is the place to be Friday and Saturday, October 5-6, 2018 at the Dorothy Walls Conference and Retreat Center, Black Mountain, North Carolina. Excitement is in the air as we prepare to welcome you to an Evangelistic Retreat you don't want to miss! Clergy and laity are encouraged to attend!

THE CLC 6TH EVANGELISTIC RETREAT
"EQUIPPED AND EMPOWERED TO SERVE"
October 5-6 2018

**DOROTHY WALLS CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER
 BLACK MOUNTAIN, NC**

Register Online @ CVENT
 For more information
 call 704.599.4630 Ext 2566

Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr.
 Chairman, Board of Lay Activities

Dr. Mary J. Matthews
 International President

Ms. Leondras "Lele" Davis
 Retreat Chairperson

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Early registration is \$100.00 until September 15th and will be \$150.00 after September 15th. To get registered, copy and paste the link <http://www.cvent.com/d/ntq404> in your Internet browser or go to the CLC website connectionallaycouncil.org and click-on the Cvent Link. Additionally, the paper registration form can be downloaded from the website and mailed to the CLC office.

Word From Our International President



Greetings and God's rich blessings to all of Zion:

This edition of "The Connection" newsletter is dedicated to showcasing the retreat. I am extremely excited about our upcoming 6th Quadrennial Evangelistic Retreat and would like to personally invite you to share this time with us. Join us with an expectation to be loved-on, embraced, share in laughter, strengthened, and uplifted while you experience our outstanding worship and amazing speakers. My prayer for the retreat is that we will fully experience God's incredible love and His presence more deeply and intimately. I can't wait to see you on the mountain top.

All Churches are asked to start now in preparing to observe Connectional Lay Sunday on the 3rd Sunday in October. If not on this particular Sunday, choose another date for the observance and be sure to send a special offering to the CLC office to benefit Livingstone College, recipient of the Lay Sunday offering. The Lay Sunday offering goal is to exceed \$25,000. You have been so awesome in past years to recipients with your generous giving. Let us be a blessing to our prestigious school.

Our membership numbers are growing, thank you to the new members and persons continuing to renew membership in the CLC. May God continue to bless you in all you do in Lay ministry.

Connectionallaycouncil.org

Visit the Connectional Lay Council Website for the latest CLC updates.

Join us for the Sixth Quadrennial Lay Council Evangelistic Retreat

THE BOARD OF LAY ACTIVITIES CHAIRS



Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr.
Chairman



Bishop Hilliard Dogbe
1st Vice Chairman



Bishop Joseph Johnson, Retired
2nd Vice Chairman



Ms. Lynda Byrd
3rd Vice Chair

THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

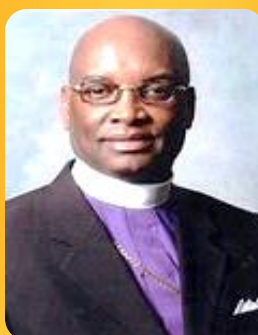


Dr. Mary J. Matthews
International President



Ms. Leondras "Lele" Davis
Retreat Chair

THE PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL DISTRICT



Host

Right Reverend George E. Batter, Jr., Senior Bishop
Mrs. Iris Miller Battle, Missionary Supervisor

EVANGELISTIC RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS

The Retreat will have some of God’s and Zion’s best servants that are coming to equip and empower us. Come for an exciting Spirit-filled mountaintop experience! Get your registration materials and be ready for the Opening Session Friday, October 5th at 1 p.m.



Reverend Rodney Moore, Pastor
Kesler Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church

“Refocusing on our Purpose” presented by Rev. Moore. Pastor Moore has been employed with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety for twenty (20) years. He is a proud member of the Wadesboro-Monroe District and is a member of Pleasant Hill A.M.E. Zion church, located in Wadesboro, NC. He entered into ministry in the year of 2000. After preaching his trial sermon, he began and completed two years of district studies. In the year of 2003, he entered the West Central North Carolina Conference. He began and completed four (4) years of conference studies. He was ordained a deacon in 2005 and ordained an elder in 2007.

Pastor Moore has pastored several churches, receiving his first appointment at Cecil Bishop A.M.E. Zion, located in Wadesboro, NC, where he served for approximately two (2) years. Pastor Moore was later appointed to Sneedsboro A.M.E. Zion, in Wadesboro, NC, where he served as pastor for three (3) years. In the year of 2009, he was appointed to Bessie Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, where he

served until the year of 2010. Since 2010, Pastor Moore has served as pastor of the Kesler Chapel A.M.E. Zion church, also located in Wadesboro, NC, where the church is strongly involved in community outreach and serving others.



Dr. Joyce Perry Edwards, Chairperson
CLC Education Committee

“Reviewing Our Practices” presented by Dr. Edwards. Dr. Joyce Edwards is the chairperson of the Connectional Lay Council’s Education Committee. She brings her considerable skills and training in secular and Christian education to this role.

Dr. Edwards has served Zion in many capacities, most notably as a local church, district, conference, and episcopal district director of Christian Education. She has contributed to many manuals at the connectional level and conducted many workshops in various settings in Zion for the Women’s Home & Overseas Missionary Society, Christian Educators, and the Lay Council.

The writer of the primary quarterly for the A.M.E. Zion Church School literature series, Dr. Edwards is a representative for the A.M.E. Zion Church on the Committee on the Uniform Series (National Council of Churches, USA, Education and Leadership Ministries Commission) and presently serves as chair of the committee that provides training and quality assurance.



The new **Facilitator’s Guide** will be available at the Evangelistic Retreat for \$10.00 each. Be sure to get your copy on site.

The **Communion Worship Service** will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel.





The **Young Adult Café** will conclude the evening. The Café is being planned by the Young Adults. Mrs. Dottie Stevens, Young Adult Initiative chair has invited young adults from each Episcopal Area to participate in the planning the event; even though some may not be able to attend. Please support and encourage young adults from your area to register and come be a part in what the CLC-Young Adults are planning!



In preparation for the Evangelistic Retreat, CLC Chaplain, Mr. William Manning has prepared a scripture referenced Prayer Calendar for you to use each day leading up to the Evangelistic Retreat. Please feel free to share with others. As you pray, we invite you to lift -up the Evangelistic Retreat each time you or your group gather to pray.



Ms. Addie Lisby,
Editor, Star of Zion

Freedom Breakfast Speaker, Ms. Addie Lisby. In 2009, Mrs. Lisby became employed at the Star of Zion as the Business Director/ Office Manager, where she was responsible for the day-to-day operation of the office. Under her direction, the Star began to operate financially in the black from 2009 up to this present day. Mrs. Lisby states that her greatest accomplishment occurred on July 22, 2012, at the 49th Quadrennial General Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church, when she was elected the 17th Editor of the Star of Zion and with this election, she became the first female to hold this position in the history of the A.M.E. Zion church.

Editor Lisby has increased the level of excellence for the Star by utilizing new and creative methods that produced tremendous resources that have greatly enhanced the official organ of our beloved Zion in this age of 21st-century technology.

Since her election, she has increased the readership of the Star 3 fold, as well as increasing subscriptions to 22 new subscription per month, launched the Star of Zion Facebook page, and thestarofzion.com, (which was relaunched as soznews.org), a partial online edition of the newspaper; instituted 5 new sections to the Star of Zion; increased advertising sales by \$37,000 and accrued over \$1 million dollars during her first quadrennial as the Editor of the Star of Zion; launched the WSOZ YouTube news channel, the

Star of Zion App, Facebook and Twitter social media sites.



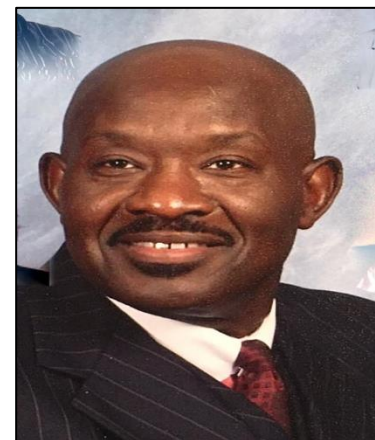
Reverend Dr. Brian Thompson, Pastor
Simon Temple AME Zion Church

“Equipped to Serve” presented by Dr. Thompson. Reverend Dr. Brian R. Thompson accepted his call to the ministry on August 10, 1993. He received his first charge in June 1994 and was ordained an Elder in 1996. In November 2001, he was appointed to Simon Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, where he currently serves as full-time pastor. God has blessed Simon Temple to become one of the fastest growing churches in Zion. Thousands of souls have been led to the Lord and more than 3,000 have joined the church under his leadership. In January 2005, Simon Temple dedicated its newly renovated sanctuary and completed construction on the new 1,500 seat sanctuary in 2014.

He serves as the Presiding Elder of the St. Croix District of the U.S. Virgin Islands Annual Conference and Co-Director of Young Adults in Christian Ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Pastor Thompson was named Minister of the Year in 2009 by the Cumberland County Human Relations Commission of Fayetteville, North Carolina. Pastor Thompson is very committed to his calling and to the ministry that God has allowed him to do.

His motto in the ministry is Romans 12:1, “Present your body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”



Reverend Dr. Otis T. McMillan, Director
Church Growth and Development



Friday October 5th
5:15 PM
Special Book Signing
with Dr. Otis McMillan

“Empowered to Serve” presented by Dr. McMillan. Reverend Dr. Otis Thomas McMillan served as a pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church for nearly thirty years. Presently, he serves as the General Secretary Director of the Department of Church Growth Development of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church International. This department houses several ministries which include Evangelism, Church Extension and Home missions. Dr. McMillan has earned degrees in Theology, Divinity and Doctor of Ministry.

Dr. McMillan has published several books, produced a number of musical recordings, and distributed thousands of teaching CDs and DVDs each year. God has given this preacher a Rhema word to speak prophetically into the lives of His people. He has traveled extensively throughout the continental United States, Hawaii, Virgin Islands,

Bahamas Islands, Israel, South Korea, Trinidad, West Indies, several nations of Africa. As a lecturer, conference speaker, and revivalist he is in high demand. In July 2008, Dr. McMillan was elected to the office of the Department of Church Growth and Development of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.



