

# THE CONNECTION

## Newsletter

**Connectional Lay Council**

*The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*

March Edition - 2021

Joseph King Davis, Jr. - Editor



# SEE YOU IN ATLANTA

**CLC 12<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention  
HYATT REGENCY | ATLANTA, GA  
August 1 through 4, 2021**

## FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

*Greetings!*

*Warm wishes of faith, hope and love during this beautiful, grace-filled Lenten Season. Hopefully, the colder weather will soon be a distant memory. However, spring does not officially arrive until March 20<sup>th</sup>, so it is still possible to see some more wintery weather. The Coronavirus Pandemic has stretched every church to find new ways to fulfill its mission to be the **Body of Christ**. I hope we can clearly see now that the church was never the building. It is and always have been people who make up the church. In this era of church building closures to promote social distancing, we are learning anew what it means to be the Church. As the Pandemic begins to weaken, we need to shift our attention to how we can prepare for the day when we're able to return to our church buildings. It's not going to be church-as-usual. We need to use this unique window of opportunity to assess the ministries of our churches before relaunching into a new "normal"*



*Dr. Mary J. Matthews*  
**International President**

**THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL**

3225 W Sugar Creek Rd, Charlotte, NC 28269

Phone: 704-599-4630 Ext. 2566

Fax: 704-688-2551

Email: [clc100@amezhqtr.org](mailto:clc100@amezhqtr.org)

Website: [connectionallaycouncil.org](http://connectionallaycouncil.org)



# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

March Edition - 2021

### FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Plans for the 12<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention are in full throttle. We are asking everyone to start registering now using the paper forms; online registration will be available during the month of March. Paper forms can be downloaded from the CLC website or from your Regional Director. We are planning for an in-person meeting, until instructed otherwise. We have not been given hotel reservation information yet; we will get that information out to you as soon as we receive it.

Let us continue to give to the Lay Sunday offering, that we can reach our goal and establish the Lay Leadership Endowed Scholarship with Hood Theological Seminary.

I want to commend and thank the local churches for continuing to renew your Lay Council memberships and adding new members to your rosters. Because of your commitment to Lay Ministry our membership numbers have not decline much. Thank you for shifting to meeting virtually and staying connected in the ministry of the Connectional Lay Council. God bless and keep you in all of your endeavor! Stay Safe, Stay Healthy! *Dr. Mary J. Matthews*, International President

### IN THIS EDITION

- Cover page – President
  - Pg. 1 – President, Recipe
  - Pg. 2 – Updates from 1<sup>st</sup> V.P.
  - Pg. 5 – Souvenir Journal
  - Pg. 26 – Registration Form
- More inside**



### HEALTHY HEART

*Make smoothies as healthy mid-morning snacks. Blender, variety of at least three fruits, water, low-fat milk or sugar-free juice, sweeteners. Blend and enjoy!*



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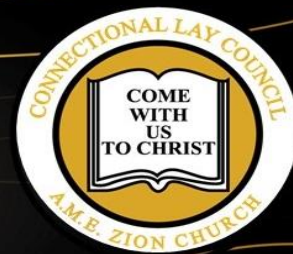
### CELEBRATING

*WOMEN'S MONTH  
Kamala Harris  
President of the United  
States of America  
First woman and first  
African American –  
Asian ethnicity*



From the Desk of the First Vice President  
of the Connectional Lay Council of the A.M.E. Zion Church

*Leondras "Lele" Davis*



Greetings Zionites,

It is by God's grace that He has kept us, and we are here to see a new year! A new year will bring about new beginnings. I do believe He is working it out in our favor. I pray that you are not only adhering to the CDC guidelines for the Coronavirus, but you have or are making plans to get the vaccine. I heard a doctor explain, if you decide not to take the vaccine, you are subject to VD-the Virus or Death! Let's be sure to double mask up when out during your daily activities and refrain from social gatherings from those that are not in your "bubble" (outside of your household). Get the vaccine and wear your mask!

**February** has been designated as **Black History Month**. Many of us have shared a moment, hour or days throughout the month, but the truth of the matter is we should celebrate our history throughout the year. One reason is we are making history 7 days each week and 12 months each year and we deserve to celebrate us. President Obama did not make history in February, MLK did not make history in February, nor did the many others Black Americans that we come to recognize and pay tribute to. February should be a month to Kick off celebrating Black Americans or be the month of culminating the annual celebration of our history, not just the past, but those who are making contributions to our history during this lifetime. Certainly 2020-2021 has taught us a lot that we can write in our history books. We certainly have had many Black American "firsts" to salute over this past year... We can start with the BLM movement, Kamala Harris, Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman, and AA female Scientist Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett who is praised as key scientist behind the COVID 19 vaccine which has led to the effort to solve this global pandemic. This is just to name a few... There were many 1st time judges, senators and members of congress. Who is on your list of AA from Feb 2020 -Feb. 2021? Let's begin to celebrate year-round. If we don't celebrate us, then we can't expect others to celebrate our history and our culture.



### 12<sup>th</sup> QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

We are getting ready, and we pray you are too! The Convention plans are well underway. The Quadrennial Lay Convention will immediately follow the General Conference, August 1-4th, in Atlanta, GA. Pack your bags for 2 back -to -back historic events. The Convention theme is "Empowered by the Spirit with Strength to Serve". There will be much to learn and participate in at the Convention. Registration forms are ready and online registration will open soon. Registration is \$195.00 until June 30, 2021; late and on-site registration \$225.00. You may register by mail or fax. If you fax your registration form, payment must be paid via cash app (\$clcamez) or Givelify. Payment must accompany all mail in forms. Mail to Connectional Lay Council, Attn Pricilla Leeper, PO Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221.