Ms. Lynda Byrd, 3rd Vice Chairperson
Board of Lay Activities

Empowerment Luncheon Speaker, Ms. Lynda Byrd. Ms. Lynda Byrd is the retired Principal of Bloom High School in Chicago Heights, Illinois. Today Ms. Byrd shares her administrative experience as a Consultant for the Illinois State Board of Education and Governors State University as a Coach/Mentor for the New Principals Mentor Program and conducting professional development workshops for school districts in various topics including "Framework for Understanding Poverty," "Teacher Effectiveness," "Leadership," "Team Building," "African-American History," and "Multiculturalism and Diversity in the Workplace."

A member of Greater Walters A.M.E. Zion Church (Chicago) since before birth, she currently serves the church as a member of the Finance Committee, Secretary of the Board of Trustees and President of the Lay Council. She has served as President of the Chicago District Lay Council and program coordinator for its annual Black History seminar. A member of the Budget Committee for the

Chicago District, and Planning Committee for the Big MAC, she also serves the Conference as President of the Lay Council and conference reporter. She credits her work with the Lay Council to Theodore E. Shaw who mentored her through the years and suggested many years ago that "You should be involved in this!" She served as the Midwest Regional Director for more than eight years.



Reverend Dr. Kenneth Q. James, Pastor
Walls Memorial AME Zion Church

"Clergy and Laity Working Together" presented by Dr. James. Reverend Dr. Kenneth James' Christian nurture was in the Mother A.M.E. Zion Church in New York City. He answered the call to the Christian ministry in 1975, was ordained to the ministry by the late Bishop Herbert Bell Shaw, and ordained an Elder in the A.M.E. Zion Church by the late Bishop Ruben L. Speaks in 1984. He was pastor of Pierce Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Clarkton, North Carolina; Blackwell Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Jamestown, New York; Bailey Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church, Buffalo, New York; Duryee Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, Schenectady, New York; Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, Rochester, New York and presently at Walls Memorial AME Zion Church, Charlotte, NC.

He is the author of *The First Yes: Rediscovering the Integrity of the Call to Preach, Strength for the Journey, and A Principle Within: An Earnest Appeal to Persons of Reason for*

Methodism in the 21st Century, and most recently, *Go-Crazy--Just Don't Expect Me To Go With You*.

CLC Outreach Initiative

The Community Outreach Ministry for the CLC Evangelistic Retreat will be a donation of "Blessing Bags" given to the **Women's Homeless Ministry** in Buncombe County. We are asking each Episcopal Area to donate 15 bags in support of this ministry.

The CLC would like to have your bags by Thursday, October 4th or you may send a monetary donation to help purchase items for the bags by September 25th to the Connectional Lay Council office; mail to the CLC Office P.O. Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221-6770. In the "memo", indicate "Blessing Bags"- Outreach Ministry.

Thank you for your prayers and support of this very important outreach ministry. Should you have further questions, please contact: **Dorothy Gill-Smith, Host Regional Director at: dgsmith1891@att.net 470-334-5377.**

See the list of items for each bag:

Small to medium size items for a gallon size bag: • Toothpaste • Tooth brush • Wash cloths (2) & small hand towel • Body wash • Bath soap (2 bars) • Razors • Shampoo • Deodorant • Chap stick • Hand sanitizer • Socks / footies • Tissue (small packs) • Comb & Brush • Dental Floss



THE CLC 6TH EVANGELISTIC RETREAT

"EQUIPPED AND EMPOWERED TO SERVE"

October 5-6, 2018

DOROTHY WALLS CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER
BLACK MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA



YOUNG ADULT INITIATIVE

CAFÉ HOUR

Friday, October 5, 2018 @ 9:00 pm



'EQUIPPING & EMPOWERING WITH NO BOUNDARIES'
"How to Equip The Young Adults of Zion"



Hosted by:
Young Adults
For ALL Adults (Clergy & Laity)

6th EVANGELISTIC RETREAT SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 5-6, 2018

DOROTHY WALL CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER
BLACK MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH	LOCATION	FACILITATORS	
9:30 P.M. - 5:00 p.m.	Gymnasium	Onsite Registration	Ms. Martha Scudder
1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Chapel	Session Opening	Dr. Mary J. Matthews, Ms. Leondras Davis
1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Chapel	An Overview "Refocusing on Our Purpose"	Rev. Rodney I Moore
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Chapel	CLC Theme Skit	Dr. Joyce Edwards & Education Committee
10 Minute	Gospel-cise Stretch Break		
3:40 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.	Chapel	Theme Presentation "Reviewing Our Practices"	Dr. Joyce Edwards
4:40 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Chapel	Social Political Action	Ms. Queen Degraphenreid
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Gymnasium	Welcome Program/Dinner	Mrs. Dorothy Gill Smith
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Chapel	Communion Worship Service	Bishop Michael A. Frencher
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Gymnasium	Young Adult Café	Mrs. Dorothea Stevens

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6TH	LOCATION	FACILITATORS	
6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.	Lobby/DWalls	Morning Watch	Mr. William Manning
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Gymnasium	Freedom Breakfast	Ms. Addie Lisby (speaker)
9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Chapel	Opening Session	Ms. Leondras Davis
9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Chapel	Academy I "Equipped to Serve"	Dr. Brian Thompson (presenter)
10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Chapel	Lay Academy II "Empowered to Serve"	Dr. Otis T. McMillan (presenter)
12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Gymnasium	Empowerment Luncheon	Ms. Lynda Byrd (speaker)
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Chapel	Lay Academy III "Lay & Clergy Serving Together"	Dr. Kenneth Q. James (speaker)
3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Gymnasium	Empowered & Ready to Go!	Praise Musical (Regional Interaction)
4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Gymnasium	Wrap-up/Closing Session	Ms. Davis, Dr. Matthews, Bishop M. Frencher

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7TH	LOCATION	FACILITATORS	
10:30 a.m.	Hopkins Chapel A.M.E Zion Church	Morning Worship Service	Rev. Herbert Grant

KEEP CALM

The

Connectional Lay Council
Quadrennial Evangelistic Retreat

\$100.00



Early Bird Registration

is Extended to

September 15th

Outreach Ministry – “Blessing Bags”

Greetings All of Zion:

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. We hope and pray that you are enjoying the blessings of God. As a part of our **Outreach Ministry** during the Evangelistic Retreat, we are asking each Episcopal District/Region to provide at least **15 blessing bags** to be donated to the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry, which serves the homeless and needy families in the Black Mountain community. **Our goal is to provide 100 bags.** We will make the presentation at our Empowerment Luncheon on Saturday, October 6, 2018 to a representative from the Ministry. Below is a list of suggested items that we would like to have placed in **One-Gallon size zip lock bags**. You might also consider reaching out to your local businesses (i.e.: dentists, doctors) in your area for some items. If you are unable to attend and would like to make a monetary donation to this outreach ministry, please make checks payable to the **Connectional Lay Council** and mail to the **CLC Office | P.O. Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221-6770**. In the “memo”, please indicate “Blessing Bags” - Outreach Ministry. All domestic Episcopal District are asked to participate in this outreach ministry. Thank you for your prayers and support of this very important outreach ministry. Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact: **Dorothy Gill-Smith, CLC Regional Director | Piedmont Episcopal District at: dgsmith1891@att.net; 470-334-5377.**

Items (small to medium size) for the bags:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Toothpaste | Tooth brush |
| • Body wash | Bath soap (2 bars) |
| • Razors | Shampoo |
| • Deodorant | Chap stick |
| • Hand sanitizer | Socks / footies |
| • Tissue (small packs) | Comb & Brush |
| • Dental Floss | Wash cloths (2) & small hand towel |



In His Service,
Evangelistic Retreat Steering Committee

A Few Places to Eat in Black Mountain



Coach House Seafood & Steak



701 NC Highway 9, Black Mountain, NC 28711
828-669-3506



Okle Dokies Smokehouse



Are You Registered?

Connectional Lay Council
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH



2018 Evangelistic Retreat
Theme: "Equipped and Empowered to Serve"



October 5 – 6, 2018

Dorothy Walls Conference and Retreat Center
Black Mountain, North Carolina

Dr. Mary J. Matthews, International President
Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr., Board of Lay Activities Chairman

Positions: Please Check One

Bishop Missionary Supervisor General Officer Judicial Council Presiding Elder
 Clergy CLC Exec. Board Member Former CLC Exec. Board Member Conference President
 District President Local President Lay Attendee Officer (write-in) _____

Title/Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Contact: Home () _____ Mobile () _____

Email _____

Age Group: 13- 21 22-40 41-49 50 and over First Time Attendee YES NO

Episcopal District _____ Conference _____

Presiding Elder District _____ Local Church _____

In Case of Emergency (ICE) Contact:

Name _____ Relationship _____

Telephone: Home () _____ Mobile () _____

For Additional Information Contact Lele Davis, Retreat Chair: CLC.FVP@gmail.com

A confirmation will be provided for persons providing email addresses. Questions, call (704) 599-4630 Ext 2566

REGISTRATION

Early Registration Extended \$100.00 by September 15, 2018 \$150.00 Late/On-site Registration
(Late Registrations are mailings postmarked after September 15, 2018)

Registration includes:

Lay Academies Materials, Welcome Reception, Freedom Breakfast, Leadership Empowerment Luncheon

LODGING: Ridgecrest Conference Center will accept call in reservations at 800-588-7222

Submit completed Registration Form and Checks payable to:

Connectional Lay Council | Post Office Box 26770 | Charlotte, NC 28221-6770

Evangelistic Retreat Lodging and Transportation

Ridgecrest Lodging Facility Room Accommodation Form (Ridgecrest will accept call in reservations at 800-588-7222)

Name						Email						
Phone #												
Address						City				State		
Zip				Country								



ARRIVAL DATE _____ **(Check in at 4pm)** **DEPARTURE DATE** _____ **(Check out at 10am)**

RIDGECREST HAS A 2 NIGHT MINIMUM STAY - FRIDAY - SUNDAY (if you plan to arrive on Thursday, please note this in "Arrival Date")

Deposit - 1 night's room accommodation. 2 Required Breakfasts must be paid for at check in (or if you are registered with CLC Retreat, your breakfast at Ridgecrest will be complimentary on Saturday and Sunday morning)

Guest Room Accommodations: (Check-in at 4pm / Check-out at 10am)

Select which room type to reserve:

Mountain Laurel 2 Queens	Photo:
\$129.00 per night Single or Double Occupancy	
\$139.00 per night (3 people in room) - Triple	
\$149.00 per night (4 people in room) - Quad	
Pritchell Single/Double Room	Photo:
\$79.00 per night Single or Double Occupancy	
\$89.00 per night Triple	
Pritchell 1 Queen Room	Photo:
\$79.00 per night Single or Double Occupancy	Similar to photo above
Pritchell 2 Queen Beds	Photo:
\$79.00 per night Single or Double Occupancy	Similar to photo above
\$89.00 per night Triple	
\$99.00 per night Quad	

We are excited and looking forward to you joining us at the Dorothy Walls Conference and Retreat Center in Black Mountain, NC for the Connectional Lay Council's 6th Evangelistic Retreat! As you make your travel arrangements, please note the following:

ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT is the closest airport to the Dorothy Walls Conference & Retreat Center, Black Mountain. The following airlines are available: **Allegiant; American; Delta; Elite; Spirit and United.**

The following rental car agencies are available should you desire to rent a car: Avis, Budget, Hertz, Enterprise and National/Alamo.

CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT is approximately a 1 1/2 to 2-hour drive from Black Mountain, NC should that be the better option for you. All car rental services are available at Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

CLC EVANGELISTIC RETREAT SHUTTLE SERVICE

Transportation will be provided for persons with flights arriving and departing from the **Asheville Regional Airport only**. To accommodate your travel needs, you are asked to complete the following information by **September 30, 2018**.

Please submit to your request to Lele Davis, CLC.FVP@gmail.com

I. ARRIVING FLIGHT:

NAME: _____

AIRLINE: _____

FLIGHT #: _____ DATE: _____ TIME: _____

II. DEPARTING FLIGHT:

NAME: _____

AIRLINE: _____

FLIGHT #: _____ DATE: _____ TIME: _____



Sunday Worship Service



Hopkins Chapel AME Zion Church 21 College Pl. Asheville, NC

Sunday Morning Worship Services 10:30 a.m., Rev. Herbert Grant, pastor. Transportation will be provided for persons attending the morning worship service.

Event Special Projects Sales

Special Projects items will be readily available for purchase on site at the Evangelistic Retreat. This is a list of some of the items that will be available

Facilitator's Guide (parts 2,3 and 4)	\$10.00
Empowered to Serve	\$10.00
Effective LC Guide for the Local Church	\$ 3.00
White Oxford Life Member shirt	\$35.00
Gold Golf Shirt "The Freedom Church"	\$25.00
Garment Bag	\$38.00
Travel Bag	\$20.00
African scarves	\$20.00
CLC Umbrella	\$15.00
Quadrennial Bags	\$10.00



Know Before You Go

- Take advantage of early Registration today- both Clergy and Laity should attend and invite others...include your young adults
- Make Lodging arrangements
- Make travel arrangements-if traveling by air, send flight plans by Sept. 30th to the CLC Office or Lpsivad@gmail.com
- Bring "Blessing Bags" to support CLC Outreach Ministry or send a donation to the cause
- Use the prayer calendar to lift-up the CLC Evangelistic Retreat
- Bring your book: Empowered to Serve for the Book Signing with Dr. McMillan; bring \$10 to purchase one
- Bring your black and gold casual attire for the Retreat weekend
- Bring comfortable footwear
- Special Projects will be on site for your CLC needs; bring extra money to make purchases
- Bring \$10 to purchase the CLC Quadrennial Theme Facilitator's Guide Booklet

We are awaiting your safe arrival!



Connection Lay Council Evangelistic Retreat 30 Day Prayer Calendar September 6th - October 5th 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><i>Along with reading our daily scriptures, please take a moment to pray daily for each special request.</i></p>				6 <i>John 10:10</i> Pray for: Episcopal Leaders	7 <i>Psalms 91:2</i> Pray for: Dr. Mary Matthews CLC Int'l President	8 <i>James 1:17</i> Pray for: Leondras "Lele" Davis Retreat Chair
9 <i>1 Thessalonians 5:23</i> Pray for: Our Hosts The Piedmont ED	10 <i>John 8:12</i> Pray for: The Presenters	11 <i>John 15:1</i> Pray for: The Speakers	12 <i>Matthew 11:28</i> Pray for: CLC Executive Board	13 <i>Isaiah 26:9</i> Pray for: CLC Regional Directors	14 <i>1 Kings 19:12</i> Pray for: Conference Presidents	15 <i>Luke 24:30,31</i> Pray for: District Presidents
16 <i>2 Corinthians 5:17</i> Pray for: Local Presidents	17 <i>Ephesians 4:15</i> Pray for: Our Pastors	18 <i>Philippians 3:10</i> Pray for: The Laity	19 <i>Exodus 15:11</i> Pray for: CLC Board of Lay Activities	20 <i>1 Timothy 1:5</i> Pray for: Young Adult Initiative	21 <i>Ecclesiastes 10:2</i> Pray for: Outreach- Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry	22 <i>Revelation 19:7</i> Pray For: The Caterers
23 <i>Colossians 1:18</i> Pray for: Dorothy Walls Center and its Staff	24 <i>Hebrews 2:10</i> Pray for: Ridgecrest Center and its Staff	25 <i>1 Corinthians 8:6</i> Pray for: All other Hotels Servicing attendees	26 <i>1 Corinthians 2:9</i> Pray for: Willingness to receive His Word	27 <i>Psalms 27:4</i> Pray for: Our Churches	28 <i>Matthew 19:26</i> Pray for: Our continued Faith	29 <i>Luke 18:1</i> Pray for: Perseverance for the Retreat Committee
30 <i>Galatians 5:1</i> Pray for: Victory over the enemy	1 <i>James 4:2</i> Pray for: Peace throughout our Lands	2 <i>Luke 12:22</i> Pray for: Unity	3 <i>1 John 4:19</i> Pray for: Love	4 <i>2 Timothy 2:12</i> Pray for: God's Travelling Mercies For all Attendees	5 <i>Romans 12:2</i> Pray for: An Outpouring of The Holy Spirit	 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">DOROTHY WALLS CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER BLACK MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA</p>

CLC Evangelistic Retreat

Morning Watch
Saturday, October 6th
6:30am in the Lobby
Dorothy Walls Conference
& Retreat Center






Can't attend Morning Watch?
Call in to join us on the
Conference Call Prayer Line
Saturday, October 6th @ 6:30am

857.232.0156 code: 502866

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your request to God...Philippians 4:6

WESTCHESTER DISTRICT
New York Conference A.M.E. Zion Church
LAY COUNCIL HONOREE

Event Date/Location
September 15, 2018
12:30 pm
Greater
Centennial AME Zion Church
Mount Vernon, NY



Donation: **Mrs. Marie H. Baxter**
\$30.00 - Adults
\$15.00 - Children (6-12 yrs.)
Ticket RSVP by
September 8, 2018
Make Check(s) payable to
**WESTCHESTER DISTRICT
LAY COUNCIL**
And mail to
**Mr. Ira I. Golden
188 Hillside Ave
White Plains, NY 10603**

News from Your First Vice President

Leondras "Lele" Davis

September News 2018/The Connection



Greetings Zion Family,

Have You Heard??? *Move Across Zion Day* is Saturday, September 15th, 2018. All Zionites (Clergy and Laity) and their friends are urged to stop what you are doing and let's move together for one hour! You can choose your own hour and time. Yes, this is part of the Fitness Challenge. Choose the movement of your choice-walk-run-jog-chair aerobics-gospel aerobics-water aerobics-whatever works for you. We are looking for the 1st three Episcopal areas to provide the names of 50+ participants; send a donation for each participant; along with photos of your group to the CLC Office or to CLC.FVP@gmail.com. You may also use your smartphone to video/record and tag FB: CLC.FVP Team Davis or CLC/Special Projects by September 15th. The first 3 episcopal areas to send in all the requirements will receive \$25.00 in free merchandise from the CLC. Don't forget to invite your Episcopal leaders to join in.... All Local Churches, P. E. Districts and/or Conferences are asked to participate to help your Episcopal area to win. If September 15th does not work for you or your group, then choose a day on or before September 15th but join the CLC as *We Move Across Zion! Who will we hear from first?*

Calling all Zionites and Friends of Zion

Connectional Lay Council
PO Box 26770
Charlotte, NC 28221-6770



Move **cross** Zion

Join the Connectional Lay Council
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018
Let's Move for One Hour!



- WALK, RUN OR JOG
- GOSPEL OR CHAIR AEROBICS
- WATER AEROBICS
- INVITE FAMILY, FRIENDS, CHURCH MEMBERS OR CO-WORKERS
- CHOOSE YOUR TIME OF DAY
- HOST A WALK-A-THON YOUTH OR YOUNG ADULT
- HEART-HEALTH AND OTHER BENEFITS ARE A DIRECT RESULT OF WALKING
- SEND PHOTOS OR RECORD WITH YOUR PHONE
- SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA. TAG CLC/SPECIAL PROJECTS ON FACEBOOK
- USE THE FITNESS FORM ON THE CLC WEBSITE
- SEND \$15.00 DONATION OR ANY AMOUNT TO CLC
- CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL, PO BOX 26770 CHARLOTTE, NC 28221-6770

FOR MORE INFORMATION, LEE DAVIS, CLC.FVP@GMAIL.COM OR 704.562.0402

HELP

- Your Episcopal Area Win \$25.00 in free CLC merchandise
- Send in photos/video of 50 or more participants...
- Send in participant names and donations to CLC office
- First three Episcopal Areas to submit all the above will win.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Connectional LAY SUNDAY 2018

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL – “We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise” (#529
African American Heritage Hymnal)

CALL TO WORSHIP – PSALM 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing? Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise! Be thankful unto Him and bless His name for the Lord is good. His steadfast love endures forever and His faithfulness to all generations.