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## THE 12<sup>th</sup> QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION PREP...

### SOUVENIR JOURNAL

The CLC will provide a 2021 historic souvenir digital journal for the 12th Quadrennial Lay Convention (For a printed copy of the journal, please indicate your choice on the order form). Your ad may be in the form of a congratulatory expression, for a loved one, in honor of or in memory of or business advertisement. Please submit your camera-ready ad with the contract to Shelley Henry, Souvenir Journal Committee Chair at [Saghenry328@gmail.com](mailto:Saghenry328@gmail.com). Ads may be purchased in the following categories: front inside cover (\$200.00); Back inside cover (\$200.00); Back outside cover (\$200.00); full color page (\$125.00); 1/2 color page (\$75.00); and Friends of CLC (\$25.00). Electronic payments can be received via cash app (\$CLCamez) or mailed to the Connectional Lay Council, PO Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221-6770. Local churches, District Conferences and Episcopal Districts are asked to work with your Regional Director to solicit ads. The date to submit camera-ready ads is June 1st.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

As we prepare our Memorial Program, we are asking your help to provide the names and pictures of the local church members that transitioned during the period of August 2017-June 1, 2021. Each local church, district, and conference is asked to forward your information to your Regional Director in order to be included in the tribute. Regional Directors are asked to please forward your information to the Memorial Program Chairperson, Rynette Nixon at [Rlnixon@comcast.net](mailto:Rlnixon@comcast.net). The deadline to submit your information is June 1st.

*Matthews 5:4  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.*





# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

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### THE 12<sup>th</sup> QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION PREP Continues

From 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Leondras "Lele" Davis

#### BISHOP GEORGE J. LEAKE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The Bishop George J. Leake Endowed Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to AME Zion clergy planning to attend Hood Theological Seminary. Your financial support and donation in any amount to help in this endeavor will be greatly appreciated. Tax deductible contributions may be made individually, or as a group, church, district, or conference and forwarded to the CLC Office, PO Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221-6770. Crystal Awards for donations in the amounts of \$500., \$1000., \$2500. or higher will be presented at the Bishop GJL Scholarship Breakfast at the CLC Quadrennial Convention. Contributions for the Crystal Awards are due by June 1st. You may contact Mrs. Rose Stokes, Scholarship Committee Chairperson [rffstokes@gci.net](mailto:rffstokes@gci.net) should you have questions or concerns.



#### CLC WE CARE PRAYER CALLS

CLC We Care Prayer Calls Many thanks to CLC Chaplain, William Manning and our CLC Regional Directors for taking the lead the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays for us to unite in prayer. We are truly thankful that we have been able to pray for and with one another as laity. We thank those of you who have been able to be a part of the prayer calls when we prayed for Zionites in Central Southern Africa, Western West Africa and Eastern West Africa. We adjusted the time to allow the overseas Episcopal Districts an opportunity to call or zoom in. Remember if you have any prayer requests, please forward to William Manning, [wfm258@msn.com](mailto:wfm258@msn.com). Join us via zoom as we pray for and with Eastern West Africa Episcopal District, Chuck Williams, Regional Director, Tuesday March 9th @ 1:00pm.

#### Important Dates to Remember:

- ✚ June 1<sup>st</sup>- Deadline to submit Souvenir Journal Ads
- ✚ June 1<sup>st</sup> -Deadline to submit names and pictures for the Memorial Program.
- ✚ June 1<sup>st</sup>-Deadline to submit Donations to the Bishop George J. Leake, III Endowed Scholarship
- ✚ June 30<sup>th</sup>- Deadline for early bird registration



# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

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### CLC WEBSITE

CLC Website Let others know what your church, district or conference is doing. I have heard and seen some exciting and wonderful things you are doing to keep moving your LC forward. The CLC website is the first place where people will go when seeking information. Your CLC events can be listed on the Home page of the website. A great place for people to get all the particulars about your event. Keep your information coming. Send us your conference, district, and local church LC events. Please forward pictures as well so we can include them in the photo gallery. This is also a time we can visit each other without leaving the comfort of our homes. I look forward to hearing from you. Please pass this information on for others to share and submit their information.



### THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS:

As we continue to enjoy the preservation of life, continuing with the execution of our duties and responsibilities as servants in the vineyard of lay ministry of the "Freedom Church," I greet you with unparalleled joy, giving praise to the most high God. God continues to be a God of favor, leading us into another production, the March 2021 edition of the "Connection," one of our official organs of communication. I would be remiss as your editor, if I did not express thanks for your continued support, fervent prayers, kindness, generosity and other tangible and intangible contributions, moving us into the next level of excellence. To remain credible in the Kingdom of our God, we must be laity who are focused, faithful and fruitful in our ministry, being intentional in our approaches to address issues that confront the people of God. Without question, our future is determined by the actions we take today, raising the level of commitment and dedication that leads us toward a bright future. The laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church must continue to be the foot soldiers that will keep our ministries and programming fresh and focused. Continuing our journey together on a well-treaded road towards the celebration of the 12th Quadrennial Convention of the Connectional Lay Council, know that God has remained unchanged. We are still kept by His strong hand, the power of His love, and His assured promises to each of us, even in the midst of changing conditions. Remember, God cares, God can, God has, and God will again. The Freedom Church is indeed, a Movement Empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Thanks for contributing to the "Connection" Newsletter.



ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

FEB 15 | MAY 15 | AUG 15 | NOV 15

**Mr. Joseph King Davis, Jr. - Editor**

**Email: [jkdjr1911@frontier.com](mailto:jkdjr1911@frontier.com)**



# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

March Edition - 2021



### CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL The AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

Post Office Box 26770  
Charlotte, NC 28221-6770  
Telephone (704) 599-4630 ext: 2566 - Fax (704) 688-2551



"EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT  
With Strength TO Serve."