INVOCATION (*congregation in unison*)

Father, thank you that you have brought us safely to this place. We surrender our lives to you in worship and praise. As we gather we remember those who are not with us today. For those who are sick we ask for healing, And for those away from us we ask for your blessing to be on them. We invite Your Holy Spirit to move freely amongst us. Come dwell in each of our hearts. May we behold Your beauty and encounter your grace. We ask all this in the matchless name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE – “Let It Breathe on Me” (#225 AMEZ
Bicentennial Hymnal)

THE HYMN – “A Charge to Keep I Have” (#439 AMEZ
Bicentennial Hymnal)

THE RESPONSIVE READING – PSALM 37:2-8, 23-28, 39 NRSV
Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way;

though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds us by the hand.

I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread.

They are ever giving liberally and lending, and their children become a blessing. Depart from evil, and do good; so you shall abide forever.

For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his faithful ones.

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their refuge in the time of trouble.

THE APOSTLE’S CREED or AN AFFIRMATION FOR LAITY

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

OLD TESTAMENT – 1 Kings 8:54-64

GLORIA PATRI

NEW TESTAMENT – Romans 12:1-8

THE PRAYER

PRAYER HYMN – “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” (#492 AME
Bicentennial Hymnal)

CHORAL SELECTION*

THE MINISTRY OF KINDNESS

NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HYMN OF PREPARATION – #681 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” (*Connectional Lay Council Theme Hymn*)

THE LAY SUNDAY MESSAGE

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
HYMN OF INVITATION*

THE REDEDICATION OF LAITY (*Litany for Rededication of Laity*)

THE OFFERING APPEAL (*including the Lay Sunday Offering*)

THE TITHES & OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

RECESSIONAL – #680 Onward Christian Laity
(*Connectional Lay Council Theme Song*)

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.

CHORAL BENEDICTORY – “Lord, Make Me More Holy”
(#632 *African American Heritage Hymnal*)

*All specified elements of worship are suggestions. See suggestions in the article “Elements of Worship” found on this website.

CONNECTONAL LAY SUNDAY OFFERING APPEAL

By Dr. Mary J. Matthews, International President

Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina will be the recipients of the 2018 Lay Sunday offerings. The Lay Sunday offering goal is to exceed \$25,000. Our young people need our support. Let us sow some Lay Council seeds by investing in the future of these young people.



Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr., our twelfth president of Livingstone College, has provided this statement to encourage our giving: "Livingstone College and the AME Zion Church, known as the "Freedom Church," are intimately linked together. Knowledge is freedom, and education is knowledge; and we know that education is

the surest vehicle for upward mobility in the world. As in the past, the AME Zion Church continues its tradition of forging ahead, along the freedom trail, reminiscent of the journey of Harriett Tubman. The support that the church has provided Livingstone over its 138 years of existence has been the backbone to the continued survival of the college. At Livingstone College, we are literally setting young men and women free! We are creating change agents and helping to break the vicious cycle of poverty and I dare say that without the support that we get from the AME Zion Church, our story would be far more different, in a negative way. On behalf of the entire Livingstone College family, I want to thank Dr. Mary J. Matthews, International President of the Lay Council of the AME Zion Church, for this fundraising initiative. The success of this initiative will allow the college to compete more effectively for academically talented students."

The Connectional Lay Council is devoted to making a difference in the lives of others. One way we continue to make a difference is through contributions received from the Connectional Lay Sunday offerings. Your financial support is greatly appreciated.

All churches are asked to support Connectional Lay Sunday with a special offering. Please make all checks payable to the Connectional Lay Council and mail to Connectional Lay Council PO Box 26770 Charlotte, NC 28221-6770.



LITANY FOR REDEDICATION OF LAITY The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Lay Leader: As Laity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, we *Rededicate ourselves* to serve God, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and humanity.

Laity: *By deepening our Spiritual Life.*

Lay Leader: As Laity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, we *Rededicate ourselves* to disseminate information.

Laity: *By gathering and sharing information about our heritage, traditions, and the mission of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.*

Lay Leader: As Laity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, we *Rededicate ourselves* to be true to God and our denomination.

LAITY: *By cultivating our loyalty to God and The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.*

LAY LEADER: As Laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, we *Rededicate ourselves* to expand our denomination.

LAITY: *We are committed to expanding our denomination through education of ourselves and others; by evangelizing to the unsaved and promoting any other interest of the Kingdom of God.*

Lay Leader: Today we *Rededicate ourselves* to the objectives and purpose of the Connectional Lay Council of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

ALL: *Today, we Rededicate ourselves to be faithful to God, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and to the mission of the Church of Christ universal to make disciples.*



LAY SUNDAY WORSHIP ELEMENTS

THEME: REVIEWING OUR PRACTICES

The following are worship elements related to the subtheme for this year, *The Freedom Church: Reviewing Our Practices*. They may be used for worship on Lay Sunday, in devotionals for lay academies, or during other gatherings of the Lay Council at the local church, district, or conference level.

These elements were selected for their relevance to *practices* of Christians as communities of believers. They focus on six areas of church life in which we may focus our review: worship, education for discipleship, outreach, evangelism, fellowship, and leadership/administration. The subthemes suggest focuses for worship or messages. The scriptural passages may be used to support a message or provide centering for worship. Because of the content of choral music, much of it focus on worship practices.

SUBTHEMES

- Reviewing Our Practices in Worship
- Reviewing Our Practices in Education for Discipleship
- Reviewing Our Practices in Outreach
- Reviewing Our Practices for Evangelism
- Reviewing Our Practices in Fellowship
- Reviewing Our Practices for Administration of the Lay Council

OLD TESTAMENT

Practices in Worship	1 Kings 8:54-64
Practices for Education	Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Practices in Outreach	Amos 5:11-15, 21-24
Practices for Evangelism	Jonah 3
Practices in Fellowship	Psalms 133
Practices in Leadership & Administration	
Proverbs 12:24-28; Exodus 18:13-213	

PASSAGES

New Testament

Practices in Worship	Acts 2:37-47
Practices for Education	Acts 8:26-37
Practices re Outreach	Matthew 25:37-46
Practices for Evangelism	Matthew 9:35-38
Practices in Fellowship	Hebrew 10:19-25
Practices in Leadership & Administration	
Matthew 23:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:14-26	

PASSAGES

CHORAL MUSIC ELEMENTS

Note: Titles with numbers without brackets are those from the *A.M.E. Zion Bicentennial Hymnal*. Titles with numbers in brackets are those from the *African American Heritage Hymnal*.

PROCESSIONALS

- #32 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
- [#105] "Bless the Lord "

- [#596] "Come and Go with Me"
- [#106] "In the Beauty of Holiness"
- [#506] "The Lord Is Blessing Me Right Now"
- #42 This Is the Day
- [#529] "We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise"

RESPONSES TO THE INVOCATION

- [#461] "Give Me a Clean Heart"
- [#510] "He's Sweet I Know"
- [#573] "I Love You Lord"
- [#395] "I Love the Lord, He Heard My Cry"
- [#577] "I Really Love the Lord"
- #225 "Let It Breathe on Me"
- [#576] "Precious Lord"
- # 692 "Spirit of the Living God"
- [#462] "Sanctuary"
- [#190] "While We Are Waiting, Come"

MORNING HYMNS

- #439 "A Charge to Keep I Have"
- #66 "All Creatures of Our God and King"
- #47 "How Great Thou Art"
- #20 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"
- #454 "O Thou, In Whose Presence My Soul Takes Delight"
- #268 "Praise Him! Praise Him!"
- #23 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
- #432 "Stand up, Stand up for Jesus"
- #39 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"
- #435 "Work for the Night Is Coming"

PRAYER HYMNS

- #492 "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"
- #525 "Jesus Saviour, Pilot Me"
- [#433] "Keep Me Everyday"
- [#562] "Learning to Lean"
- #606 "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"
- #224 "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"
- #611 "Steal Away"
- #470 "Take My Life and Let It Be"
- [#531] "Thank You, Lord"
- [#444] "Thy Way, O Lord, Not Mine"

CHORAL SELECTIONS

- [#126] "Awesome God"
- [#295] "Bless That Wonderful Name of Jesus"
- [#152] "God Has Smiled on Me"
- [#134] "God Is"
- "Guide Me" - Luther Barnes & the Sunset Jubilaires
- [#131] "Guide My Feet"
- [#181] "High Praise"
- [#404] "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand"
- [#392] "I'd Rather Have Jesus"
- "I Will Go in Jesus' Name" - Clay Bogan, III
- [#111] "My Tribute"

[#548] "Only What You Do for Christ Will Last"
 [#333] "Order My Steps"
 "Praise Waiteth" - Richard Smallwood
 "Stand" Donnie McClurkin
 [#160] "The Lord Is My Light"
 [#113] "Total Praise"
 "Trust Me" - Richard Smallwood

CHORAL SELECTIONS FOR CHILDREN

[#623] "Children, God Where I Send Thee"
 [#614] "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam"
 #617 "This Little Light of Mine"

HYMNS OF PREPARATION

#681 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (Theme Hymn of the Connectional Lay Council)
 [#419] "Higher Ground"
 #263 "More about Jesus Would I Know"

HYMNS OF INVITATION

#490 "All to Jesus I Surrender"
 #292 "He Leadeth Me"
 #415 "Just As I Am"
 [#503] "Look and Live"
 #266 "O How I Love Jesus"
 #285 "Saviour, Lead Me Lest I Stray"
 #508 "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"
 #603 "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"
 [#389] "What Shall I Render?"

RECESSIONALS

#680 "Onward Christian Laity" (Lay Council Theme Song)
 [#302] "Praise the Name of Jesus"
 [#297] "Take the Name of Jesus with You"
 [#564] "Thuma Mina"
 [#488] "We Are Soldiers in the Army"

BENEDICTORY RESPONSES

[#640] "Always Remember Jesus"
 [#639] "God Be with You"
 [#632] "Lord, Make Me More Holy"



THE FREEDOM CHURCH: REVIEWING OUR PRACTICES

By Dr. Joyce Perry Edwards

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed.... 2 Timothy 2:15

The 2nd subtheme of the Connectional Lay Council Quadrennium, "The Freedom Church: Reviewing Our Practices," encourages us to ask, "Are we using methods and strategies that will enable us to accomplish our mission?" The study of this subtheme provides us the opportunity to assure that we don't get in a rut or don't stay there if we're already in one. Someone said that "don't fix what ain't broke." However, practices do get broken for a variety of reasons. Reviewing our practices annually is itself good practice!