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

*Bishop Hilliard Dugbe*  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman

*Bishop Joseph Johnson*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman

*Lynda Byrd*  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chairman

*Mary J. Matthews*  
International President

*Leondras Davis*  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

*Connie Bell Wright*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

*Mireille Landrum*  
Secretary

*Ned Highsmith*  
Financial Secretary

*Cynthia White*  
Treasurer

*William F. Manning*  
Chaplain

February 10, 2021

Dear Clergy, Laity and Friends,  
Greetings in the beloved name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

The Connectional Lay Council is convening its Twelfth Quadrennial Lay Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, August 1-4, 2021. We invite you to express your congratulations, advertise your business, remember your loved ones, or simply bless this event by purchasing an ad in our ***Digital Souvenir Journal (flash drive)***. Colored advertisements will be printed in the 2021 Digital Souvenir Journal and placed by Episcopal District. We are asking local churches, districts, annual conferences, and Episcopal Districts to please work with the members of the Souvenir Journal committee and your Regional Director in soliciting ads for the convention journal. Please note, paper journals will be available on request through the journal ad contract which has been supplied with this letter.

Our goal is to produce a high-quality souvenir convention journal. Therefore, we reserve the right to grammatically correct any submitted ad(s). All ads must be camera-ready and accompanied with the Souvenir Journal Ad Contract. Electronic ad submissions are to be emailed to Shelley Henry at [saghenry328@gmail.com](mailto:saghenry328@gmail.com). Payments can be made by **Cash App \$clcamez, check and money order. MAIL CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS to the Connectional Lay Council, PO Box 26770 Charlotte, NC 28221-6770.** Ad(s) will be processed following payment confirmation. The deadline for receiving all ads is June 1, 2021. Because of copyright infringement laws we ask that you do not send copyrighted photos. Any photograph to be returned must include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

We encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to support the Connectional Lay Council. We are counting on your support to help make this Twelfth Quadrennial Lay Convention the most successful ever and we look forward to seeing you in Atlanta, Georgia. Thank you very much for supporting the success of the Quadrennial Lay Convention and may God bless you.

Yours in Christ,  
*Shelley Henry*  
Souvenir Journal Committee Chair

*Mary J. Matthews*

## 12th QUADRENNIAL LAY CONVENTION

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH



August 1 – 4, 2021  
Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel  
265 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta Georgia

Leondras Davis, Convention Chair  
Mary J. Matthews, International President

Quadrennial Theme:

*"Empowered By the Spirit  
with Strength to Serve"*



### SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD CONTRACT

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY)

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: **JUNE 1, 2021**

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Episcopal District \_\_\_\_\_

#### AD SIZE AND PRICE — CHECK SELECTION(S)

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Front Inside Cover            | \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Back Inside Cover             | \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Back Cover                    | \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Color Page               | \$125.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Half Color Page               | \$ 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of CLC (20 words max) | \$ 25.00 |

Number of Ads Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Submitted: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- AD(s) MUST BE EDITED AND CAMERA-READY
- Photo(s) can be submitted within the ad or as an attachment to emails.
- Electronic submissions are to be emailed to Shelley Henry at [sashenry328@gmail.com](mailto:sashenry328@gmail.com)
- Or Ad(s) can be sent via US Mail to Shelley Henry 1 Gardner's Lane Ansonia, CT. 06401
- Payment can be made by way of Cash App \$cicamez, CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS will be accepted by the CLC Central Office. Mail payment to Connectional Lay Council PO Box 26770 Charlotte, NC 28221-6770
- Ad(s) will be matched with online and check payment receipt and then processed.
- Direct questions to Shelley Henry, chairperson at (203)751-0433 or email questions to the above email address
- *Only digital copies of the journal will be available at the convention.*

A journal will be provided for half-page ad amounts and higher.

Please indicate your choice to receive the journal: Paper Journal \_\_\_\_ Digital Journal (flash drive) \_\_\_\_



# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

March Edition - 2021



### Connectional Lay Council The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Bishop George J. Leake, III Scholarship Committee

March 3, 2021

Dear Zionites:

The Connectional Lay Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is the proud promoter of the Bishop George J. Leake, III, Endowed Scholarship which awards scholarships to clergy members of the A.M.E. Zion Church to attend Wood Theological Seminary.

We are proud to announce the formation of our 'Crystal Award'!

The Crystal Award exemplifies vision, integrity and empowerment and encourages the courageous and inspiring legacy of Bishop Leake. Bishop Leake urged the Connectional Lay Council to "make a difference" and it is in that spirit that the scholarship fund was initiated to perpetuate his memory and dedication to Zion Methodism. The Crystal Awards are the vehicles we plan to use to help devote us to the next level.

There are three tiers of giving:

\* Gold -- \$2,500

\* Silver -- \$1,000

\* Bronze -- \$500

The awards will be presented at the 2021 C.L.C. Quadrennial Convocation (August 1 -4, 2021 in Atlanta, Ga.) to the awardees. Those awardees not in attendance will be acknowledged and will receive their awards at a later date. We encourage your Episcopal area, Region, Conference, District and Local congregations to participate in this endeavor. You are also invited and encouraged to participate as an individual donor, or by honoring someone else, and you may also make a gold, silver, or bronze contribution in memory of a special loved one.

In your budget for the conference this year, we encourage you to please consider the Bishop George J. Leake, III Endowed Scholarship and become one of our recipients of the prestigious 'Crystal Awards'. We will accept contributions until June 1, 2021 as you work toward this worthy goal. All funds raised will be applied to the Bishop George J. Leake, III Endowed Scholarship Fund.