Our practices MAY be considered under six areas of church life: *worship, education, evangelism, benevolence and outreach, social justice advocacy, and fellowship*. These five areas can provide a framework for organizing a careful review of our practices in the local church.

Worship

As worship is central in the life of the church, too much attention can never be paid to the quality of our worship. Undoubtedly, most people who hear the call of Christ hear it during worship on Sunday mornings. Therefore, the time together at this sacred hour needs to remain centered on worship of the sovereign God. We should be ever watchful to avoid the temptation of making worship a performance of the preacher and the choir, where we clap after the performances to signal our approval. While good performances may entice new memberships, they do not give food for the depths of our souls. We need knowledge of truth for guidance in our lives and to develop spiritual strength as we seek to become and remain committed disciples of Christ.

While the center of worship may be the Sunday morning hour, worship also takes place at other times in our church; and all worship should be planned and reverent. For example, as lay leaders who are often positioned to lead devotions, we should assure that the devotional periods during our meetings are planned and that they engage us meaningful in praising God and seeking God's presence that his will be done during meeting and subsequent activities. Devotions should *never* be done perfunctorily as if they're just part of the routine or something to do until everyone arrives.

Education

The function of the ministry of education for Christian discipleship is profound: to facilitate spiritual growth through

**The Lay Sunday bulletin and Worship
Elements can be downloaded from the
Connectional Lay Council Website**

at

www.connectionallaycouncil.org

theologically sound instruction and other experiences including worship, service and fellowship. There is no substitute for serious study of the Holy Scriptures, the doctrines of Christianity, the significance of the means of grace for all who “intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking...in His holy way.” We should review our practices to see if they are designed to meet the needs of the diversity of persons in our congregation. Instruction should be direct and indirect, using the arts such as dancing, drama, and discussion as well as didactic instruction. Direct instruction should be well-planned, interactive, and age-appropriate to meet the spiritual growth needs of all ages: children, youth, young adults, mature adults, and senior adults.

The A.M.E. Zion Church Connectional Lay Council accepts its responsibility in education for discipleship by including lay academies as an integral part of our ministry. Our academies should be well-planned and offered throughout the year.

Evangelism

This area of church life is really an area for serious review because it is often a neglected one. Developing an intentional ministry of evangelism takes considerable thought. At a minimum, each church should identify their *neighbors* for evangelism: perhaps they are unchurched persons in a nearby neighborhood, they may work in places where a cluster of church members are employed, they may be a neighborhood that is not contiguous to our church but where many of our members live, or they may be students at a nearby college. Wherever a church’s neighbors are identified, the church should have some plan for targeted invitations to them. A ministry of evangelism is a fitting project for the Lay Council in the local church because we proclaim, “Come with Us to Christ.”

Benevolence & Outreach

A very compelling passage in the New Testament is located at the end of Matthew 25. The last few verses state: *Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.* (KJV)

The opportunities for outreach are unlimited in our fractionated society. A church that omits this area of endeavor presents a hollow, inadequate representation of the love of Christ to a weary and needy world. In one local church, the pastor persuaded *each* auxiliary to develop an outreach ministry. As service to those in need helps us in our spiritual development as well as communicates the love of God to

others, this area of endeavor is certainly appropriate for the local church lay council.

Social Justice Advocacy

This area of social justice advocacy is distinguished from benevolence and outreach and, like evangelism, requires strategic thinking, planning, and action. We should review our practices to see if this area of ministry is a component of our church’s ministry. Being a voice for better schools, more equitable distribution of resources for improving the quality of life for all, responsible law enforcement practices, adequate provision for the homeless, and other local issues consistent with demonstration of the dignity of all people are valid and necessary elements of the church’s ministry. It is an antithetical to the legacy of The Freedom Church to be silent about conditions that denigrate the dignity of people in our community.

Fellowship

Churches often have many fellowship activities. These activities merit our review to determine if they help to *create the village*—the neighborhood---that is now missing in our society. We live in one place, our children—and often we as adults— go to school in another, our work place is often far away from our homes, and our church may be located in still another place. We must even drive miles from home to shop. We often do not know the people who live near us.

The challenge and opportunity for the church, therefore, is to *create a village*. The ministry of fellowship is a critical component in creating a village, and should seek to involve all ages and all members of the family. It is such a critical aspect of church life that we should plan the ministry of fellowship as carefully as any other ministry of our church so that it is suitable to the characteristics and life styles of the members of our specific locale. Along with worship, and the ministries of evangelism, outreach, and education, and social advocacy, the ministry of fellowship can surely become a powerful method in saying to others, “Come with us to Christ.”

The Lay Council

The Lay Council in the local church would do well to see itself as a group that sets an example for excellent practice in the church. Conducting the Lay Council according to best practices in regard to, not only to the five areas discussed above, but also in the administration of the Lay Council, would honor the focus scripture stated as a preamble to this discussion. Suggestions for effective administration of the lay council in the local church can be found in the 2016 booklet published by the Connectional Lay Council, *An Effective Lay Council in the Local Church: Ideas for Lay Council Leaders*, available in our headquarters office.

Membership

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

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TELEPHONE



WHAT A YEAR THIS
HAS BEEN?
IT HAS BEEN VERY
REWARDING TO SEE
THE GROWTH IN LAY
COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Let's Mentor a Young
Adult this year to
become an Officer in
your local church.

Hug someone
today

VISION 2021 = 50,000

Our goal is to be the church grounded in respect for our mission, heritage and be unwavering in allegiance to the founding OBJECTIVES and PURPOSE of the Connection Lay Council. With every tool available inward and outward by person contact, utilizing technology, social media and a direct marketing campaign will give guidance to our goal to reach 50,000 active Lay Council members by 2021.

GOAL OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ Establish NEW Lay Councils in every Local Church
 - ❖ Sustain existing memberships
- ❖ Re-instate INACTIVE Local Lay Councils
- ❖ Active Members to **recruit** the Laity in their Local Church to become members

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
JULY 2017-JULY 2018

41,147

Regular Members 37,761

4-Year (Quad) 118

Life Members 3,268

Connie Bell-Wright



COUNTDOWN TO 2018 MID-TERM ELECTION



By Ms. Queen E. Degraphenreid
Social/Political Action Chairperson



Checklist to Maximize Voter Turnout on November 6, 2018

- Select a Voter Empowerment Coordinator (or Faith Ambassador) for your local church, if you have not already done so, for the upcoming 2018 Mid-Term Election. To ensure maximum turnout, it's important that someone keeps everything on time and on target.
- Publicize an Early Voting (EV) schedule at your church and circulate in the surrounding communities. Print a sample ballot from your County's Board of Elections website.
- Sponsor a "Get Out To Vote" rally at your church, outreaching to other churches, area communities and organizations. Be sure to include the Early Voting (EV) schedule.
- Sponsor a "Candidates' Forum" to inform members and the community of candidates' stances on important issues and to become knowledgeable of the issues on the ballot.
- Ensure that all members of your congregation are registered to vote. Be sure to include members who have changed residences, changed names, or turned 18 by next election.
- Encourage members and the community-at-large to participate in Early Voting (EV) and Sunday Voting (SV) wherever available. Disseminate EV & SV flyers in the communities.
- When taking advantage of the "Soul to the Polls" initiative, be sure that the proper auto insurance coverage is provided for all those persons being transported.
- Remember key dates relevant to this 2018 Mid-term Election. These dates can be publicized along with the EV and SV schedule and the "Get Out To Vote" campaign.
- Lay Sunday (October 21) is a great time to validate your "checklist". Print your sample ballot from your County or State Board of Elections website. **VOTE THE ENTIRE BALLOT.**
- Publicize the last day to register (North Carolina is Friday, October 12). For your state's deadlines, contact your county's board of elections, or go to www.nonprofitvote.org.

Important Websites and Resources

- ✓ National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – www.naacp.org
- ✓ Non-Profit Voting – www.nonprofitvote.org (Select Your State)
- ✓ Your respective County's Board of Elections (Your new best friend)
- ✓ Democracy North Carolina – www.democracync.org (North Carolina Only)

Newly Appointed Executive Board Members



Joseph King Davis, Editor of Laity Speaks/Connection Newsletter



Jon Rankins, Musician

REGIONAL LAY COUNCIL NEWS



PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Mrs. Dorothy Gill-Smith Regional
Director
 Gloria Joyner Johnson, Reporter

Western North Carolina Conference

CHARLOTTE, NC - On June 12, 2018, The Western North Carolina Conference Lay Council, Mr. Jerry McCombs, President, was hosted by the Lincolnton District for the Annual Lay Academy and Stout Scholarship Luncheon. The location was at the site of the annual convening of the Western North Carolina Conference at the Sheraton Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, NC. The host was the Charlotte District and Presiding Elder Dr. Benjamin L Morrow, Sr. Mrs. Iris M. Battle is the Missionary Supervisor and Bishop George E, Battle, Jr.; Senior Bishop of the AME Zion Church is the Presiding Prelate of the Piedmont Episcopal District.

The Fourteenth Annual Lay Convocation began by Mr. William Manning, CLC Chaplain calling those assembled to order. Mr. Gerald Rush, WNCC Chaplain prayed read the scriptures, Mrs. Cheryl Gray led the Affirmation for Laity followed by regional greetings from Mrs. Dorothy Gill-Smith, Regional Director. She encouraged registration for the Lay Evangelistic Retreat at Dorothy Walls Conference and Retreat Center on October 5-6, 2018. The theme for the retreat is "Equipped and Empowered to Serve."