God's Blessings as you take this step of faith!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rose L. Stokes, Chairperson  
Bishop George J. Leake III, Endowed Scholarship Committee

Dr. Mary J. Matthews, International President





# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



Connectional Lay Council  
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

## The Connectional Lay Council



Presents



*The Bishop George J. Leake, III  
Endowed Scholarship*

*Crystal Awards*

*The award exemplifies  
Vision – Integrity – Empowerment*

*Your commitment of giving will support the financial needs of divinity students  
enrolling at Hood Theological Seminary.*

Crystal Award Donation Levels:

|        |            |
|--------|------------|
| Gold   | \$2,500.00 |
| Silver | \$1,000.00 |
| Bronze | \$ 500.00  |



*Awards will be presented during August 2021 Quadrennial Lay Convention*

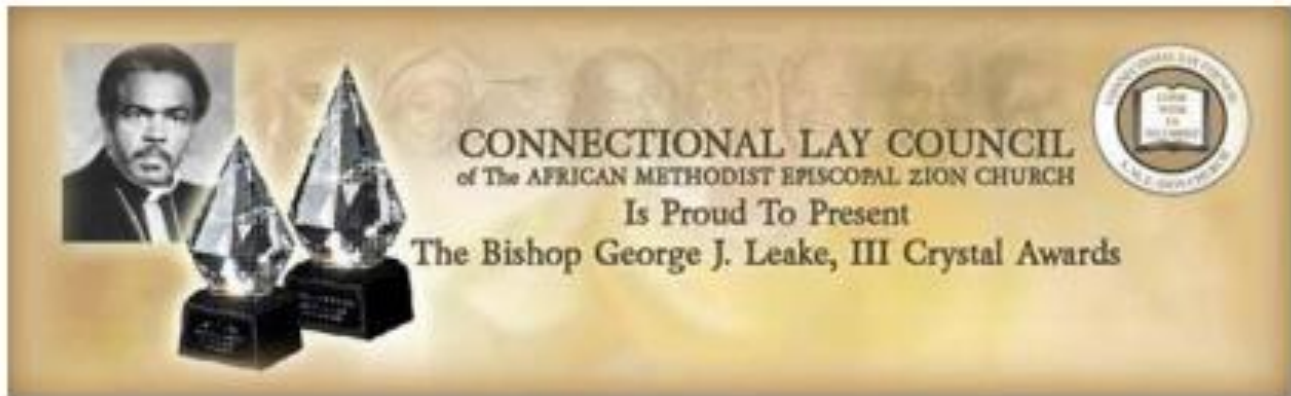
*Make your Tax-Deductible Donations before June 1, 2021*

**Payable to:** Connectional Lay Council, AME Zion Church

**Mail to:** P.O. Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221-6770

*Rose L. Stokes, Scholarship Committee Chair  
Dr. Mary J. Matthews, International President, CLC*

**Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15**



**Contribution/ Pledge Form (Individuals)**  
**The Bishop George J. Leake III Crystal Awards**  
**Benefactor: Endowed Scholarship for Hood Theological Seminary**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*I would prefer that this contribution and/or my name be kept confidential. Thanks!*

**Contribution or Pledge (check one)**

**IN THE AMOUNT OF:**

\$5,000  \$2,500  \$1,000  \$ 500  \$100  \$50  Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**A REPEATING Contribution, AS FOLLOWS:**

A sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Once every  Month  Quarter  Year, equaling a Total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to the Connectional Lay Council**

**Mail To: Connectional Lay Council, Attn: Bishop Leake Scholarship Fund  
P.O. Box 26770 Charlotte, NC 28227**

**Or Pay Electronically by Cash App or Givelify**

**\$ : Scamez Givelify: Connectional Lay Council AME Zion Church**

**Email form to [clcoffice@amezhqtr.org](mailto:clcoffice@amezhqtr.org) when paying electronically**

**Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15**



## **Contribution Pledge Form (Lay Councils/Departments/Affiliates)**

**The Bishop George J. Leake III Crystal Awards**

**Benefactor: Endowed Scholarship for Hood Theological Seminary**

Lay Council/ Department/ Affiliate: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Bishop: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contribution or Pledge (check one)**

**IN THE AMOUNT OF:**

\$5,000  \$2,500  \$1,000  \$ 500  \$100  \$50  Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**A REPEATING Contribution, AS FOLLOWS:**



A sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Once every  Month  Quarter  Year, equaling a Total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to the Connectional Lay Council**

**Mail To: Connectional Lay Council, Attn: Bishop Leake Scholarship Fund**

**P.O. Box 26770 Charlotte, NC 28227**

**Or Pay Electronically by Cash App or GiveLify**

**: Scameez : GiveLify: Connectional Lay Council AME Zion Church**

**Email form to [clcoffice@amezion.org](mailto:clcoffice@amezion.org) when paying electronically**



# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

March Edition - 2021



*William Manning*  
CLC Chaplain  
wfm258@msn.com

### GREETING FROM THE CLC CHAPLAIN

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. My prayer is that these words find each of you in good spirits and health. In March of 2020, this world in which we live was overcome with what we know now to be a global pandemic caused by a virus, Covid-19. None of us expected any of this but God's Word had given us warnings of these things to come.