Mrs. Leondras "Lele" Davis, First Vice President of the WNCC Lay Council and the Connectional Lay Council, presented the participants of the Lay Academy with a focus on the Young Adult Initiatives. The panel of five young adults again presented what they perceived as problems with the church and lack of understanding of most rituals, their feeling of separation from the church body and suggested ways they thought the church could change to empower them. The panelists were Ms. Kehla Ellis, Rev. Michael Pyant, Ms. Deidre Camp, Ms. Alexis Howard and Ms. Ishara Smith. They stated that the church does well with traditions and training material, however improvement could be achieved by more transparency and accountability, less competition and let young people know they are genuinely accepted. Many suggestions were made, but most felt the issues might be resolved with more training beginning at the local level. Respondents included Mrs. Connie B. Wright (2nd Vice President of the Connectional Lay Council), Ms. Lakesha Womack (Young Adult and Youth Initiative Committee) and Dr. Yvonne Tracey (Past President of the Connectional Lay Council.)

Several Life Members were stoled by Mrs. Dorothy Gill-Smith, Mr. Jerry McCombs and Bishop George E. Battle, Jr. Bishop Battle gave words of encouragement to the Lay Council in general and the leadership to continue to focus on "The Faithfulness of God" as we "seek first the Kingdom." He

prayed for the Lord's continued blessings during the year to come and that our words and deeds reflect the presence of Christ thus magnifying God's love.

Mrs. Connie B. Wright reported the Piedmont has 10,502 members to date. The North Charlotte District reported 1638 members, Charlotte District-1516 members, Winston-Salem District-1256 members followed by Salisbury District-950, Lincolnton-926 and Statesville, 800 members. All were congratulated for their tireless efforts during the membership drive.

The Albert S. Stout, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Luncheon was an astounding success on multiple levels. The scholarships are awarded annually to assist students at both Livingstone College and Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, NC. Dr. Edward D. Sadler, Jr. the chairman of the committee expressed thanks for donations but more is needed to help deserving students at Zion's flagship educational institutions.

Beautiful music was provided by Ms. Leyla Smith, a young adult flautist from St. Stephen's AME Zion Church in Gastonia, NC. She gave a stirring medley of Zion's hymns.

The speaker for the luncheon was Mr. Bruce Stanback, a Livingstone graduate who among many current activities is a retired consultant with the State of North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. He currently works with the Richmond County School System and is the Coordinator of the Local Teen Court Program as well. He is a member of the West Central North Carolina Conference where he serves as the Home Missions conference president. He spoke from the subject "Rise Up, But Anchor Deep. " The four anchors are character, the spirit of sharing civic responsibility and Christian witness in Jesus. He later addressed "Church Safety." Mr. Stanback stated that the church must be vigilant in making preparations to protect and defend against potential violence to God's people and God's property. In addition to physical protection, he suggested electronic surveillance, educating the congregation and most importantly, prayers for God's protection.

Reflections were given by district presidents as follows:

The Charlotte District, Mr. Willie L. Bratcher
 The North Charlotte District, Ms. Joyce A. Zimmerman
 The Lincolnton District, Mr. William F. Manning
 The Statesville District, Mrs. Cheryl Gray
 The Winston-Salem District, Mrs. Shirley Allen
 The "Sensational" Salisbury District, Dr. Mary Ponds

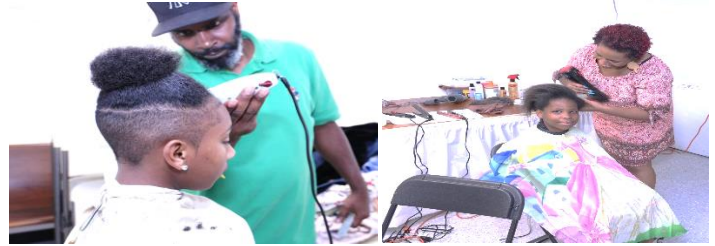
Mr. Jerry McCombs was presented by Bishop Battle and gave a very comprehensive report of his labors as the WNCC president for the conference year. His report was received with a hardy round of applause and thanks.

Awards were presented as follows: Salisbury District: Dr. Mary Ponds-the Ervin Reid Award for the Highest Attendance; North Charlotte District -Mrs. Hazeline Smith-the William Orr Award as the 2nd Vice President promoting membership and Mr. Willie Bratcher of the Charlotte District received the President’s Service Award for exemplary, loyal service.

Bishop Battle addressed the laity and expressed his appreciation for exceeding the goals and objectives as outlined in the Book of Discipline. He encouraged continued efforts to have a positive impact and bring others to Christ Praises and Glory to God as the Western North Carolina Conference continues to work in the vineyard to bring souls to Christ.

Linda Bristow, Rev. Terry Bristow, Rev Ulysses Collins, Rev. Dr. Donald Cozart, Rev. Jimmy McClain, Rev. Jason Ruff, Rev James Davis III, Rev. Dr. Maurice Harden Rev. Tysha Harden, Rev. Dr. Rosa Smith-Williams, Re. Gloria Moore, Rev. Alan Moore, Ministers Elizabeth Styron and Ministers Tamario Howze and Solomon Cochran and Host Pastor Rev. Dr. JC White along with Elder Anthony Davis, Presiding Elder, his wife Mrs. Davis and Daughter Maya Davis.

Rush Metropolitan AME Zion Church of Raleigh donated and fried fish. We also had hot dogs and the trimmings. Vincent Ragland donated his grill and his chef skills. We had games, food and fun for all.



Raleigh District Backpack Give Away - Wake Forest N.C.



August 13, 2018 The Raleigh District Lay Council under the leadership of Daphine Lloyd-Feldman, The Raleigh District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and Minister Tamario Howze sponsored a backpack giveaway at New Hope Village, 100 N. Allen Rd. Wake Forest, N.C. Rev. Dr. Anthony Davis is Presiding Elder of the Raleigh District. Minister Elizabeth Styron played games with the children and youth. Samuel Foster II showed off his chef skills on the grill. Hot Dogs, trimmings, beverages and cookies were served to everyone. Carolyn Foster, Dian Foster, Ms. Sophia, and Ms. Sandra help to serve food. Every child and youth received a back pack with school supplies. Wake Forest Police Officer was in attendance. Thanks to Marlyn Ellis of the Wake County Housing Authority for your assistance.

Humbly submitted by Daphine Lloyd-Feldman, Raleigh District Lay Council President



**EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA
EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Mr. Hank Dobson, Regional Director**

**RALEIGH DISTRICT LAY COUNCIL
COMMUNITY DAY**

Submitted by Raleigh District Lay Council President
Daphine Lloyd-Feldman



The Raleigh District Lay Council under the Leadership of Daphine Lloyd-Feldman sponsored its 4th Annual Community Day in Henderson NC on August 5, 2018 at Kesler Temple AME Zion Church, The Buds of Promise and the Raleigh District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Rev. Dr. Anthony Davis is the Presiding Elder of the Raleigh District. Through the donation of 19 Churches on the Raleigh District 355 backpacks along with school supplies were donated to youth and families in that area. More than 30 free haircuts were provided by Barbers from Durham NC. Stylist and Beautician Lauren Bouncer styled hair for 7 girls. Music was provided by Montrell Davis (DJ Trelz). Thanks to Ryan Woodlief of the Henderson Police Dept. for his attendance.



International Lay Council President Dr. Mary J. Matthews was present. Calvin Thompson had his race car (“Boss”) and golf cart (“Li'l Boss”) for show. Raleigh District Pastors who attended were Rev.

Clarkton District Lay Council Annual Black & Gold Banquet July 29, 2018

Mt. Pleasant AME Zion Church Riegelwood, NC
Rev. Trishaun M. Kendall, Pastor

Under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Florence S. Brown, the Mt. Pleasant AME Zion Church in the Armour community of Riegelwood, NC hosted the Clarkton District Banquet on July 29th at 3:00 pm. Mr. Norris Ebron serves as our President. Our First Vice-President, Mr. Gilbert Hall presided. Mrs. Marian Webb graciously welcomed us.

Everyone enjoyed a scrumptious meal prepared under the direction of Mrs. Charlene Hall, Mt. Pleasant's Lay Person of the Year, and her committee. Mrs. Mary Waddell and her daughter, Shenita Daniels, beautifully decorated the fellowship hall in black and gold linens, vases and floral arrangements.

We were delighted to have our Regional Director of the Eastern NC Episcopal District, Mr. Hank Dobson, as our speaker for this event. Mr. Dobson spoke on "Reviewing our Practices." I John 3:17 was noted for the scripture reference. Mr. Dobson challenged us with the following questions – Am I praying with faith? Am I serving with zeal? Am I believing with confidence? Am I confessing with humility? Am I worshipping with joy? Am I giving with gladness? Am I reaching out with love? Many thanks to Mr. Dobson for encouraging us to review our practices.

Elder Brown and Mr. Ebron offered remarks and presented certificates to the Outstanding Lay Persons of the Year, followed by the Lay Benediction.

Arlenda Bowen,
Clarkton District Lay Council Secretary



MID ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Mrs. Katherine Burrell, Regional Director

Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, Missionary Supervisor
Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate

Re-focusing on Our Purpose, Reviewing Our Practices, Retooling Our People, and Reaching Our Potential.

Reflections from the Desk of Katherine Burrell

To better understand our theme "Freedom Church, Refocusing on our Purpose, Reviewing our Practices, Retooling our People, Reaching our Potential." I have been led to write a monthly reflection dealing with the history of our great church. Why are we called the Freedom Church? What were our Practices and Tools? We must know where we came from to know where we are going and to reach our Potential. The story of

how, with very little resources our forefathers had phenomenal growth in the life of Zion's first one hundred years and they left us a rich legacy. My prayer is that my reflections will encourage the Laity to begin studying and re-introduce themselves to the rich history of our great Church. This has been a busy and exciting quarter for the Laity of the Mid Atlantic Episcopal Area, beginning in May with the Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference Annual Conference, where Katherine Burrell is the President of the Lay Council.

The Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference Lay Council held their annual Lay Academy at the Bethesda Marriott Convention Center. Thinking out of the box it was innovative, creative and stimulating. Facilitated by Larry B. Johnson, First Vice-President and Patricia Griffin, President of the Philadelphia Eastern Shore Lay Council the theme was: *Retooling the Freedom Church for Social Reform.*

Presentations were made on: *Reforming: Through Voter Registration*, presented by Keenen Geter, a young adult from Baltimore District, Pennsylvania Avenue Church, he spoke on the necessity to get out the vote. *Retooling: We Care about Dementia*, Katherine S. Burrell President, Philadelphia and Baltimore Lay Council spoke on the topic of caring for family members with dementia. *Retooling: We Care about Human Trafficking*, Peggy Gullett, Baltimore District, Freedom Temple Church, spoke on the issue of human trafficking, the modern-day slavery. Patricia Griffin brought all the topics together with the segment *From Retooling to Engagement*, getting involved and bringing attention of these social issues that plague our society to our local churches. The Lay Academy was extremely informative and stimulated a very open questions and answer period.