There are scriptures that give us encouragement throughout the Bible, but I would like to reference just one at this time, Hebrews 11:1. The scripture says that Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Our hope in this moment is that soon and very soon this pandemic will be lifted from the land and God's people will be healed. We know not the day nor the hour that we shall be called from labor to reward, but we should be working in the vineyard with expectations of the Lord's return. We are soon to cross the threshold of one year since the start of the virus in this country, but our hope should be in the evidence of vaccines being developed and distributed. I am keenly aware that many lives have been affected during these trying days and many families have suffered with the transitioning of loved ones. But as the song writer penned; *"There's a better day a'coming, by and by."* Yes, days have been idle while everyone is in expectation of things returning to normal, but God knew the plan and he has allowed us to adjust to the new norm by using what we have at hand, technology.

As we progress forward into the days ahead, we look forward to the time when we shall meet face to face once again and greet each other with joyful exuberance. As we continue to pray one for another let's reach out to someone that may be less fortunate than we ourselves and lift them through words of encouragement that they too may find hope in God's divine word.

May each of you continue to find comfort in knowing that God cares as He continues to watch over us both day and night. We give Him praise for all He has done and continues to do in our lives. He died that we might have the right to the tree of life and have it more abundantly. May God's peace be upon each of you.

Yours in service,

*William F. Manning, Sr.*  
Chaplain/Connectional Lay Council





# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

### TOWARDS A GREATER FELLOWSHIP!

Submitted by Dr. Larry B. Johnson  
CLC Education Committee Member



**Dr. Larry B. Johnson**  
Education Committee

“What a **fellowship**, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.” What congregation has not sung this familiar hymn, often at the end of the worship experience or of the Sacrament of Holy Communion? If it is like one church, I know of, when the congregation gets to the refrain, “leaning, leaning,” the masses jovially sway to the right and then to the left in unison with the words and music. Here is the question though: would we sing this song at a non-church event, such as a graduation or a banquet? Can you imagine replacing the National Anthem with it and seeing all the fans lean to the right and then to the left? After all, the use of the hymn points to group camaraderie and esprit de corps. Uh, I don’t think so.

Let us first think of things in terms of categories, for, simply speaking, almost everything has different types or varieties of itself. For example, one can buy green beans (or string beans) whole, cut, or French style. There is ice cream that comes in vanilla, chocolate and strawberry flavors; but even they have their own varieties, such as homemade vanilla or French vanilla or Neapolitan if all three flavors come together. Moreover, we do not just buy a car; we buy a certain kind of car as we would buy a certain kind of television or wear a certain type of hair style. Even the virus of the pandemic comes in varieties or strains. And let us not forget the Holy Bible. Some of us have, of course, the King James Version; but there is also the New International Version, among others. Yes, things have their own varieties of themselves, and we pick and choose varieties that best suit our wants, purposes, and needs. So it is with fellowship, which comes in more than one format and goes beyond a gathering of people who mingle around a certain cause. Yet, for us believers, our **fellowship** is built around one main divine principle although we may exercise that principle in different ways. When we think of **fellowship**, we often think of it from a social construct; that is, we see it as a gathering of people who are mingling, conversing, perhaps eating.

As churchgoers we see it as a time to gather and communicate socially the love of God among his people; so, when we pass the peace and sing “What a **Fellowship**” or give the right hand of fellowship, we are being social, using social constructs like hugging and shaking hands. However, there is more to **fellowship** than hugging and kissing while passing the peace. In fact, I want to suggest that because we are disciples of Christ, our **fellowship** should lean more toward the spiritual construct than to the social construct; that is to say, **fellowship** at its core ought to plant the seeds of evangelism, ultimately leading to greater discipleship. We first plant the seeds of evangelism by reading the Bible (any version), which is our tool for developing **fellowship**. There are scriptural references that point to a joyful, loving fellowship as a means to a healthy Christian community of believers, or it could be said that a healthy Christian community of believers is the means to a joyful, loving **fellowship**. For example, John, the apostle of love, writes about having **fellowship** with other believers. “We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have **fellowship** with us. Moreover, our **fellowship** is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete” (1 John 1:3-4, NIV). I use the term “a community of Christian believers” because it is clear from the scriptures that true **fellowship** occurs among believers. “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what **fellowship** can light have with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV). For us, then, there is only one kind of **fellowship** and that is the **fellowship** that puts us in communion with God although we may commune in different ways. So, a house party is a gathering; it is not **fellowship**. A sports game is a gathering; it is not **fellowship**. Even a Lay Council meeting is a Lay Council meeting and not **fellowship**, unless, of course, part of it is given to **fellowship** if those gathered invoke and express fellowship with the Holy Spirit. We also plant the seeds of **fellowship** through evangelism. It is clear from the Class Meeting system of John Wesley and the Class Leader



# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

*Dr. Larry Johnson, Continue...*

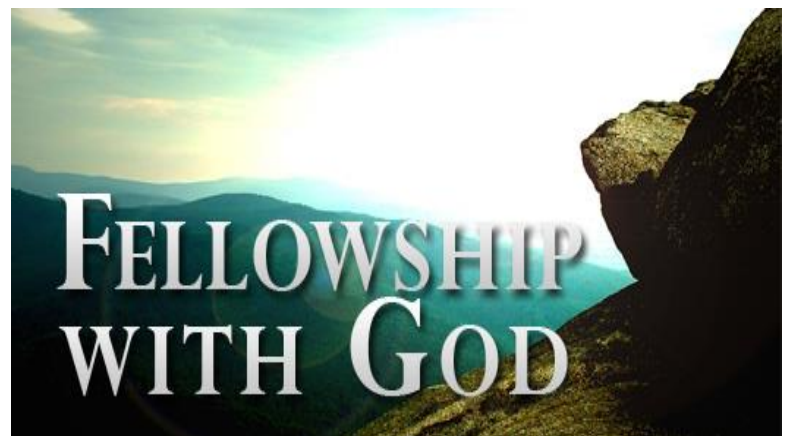
system of James Varick and the Zionists that **fellowship** is an essential part of evangelism. I am reminded of a stanza in the hymn, “Bless Be the Tie That Binds,” for it is in **fellowship** that “we share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear.” Echoing both of these bishops, **fellowship** is the seat of conversion. Wesley did not design the **fellowship** of the Class Meeting to be a collection pool for assessments and dues. He said that the testimonies and narratives of faith of the people in the small groups were more impressive than the reported numbers of the crowds that assembled for open-air sermons.

In this way, **fellowship** helps to provide spiritual edification. In a recent Lay Academy, Mrs. Katherine S. Burrell, Regional Lay Council President of Mid-Atlantic and President of the Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference emphasized that in the process of **fellowship**, sheep are feeding sheep. “By feeding [God’s] sheep, we not only **fellowship** with each other but we, more importantly, also serve others through evangelism. As laity, ‘our calling or vocation is to witness in Word, deed and presence to the tidings of salvation,’ for we are called to reach out to others to ‘Come with Us to Christ.’”

Finally, we also plant the seeds of **fellowship** when we commune one with another in the name of Jesus. “Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Matthew 18:19-20, NIV). I have said before that **fellowship**, like most other things, comes in different forms so that there can be **fellowship** with two as there can be with two hundred. You and your prayer partner can fellowship if you are communing with God; but if you start talking about the politics of the day, you have moved out of **fellowship**. Likewise, if there is a Trustee Board meeting, part of it can be devoted to **fellowship** before the meeting resumes. Hence, we can **fellowship** for an hour; we can **fellowship** for ten minutes. Does it appear that I am suggesting that we can move in and out of **fellowship**?

Perhaps I am. If we, for example, are in a meeting and someone says, “Let us pray,” it is the same as saying, “Let us **fellowship**.” If a group of people are together without invoking the presence of God, they are not in **fellowship**. “And our **fellowship** is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3, NIV). So, a **fellowship** dinner, then, is not a **fellowship** if the diners are just eating and talking and laughing—at least not in the spiritual construct.

Indeed, reading God’s Word develops our potential for greater **fellowship** when we engage in evangelism and commune with others. Yet, there is another kind of **fellowship**-- perhaps the most significant. That is, although we **fellowship** one with another, there is no **fellowship** like a personal fellowship with God—just you and God. How magnificent it is when we go to our prayer room and find ourselves in communion with Him, where “prayer is the soul’s sincere desire, unuttered or unexpressed, the motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.” In this way, we build a greater relationship with Him so that we are empowered to strengthen our **fellowship** with others and work towards sharing our faith as we continue to “mature believers and make disciples” in the **Fellowship of the Holy Spirit**.



## Piedmont Episcopal District

Dorothy Gill-Smith, CLC Regional Director

Gloria Joyner-Johnson, Reporter

Bishop George E. Battle, Jr., Presiding Prelate



## REGIONAL NEWS – PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Greetings from the Piedmont Episcopal District Laity,

To God be the Glory for the things He has done for us during this time of crisis and pandemic. We continue to be in prayer for all of our Episcopal Leaders, Connectional Officers and Conference Officers across our A.M.E. Zion Church. Yes, we continue to be faced with the Coronavirus. But, through it all, God provides for us, protects us and makes a way for us to continue to worship and serve Him through technology, Social Media and other means. Even though the vaccine has been made available, we still must remain vigilante to stay safe, stay well, and follow protocols to protect others and ourselves.

The Piedmont Episcopal Region is elated to report that we held our second Virtual Lay Academy on February 3, 2021 with Mrs. Leondras “LeLe” Davis, CLC’s First Vice President, who shared with us on “Reaching and Operating in Our Potential”. Her information covered various aspects of operating in our potential through a powerpoint presentation; and Mrs. Connie Bell-Wright shared information pertaining to our CLC Memberships, our goals, how we are to submit our memberships, and deadlines. She encouraged all of the Districts to increase their memberships in their local churches. Even though there may be 100% of churches having Lay Councils, we still need to increase the memberships in each local church. We continue to emphasize and lift up Lay Memberships and the CLC goal of 50,000 members by the CLC 12<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention. We thank our CLC Officers for taking the time to be with us for our Virtual Lay Academy. We had approximately 58 persons to join the Lay Academy.

We have also supported our CLC “Prayer Calls” conducted by other Episcopal Areas, Regional Directors and our CLC Chaplain – Mr. William Manning during this quarter. In addition, we are serving with the Convention Committee in planning and preparation for the upcoming CLC Convention.





# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

### REGIONAL NEWS – PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

#### *Lincolnton District Lay Council's Celebration of the Season "From the Cradle, to the Cross to the Crown"*

*Sunday, December 13, 2020*

*3:00pm*

*Mr. William Manning, District President*

*Reverend Dr. Charles F. Tillett, Jr., Presiding Elder*

*Celebration of the Season Program*

*Mr. William Manning, Presiding*

Prelude

Call to Worship.....Mr. William Manning

Invocation

Scripture and Prayer.....Mr. William Manning

Affirmation For Laity.....Mrs. Cheryl Davis

Occasion.....Mrs. Lele Davis

Membership Report.....Ms. Linda Starnes

Announcements.....Ms. Essie Crawford

Closing Remarks.....Mr. William Mannin

Reverend Dr. Charles F. Tillet, Jr., Presiding Elder, Lincolnton District

Lay Council Closing Prayer: Oh God Our Father, pour out your steadfast love upon us and keep us in your care, now and forevermore. AMEN