The Scholarship Committee, chaired by Gil Turner presented the High School Seniors who were award the Samantha M. Wormley Memorial Scholarship. There were four recipients of the 2018 Samantha M. Wormley Memorial Scholarship each received a \$2500.00 scholarship. The recipients were: Kiera Brysco, Contee, Washington District, Rev. Mark Thomas, Pastor Angelina Alozia, St. John-Bethlehem, Harrisburg District, Rev. Gracher Selby, Pastor Ridia Seratta, Damascus, Baltimore District, Rev. Raymond Butler, Pastor Tyrus Pincham, Lomax, Northern VA District, Rev. Samuel Whitaker, Pasto.

During the Annual Conference Session the Lay Council had the opportunity to hosted two "Lunch and Learn" Sessions. Following the theme from our Lay Academy we brought awareness and information on two very important social issues in our society. One was human trafficking. "Araminta, Freedom Initiative," presented information on this horrific social issue. The second luncheon was presented by The Balm in Gilead on *The African American Summit on Dementia*, explaining the dynamics of this disease that is afflicting our families.

Ohio Annual Conference Lay Council Luncheon, Mrs. Patricia Lewis, President, was held during the Henry L. Walters Challenge Brunch at St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church, Cleveland, Ohio. Their theme emphasis was *Reviewing our Practices*. Following the luncheon Mrs. Lewis call for those persons who were being stole, Katherine Burrell, Regional Director led the stoling ceremony where three Life Members were stoled. Gloria Cook, the 1st Vice President facilitated the Lay Academy. Ms. Cook gave an excellent pictorial view of the tools available to help grew your Lay Council. Remarks were given by Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate, reminding



us that we are to include excitement in reviewing our practice. Excitement is contagious and it gets people to move.

Elections of officers for 2018-2019 were held, the new president is Mrs. Anita Rankin. Bishop Moore gave word of congratulations and encouraged them to continue the work of the Laity.

Mrs. Patricia Lewis Retires! One of the highlights of the afternoon was the announcement of Mrs. Patricia Lewis retirement. Congratulations were presented by the each District of the Ohio Conference. Katherine Burrell presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation from Mid Atlantic Episcopal Area and read a letter of congratulation from President Mary Matthews praising her work with the Laity and also her work as a parliamentarian on the Connectional level for the General Church and the Connectional Lay Council. Pat was most appreciative and gave words of thanks.



Mrs. Katherine Burrell presented the Lay Academy *Retooling our People*, first asking the question "What is our Purpose." Explaining the first and foremost purposed of the Lay Council is to *Bring People to Christ* following the great commission *Go and Make Disciples*. Retooling calls us to stop and think...do we need to throw away some tools that are not relevant today? Do we have to recycle some others and add new, innovative tools so we can rebuild our Churches? The questions were asked. How are you going to Retool? What

East Tennessee-Virginia Conference Lay Academy, Mr. Melvin Perrow, President, was held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Johnson City, TN. The Convocation was opened by Mr. Perrow leading the attendees in song. Mrs. Ella Hurt read scripture and gave a spirit filled prayer.

new effective ideas will you put into practice? A challenge was presented to the Laity *to Go and Make Disciples*; You have the power to grow your church. Go out and tell someone about Jesus.

The Convocation was well attended by both Laity and Clergy.



VA Conference Lay Academy, Mr. William English, President was held at the Richmond Hilton. It was a new innovative Lay Academy. The guest speaker was "The Church Lady", a comedian who walked you though some tough life issues with laughter. It was both entertaining and thought provoking. The Rev. Dr. Vincent Jones, Sr., Presiding Elder of the Norfolk District gave a challenging message in way of prayer for the Leadership of the Conference Lay Council



Elections were led by Mrs. Katherine Burrell for the 2018-2019 Conference year. The officers are President William L. English, Jr., Carlee Cash, 1st Vice President, Glenda

Wright 2nd Vice President. Florence Brown, Secretary, Regina Rivera Financial Secretary, Paula DeBerry, Treasurer, Hurley Daye, Chaplain. They are looking forward to serving the Virginia Conference in style and grace.

The Virginia Conference also held a Lunch and Learn session during the Annual Conference. Their topic was "Voting." Local political leaders were present and gave words on local issues and encourage people to get out and vote. The session was well received.

To God Be the Glory for the Great things he is doing in the Life of Mid Atlantic Laity



FIRST GOOD SAMARITAN A.M.E. ZION CHURCH REDEDICATION SERVICE

Submitted by, Mrs. LaWanda Goodwine

Erie, Pennsylvania – “Commitment and Service, Praise and Worship” were each front and center during the weekend of August 10th through the 12th, 2018 at First Good Samaritan AME Zion Church where Rev. Amos Goodwine, Jr., serves as Pastor.



With activities sponsored by the Local Lay Council, in celebration of the renovations of the worship center and parsonage,

the three-day celebration was filled with Extravagant Giving (Lay Council raised over \$125,000 for the renovations) Radical Hospitality, Intentional Faith Development and Passionate Worship.

On Friday, the Lay Council hosted a community wide open house. For each person who visit, \$1 was donated to the local food bank. Community and church families from as far away as Virginia, North Carolina, Eastern Pennsylvania and Florida stopped by to pay tribute to the “New Old Church”; with many sharing their memories and with some (the children) creating



new ones, all giving thanks for the great thing God is doing in the Church and how it is benefiting our community.

Saturday’s Life Members Stoling and Worship Service was filled with faith, joy and tears. The Worship Leader, Past Local Lay Council President, Mrs. Tammy Tate-Johnson of Fayetteville, NC,

sowed the Glory of God and motivated the gathered church to join her in glorifying Him.



Each person in the worship service was asked by the International Connectional Lay Council President and Guest Speaker, Dr. Mary J. Matthews, “Are you committed?” Aided and led by the Holy Spirit, Dr.

Matthews, combined biblical truth with comfort to magnify the worth of our redemptive service to God. She informed the Laity and our guest; “We must be committed to serving God and doing His will whether it’s convenient for us or not.”



Dr. Matthews concluded by leading the emotional stoling of the Local President, Mrs. LaWanda Goodwine and the past First Vice President Mrs. Claudia M. Graham and the past Treasurer Mrs. Georgia M. Kendrick, both post-humorously (for the first time in the history of this church).

As Mrs. Graham’s husband Mr. David Graham, surrounded by their sons Clifton and Derrick Gore, and Mrs. Kendrick’s daughter Mrs. Michelle Kendrick-Twillie and grandson Micah Twillie, stood with their loved ones stole draped over their left arms, while Dr. Matthews offered each sustaining words of care



and comfort as she read resolutions for each of the fallen servants. Embracing each family member with care and in service, she stated that between the two of them, Mrs. Graham and Mrs. Kendrick had given over 120 years of service to their beloved AME Zion Church. On hand to witness this historic event



were: Retired Regional Lay Officer Mrs. Helene Zacharias, Ohio Conference Lay President Mrs. Anita Rankin. Past Akron District Officer Mrs. Gloria Cook, Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker, Sr. and Mrs. Vanessa Walker (Pastor and First Lady of Beth-El AME Zion Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Where Mrs. Walker also serves as their Lay Council’s Second



Vice President), Ms. Gwendolyn Cooley, First Vice President of Lay Organization for St. James AME Church of Erie, PA.



The three-day celebration concluded with high praise and worship as His Grace, The Right Reverend W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District led us into another level of praise. In his message, Bishop Moore gave us an example of "foretaste":

"As a child my grandmamma would make her cake-batter and place a small amount on a tin-pan and place it in the oven. When it was done and cooled off, she would give us a piece of it.....letting us have a foretaste of the real thing that is to come."



Noting First Good Samaritan's struggles and heartache of the past, "going from that to this", Bishop Moore reassured the members and community guest of our right to SERVE and PRAISE GOD. Using as an example the plight of a football player:

"...he was told that he would be penalized if he danced again after he scored. The player replied, After I been through eleven folk trying to stop me, trying to block me, when I cross into the end zone, I got a right to dance, I got a right to celebrate. So go ahead and call me out of order, I'm going to celebrate anyhow. I come to tell you, when I come into the House of the Lord, you can tell me it don't take all of that, but the devil is a liar! After all you've been through and you're still here, you have the victory! You have a right to praise Him!"

Bishop Moore was followed by the First Good Samaritan Gospel Choir singing "Blessed Assurance" for the second time upon his request.

Bishop Moore also led the congregation in a Litany, blessing the renovations of the church and parsonage. After the benediction, Bishop Moore as well as Dr. Mary J. Matthews took the time to greet each member and guest. Those in attendance to witness our Passionate Sunday Worship were:

- Dr. Mary J. Matthews, CLC International President
- Mrs. Helene Zacharias, Retired CLC Officer
- Mrs. Gloria Cook, Past CLC District Officer
- Ms. Pam Valentine, Past WHOMS General Officer
- Presiding Elder and Mrs. Stanley (Debbie) Dennison, Allegheny Conference-Braddock District
- Presiding Elder and Mrs. William E. (Minola) Kelly, Philadelphia and Baltimore/Washington, DC Conference
- Rev. and Mrs. Dale B. (Yolanda) Snyder, Pastor and First Lady of St. James AME Church, Erie, PA

A Lay Council sponsored three-day celebration, some have used to word revival, focused on Commitment, Service, Worship and Praise. Filled with Giving, Hospitality, Faith and Worship. Led by our amazing Episcopal Leader, The Right Reverend W. Darin Moore and Connectional Leader, Dr. Mary J. Matthews. Putting forth the question

"From That to This...Are You Committed?"