#### **LINCOLNTON DISTRICT LAY COUNCIL REMINDERS...**

- ❖ Many thanks to our program participants who were willing to share in the LDLC Celebration of the Season Christmas Program.
- ❖ CLC Lay Day Offering is still ongoing and LDLC Assessments per church (\$125.00 per church is due)
- ❖ In lieu of the Kwanzaa Celebration Registration/fundraiser, the LDLC is asking each church for a financial support of \$100.00 by Sunday, December 13, 2020.
- ❖ All checks are made payable and mailed to: Lincolnton District Lay Council, PO Box 680416, Charlotte, NC 28216
- ❖ Save The Dates | 12th Quadrennial Lay Convention | August 1-4, 2021 | Hyatt Regency | Atlanta GA | Immediately following the Gen. Conf.
- ❖ You are cordially invited to join the CLC Bi-Monthly Prayer Calls that are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month via Conference Call. You may send your prayer requests to William Manning – wfm258@msn.com. The next Prayer Call will be December 22nd, 2020 @ 8:00pm.
- ❖ "WE CARE" Notices- Please contact or send to: Mrs. Frances Griggs  
151 Eaker Dr. | Cherryville, NC | 704.214.9076 Griggs.Frances51@yahoo.com



**605.313.6058 Code: 773910#**





# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

### REGIONAL NEWS – PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

*North Charlotte District Lay Council  
Western North Carolina Conference  
Dr. Wardell Henderson, P.E.*

*V. Carolyn Hubbard, District Lay Council President  
Gloria Joyner Johnson, Reporter*

#### *Churches that participated in the Food Security Program sponsored by The Department of Health and*

##### **HOPEWELL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH**

Rev. Christopher Springs, Pastor  
Mrs. Ida Henderson, Lay Council President

*By the Grace of God, Hopewell was able to give out to those in need and was able to assist five families with physical and medical needs.*



##### **CLEMENT MEMORIAL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH**

Rev. Shelia Herron, Pastor  
James Davis, Lay Council President

*Clement Memorial gave out 78 - \$100.00 gift cards from Food Lion Grocery Store.*

##### **TORRENCE CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH**

Rev. Ellison Bowman, Pastor  
Cindy Saunders, Lay Council President

*Torrence Chapel received funds from the from Food Insecurity grant. They gave out 120 Food Lion Grocery store gift cards of \$25.00 each to church members and people in the community. Additionally, Torrence Chapel held a winter coat and blankets drive. We took the items to Tent city, which is a homeless camp. We gave food, clothing and toiletries to the Legacy Light families and friends. Our Steward Board gave senior members, some church family members and the Smithfield community Christmas carry out dinners.*

##### **ROCKWELL A.M.E ZION CHURCH**

Rev. Jordan B Boyd, Pastor  
Stella Johnson, Lay Council President

*Rockwell received funds from the grant and was able to give \$100.00 gift cards to 257 Food Lion shoppers. They also gave 110 gift cards to Project Lift at West Charlotte Senior High School and the Double Oaks Community as well as 100 food boxes.*



##### **UNION BETHEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH.**

Rev. Keno Cannady, Pastor  
Brenda Sullivan Lay Council President

*Union Bethel completed the execution of all activities related to our food Insecurity project, "Project Kitchen Apron." All of the \$20,604 grant funds have been exhausted. Hello Fresh boxes were delivered the week of December 28, 2020 to 145 families. Other churches in North Charlotte District Churches that did not receive grant funds also carried out programs to help feed and clothe those in need in their surrounding communities.*

##### **MOWING GLADE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH.**

Rev. Morgan Glenn, Pastor  
James Daniels Lay Council President

*The members of Mowing Glade were able to give out complete Thanksgiving dinners to 20 families. They reached out to the social workers at the following schools: J.H. Gunn Elementary school, Albemarle Road Middle, Northridge Middle, Independence High and Rocky River High. Three families from each school received all the fixing for dinner. Five families in the community received dinners, for a total of 20 dinners.*

##### **WATKINS CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH**

Rev. Stephen Howard, Pastor  
Norman Frontis, Lay Council President

*The lay leaders purchased food from the grocery stores to prepare baskets to take to those in need. They also go to the Christian Mission and deliver food.*

##### **LITTLE ROCK AME ZION CHURCH**

Dr. Dwayne A. Walker, Pastor  
Gloria Joyner Johnson, Lay Council President

*Upon applying for funds from the one million dollars received by the Piedmont Episcopal District for distribution to those affected by the pandemic and food disparities from the state of North Carolina, the Culinary ministry, headed by Mrs. Mattie Kluttz with the assistance of her daughter Stephanie Haynes, acted immediately.*



# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

### REGIONAL NEWS – PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

*North Charlotte District Lay Council, continues...*

#### **LITTLE ROCK AME ZION CHURCH**

*With the funds the kitchen was updated with new commercial appliances to include a stove, a refrigerator, freezer, fryer, convection oven, counter tops and cabinets. They then cooked turkeys, chicken, vegetables, and purchased bread, chips. Juice and desserts. Various other non-perishable foods were purchased to pack and distribute to families in need in low-income housing. The ministries included were the Street Ministry, Bread of Life, Heaven's Storehouse, Transportation, Lay Council and Security. Little Rock delivered 975 hot and cold meals and 196 boxes (containing fresh produce, whole turkeys, chicken and non-perishable foods). The church continues preparing hot meals every Wednesday and Saturday for those in need.*

**Rockwell A.M.E. Zion Church**  
Western North Carolina Conference  
North Charlotte District  
Rev. Dr. Wardell Henderson, P.E.  
Rev. Jordan B. Boyd, Pastor  
Stella Johnson, Lay Council President



Submitted by Stella Johnson and  
V. Carolyn Hubbard

Rev. Jordan Boyd and the members of Rockwell are very committed to helping not only church members but also those who live in the community in and around the church.