Mrs. LaWanda Goodwine, Lay Council President
 First Good Samaritan AME Zion Church
 3209 Pennsylvania Ave.
 Erie, Pennsylvania 16504
 814-455-5622 (O) fgsamezchurch@gmail.com
 Rev. Amos Goodwine, Jr., Pastor



SOUTH ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Mrs. Loranda Melton, Regional Director
Georgia Conference News
Betty Stephen, President
August, 2018

The Georgia Conference Lay Council is walking in the Light of Joy! Districts are busy with their membership campaign, voter



Comedian – Tre'Z

registration, and prison ministry. Kudos to the Georgia Conference for their outreach project, the Prison Ministry. This conference is really stepping up their effort to assist those who are incarcerated. They have implemented a Dial Soap Ministry to collect Dial soap for those persons who are incarcerated. This is a major outreach project sponsored by the Conference Lay Council. The Conyers-Wider district is excelling in this ministry. Presently they have given over 1,000 bars of soaps.

The Augusta District has been very busy with the We-Care Ministry. The district has developed relationships with homebound members, non-members, and social agencies of healthcare. The Atlanta District is working with the Millennials and Centennials local groups serving as ambassadors to churches in the Atlanta District sharing what meaningful is to them.

The Conference Lay Council participated in the Georgia Conference 150th Legacy Gala held on August 4th, 2018 at 6:00 pm. This event was held at the Marriott Airport Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. At the gala, two district presidents, Mrs. Janice Williams and Mrs. Linda Cratic were recipients of awards.

MANY THANKS to the PRESIDING ELDERS, PASTORS, PRESIDENTS AND THE MEMBERSHIP FOR ALL OF THEIR SUPPORT AND EFFORTS AS THEY CONTINUE TO WALK IN THE LIGHT OF JOY!

THE COLUMBIA-CAMDEN DISTRICT LAY LUNCHEON
A Huge Success - Palmetto Conference

Linda Jones – SAED Reporter/ Author and Ernestine Alexander – Co-author

All roads led to Antioch AME Zion Church for the Columbia-Camden District's Annual Ozeir McBeth Lay Luncheon on July 14, 2018. Each year the celebration of the laity is to recognize

and honor those persons from each church who go above and beyond the call to promote denominational loyalty and work diligently within their local churches. It was a beautiful black and gold affair that simply wowed the guests and members as they entered the Dr. Juanita S. Scott Educational Hall, where the Antioch Church family and Pastor, Reverend Robert Benton left no stone unturned to host this wonderful event. Each Pastor of the District presented and introduced a lay member from their church to receive this prestigious award.

One of the many highlights of this celebration was the stand-up comic routine of one of Columbia-Camden District's pastors, the Reverend Henry Gregory, III who kept the audience in stitches with laughter. Loranda Melton, District President wanted to bring a new twist to the celebration this year; it proved to be an overwhelming success and a great time was inevitable.

After a deliciously catered meal, President Melton announced the 2017-2018 Lay Person of the Year for the Columbia-Camden District, Pamela Jones of Edwards Chapel AME Zion Church Camden, SC where the Pastor is Reverend James Hayes.



Jones Memorial Award Recipient



Mrs. Melton, Mrs. Ethel Campbell and Elder McLamb

SOUTHWESTERN DELTA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Ms. Stephany Ricks-Fields, Regional Director



The West Tennessee Mississippi Lay Council hosted a Lay Council Convocation on June 9, 2018 at Zion Chapel in Crowder, Mississippi. The theme for this event was "Reviewing Our Practices". Ms. Stephany C. Ricks-Fields, our Southwest Delta, Regional Director served as the presenter for the hour on "Reviewing Our Practices in the A.M.E. Zion Church based on instructions found in Biblical passages. Ms. Fields divided attendees into small groups to discuss what the does Bible say about the practices of a Christian. (Scriptures were taken from Samuel and 1st King)



Mrs. Debra Jones made a political presentation on voter registration and our political actions. The Convocation met with the purpose of enlightening our lay persons with insight on our practices in Zion. Chester Johnson the West Tennessee Mississippi, Lay Council President seeks to concentrate on the purposes and objectives of the Lay Council and to encourage the laity. This was a wonderful and enlightening event.

WESTERN EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

**Rynette L. Nixon, Regional Director
Bishop Staccato Powell, Presiding Prelate**



The California Conference is looking forward to the 2018-19 conference year. Following the CA Conference Officers Retreat their boots are on the ground encouraging Laity education and training. Workshops have been amazing along with future District and Conference Retreats to Re-Tool and Re-Fuel the commitments to the ever-growing laity. California Conference & District Lay Officers 1-Day Retreat was well attended and an outstanding

experience setting a Godly example for the 2018-19 Laity Conference year. Conference and District Officers in attendance with fresh ideas and refreshing input regarding a Healthy Team. Willing workers, ministry servants and compassionate listeners to obstacles that may be considered challenges however as leaders our conversation and discussion reminded us to pray, be intentional, transparent and focus on Christ. Inspiration, motivation, membership, training and seeking assistance as needed is key.

CA Conference "HEALTHYteam" 2018-19.

LAY CALENDAR:

September 29-30, 2018

CA Conference Laity 2-Day Retreat
Location: TBA

October 6, 2018

Bay Cities District Lay Meeting
Time: 10am-12pm
Location: Kyles Temple AME Zion Church
912 Florida Street, Vallejo CA

Joy in Jesus
Ms. Pat Hunter



Statement of Purpose

Theme: “A changing church, but an unchanging God.”

AN OPEN LETTER TO ZION

(A special appeal to the steadfast and faithful member of the 51st Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church).

Dear Sons and Daughters of Varick:

The International Ministers and Lay Association in collaboration with the Connectional Lay Council invite you to the Legislative Summit which will be held November 7-9, 2018, at the Kenneth Monroe Transformation Center, 745 Saluda Street, Rock Hill, SC 29730. The Summit is designed to serve as a special legislative prelude to the 2020 General Conference. The purpose is instructional pertaining to the legislative process, and the development of pertinent legislation which will help to strengthen our beloved Zion. The goal is to make significant progress in helping to draft or craft legislation, in the same spirit that Paul directed the church in Corinth in 1 Corinthians 14:40, “but all things should be done decently and in order.” We anticipate a productive summit as well as build consensus, collaborate and work through compromises resulting in proposed legislation that will transform and sustain Zion.

The Legislative Summit will be A-Political as committees will deal with every major aspect of the church, including brief presentations on General Conference Rules, Roberts Rules of Order, legislation geared towards our Children and Youth, Millennials and Young Adults, Social Justice and the role and responsibilities of potential delegates.

We are encouraging all interested Zionites to attend this joint endeavor.

Persons desiring to serve on any of the committees are urged to visit imlaamezion.org which list the same, or contact either Reverend Erich Shumake at 502-905-2956 (email: pastorshu1@hotmail.com) or Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey 704-637-8687 (email: ytracey@bellsouth.net).

“South Atlantic Regional Transformation Center



NOVEMBER 7-9, 2018



51st

QUADRENNIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
**LEGISLATION DEVELOPMENT &
SUMMIT MEETING**

KENNETH MONROE TRANSFORMATION CENTER
ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA

COME AND BE A PART OF THE IMPORTANT WORK OF EXAMINING AND DRAFTING LEGISLATION FOR THE 2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE. REGISTER ONLINE IMMEDIATELY FOR SPACE ON THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE OF YOUR CHOICE AND TO COMMIT TO A LEADERSHIP ROLE ON YOUR COMMITTEE OF CHOICE.

Sign up today!

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

**Registration fee NOT required to sign up for a committee or to note your concerns.*

CHOICE OF COMMITTEES TO JOIN TO DEVELOP RESOLUTIONS:

See 2016 Book of Discipline Table of Contents

Conferences • Ministry • Judicial Administration • Temporal Economy - local • Temporal Economy - General Administration • Temporal Economy- Standing Committees

CHOICE OF COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP ROLE

- Committee Co-Chair (one lay, one clergy - per committee)
- Committee Consultant (General Officer or high level of experience with topic)

IMLA Committee Registration: <https://www.imlaamezion.org/2018-legislative-summit/>

REGISTRATION & HOTEL INFORMATION

\$100 REGISTRATION FEE PAYABLE BY OCTOBER 12, 2018.

*Registration includes: meals, snacks, materials and local transportation.

Hotel Registration: Fairfield Inn & Suites, Holiday Inn, Hilton Gardens (Rock Hill, SC)
<https://mmxreservations.com/fer/#/rockhill?pageCode=AMELay2018>

Summit Leadership Team:

Rev. Dr. Anthony Witherspoon, IMLA President • Dr. Mary J. Matthews, CLC President
Rev. Dr. Eleazar Merriweather, Chair, Legislation Committee
Presiding Elder Erich Shumake, Co-Chair Legislation Committee
Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey, Co-Chair Legislation Committee



51st General Conference Legislation and Summit Meeting African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Sponsored By
The international Ministers and Lay Association and The Connectional Lay Council

You Are Cordially Invited to Register On-Line for:

1. Choice of Legislation Development Committee – No Fee – WHEN: Now
2. Choice of Hotel Accommodations (Rock Hill, SC) – No Deposit – When: Now
3. Legislation Development and Summit Meeting (Nov. 7-9, 2018) - \$100 Fee-
When: By 10/12/18

Five Top Reasons to Participate

1. Mingle and Learn from Knowledgeable & Influential Minds of Zion
2. Jump Start Your Campaign for General Conference Delegate
3. Join or Lead a Team Developing General Conference Resolutions
4. Build Collaboration for Annual Conference & Departmental Resolutions
5. Develop Into an Empowered Change Agent for Zion

***The Connection* Newsletter Information**

The main thrust of “The Connection” newsletter 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 all of Zion.

The Connection would like to receive articles from you about what the local Church, Presiding Elder District, Annual Conference or Episcopal District Lay Councils are doing or plan to do. The newsletter is published during the month of **March, June, September** and **December**. Email all articles to clcoffice@amezhqtr.org.

Deadlines for submitting articles are:

February 15th
May 15th
August 15th
November 15th



If you are sending photos please make sure you identify the key persons (district, conference, regional officers, presiding elders, pastor etc.) in the photos.

If you would like to receive *The Connection* newsletter, send your email address to: clcoffice@amezhqtr.org.

“Come with us to Christ!”