On Sunday November 15, 2020 we partnered with Village Heartbeat by giving away 190 Vegetable and Fruit boxes to those persons that came to the church for the boxes. They came from Derita, University, Sugar Creek and other areas of Charlotte.

On Thursday November 19, 2020 Rockwell partnered with CMS and Hendrick Motors and gave out 75 boxes with turkey for Thanksgiving dinner.

On November 21, 2020 Rockwell partnered with Village Heartbeat and Farmers to Families Food Boxes gave out 1300 food boxes to the community, several churches and the homeless who are living in a hotel not far from the church.

During Christmas Rockwell partnered with Catholic Diocese and gave out 25 boxes.

We also participated in the Food Security Program sponsored by The Department of Health and Human Services and the office of the Governor of North Carolina. We received a grant from the Food Security program of \$33,000.00. We were able to give out 257 Food Lion grocery store gift card in the amount \$100.00 to persons shopping at the different Food Lion grocery stores. We also gave 110 Food Lion gift cards to Project Lift at West Charlotte Senior High School and the Double Oaks Community. We also gave away 100 food boxes at the drive-up at the Church.



# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

### REGIONAL NEWS – PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

**Western North Carolina Conference Meeting/Academy**  
Gloria Joyner Johnson, Reporter

On January 23, 2021, the Western North Carolina Conference (WNCC) Lay Council held a virtual conference led by Mr. Jerry McCombs, President. Following the devotion by the chaplain, Mr. Gerald Rush, the business session began with the minutes of the previous meeting by the Secretary reports from the treasurer and the 2nd Vice President's membership report. Mrs. Connie Bell Wright gave guidance on reporting memberships for this year and the due date to the conference no later than March 27, 2021. The We-Care chair gave her report which was followed by a prayer by Presiding Elder Grant Harrison, Salisbury District. The six District presidents (Charlotte, Lincolnton, North Charlotte, Salisbury and Winston-Salem) gave the reports of their districts work since the last meeting.

Mrs. Dorothy Gill-Smith, Regional Director of the Piedmont Episcopal District brought greetings and words of encouragement. She stressed the significance of the membership campaign to everyone but especially the 2nd Vice Presidents at the local, district and conference levels. Each local church was asked to continue to send articles of their activities for publishing in the Lay Connection."


The academy portion began with the introduction of the facilitator by the WNCC 1st Vice President, Mrs. Leondras "Le-Le" Davis. Dr. Renee Davis is a licensed Psychologist with a private practice. She spoke on the subject of "Mental Health."


At all times, but especially during the pandemic, your mental health is negatively affected. Mental health is how you think, feel, your mood and behavior. It also has a bearing on your ability to work with others and how you go about making your decisions. Dr. Davis gave detailed examples of what the Bible says about Mental Health. There are no specifics but it does address diverse diseases, those possessed with devils, melancholy, being weary and heavy laden and so on. A few of her scriptural references included Matt.4:24-crushed spirits, Proverbs 12:25-broken hearted, double-minded (schizophrenia), Philippians 4:6-7-anxiety. Through all these things we must pray, yet encourage others to seek professional help.

Positive biblical reinforcement can be found in Ps.4:4 – acknowledge God and His presence in your life, Phil.4:8-the power of a positive attitude and Ex.20:10-11; Mark 6:31 – selfcare and timeout. These are just some of encouraging truths found in scripture that address mental health. Just remember that you are not alone, God sees you and is with you and you only need faith the size of a mustard seed. Dr. Davis left us with a humorous saying seen on a t-shirt, "I have God and a Therapist Too!"

Mr. McCombs announced the upcoming connectional meetings to include the IMLA on February 27, 2021, the Board of Bishops, February 18, 2021 and the Lay Convention on August 1-4, 2021.

The meeting closed with the Lay Council Closing Prayer.


**The Salisbury District Lay Council**  
**Annual Mary G. Dawkins Systematic Lay Academy**  
 By Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



The Salisbury District Lay Council Annual Mary G. Dawkins System Lay Academy was held virtually on Saturday, February 6, 2021 from 9:00am – 10:30am. The theme, COVID-19: Rethink Church...Best Practices! was developed to compliment the CLC Quadrennial Theme for 2017-2021 "The "The Freedom Church: Refocusing on Our Purpose, Reviewing Our Practices, Retooling Our People, Reaching Our Potential".

Mrs. Andrea Black, Secretary of the Lay Council, served as the Presiding Officer. The academy opened with a welcome and order of the day by the presiding officer who called on Ms. Angela Plummer to lead the inspirational devotion.

**The Objectives of the Systematic Academy:**

1. Clarification – establish the foundation
2. Transformation – Change way of understanding and thinking
3. Commitment to Resolve– taking the next step where action is appropriate or has merit

Dr. Tracey was the facilitator and the topics presented were:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Best Practices – Church Administration</i>                     | <i>Dr. Grant Harrison, Jr., SD Presiding Elder</i>   |
| <i>Best Practices – Faith &amp; Order</i>                         | <i>Rev. Dr. Derrick R. Anderson, Pastor, Soldiers Memorial &amp; Administrative Assist. to the Presiding Elder &amp; Assistant Financial Secretary</i> |
| <i>Best Practices – Spiritual Formation: Children &amp; Youth</i> | <i>Mrs. Christal McRae, CED Director of Youth &amp; Ms. Tonya Cornelius, CED Director of Children</i>  |
| <i>Best Practices – In reach/ Outreach Ministries</i>             | <i>Dr. Bertha Pittman, Pastor Cedar Grove &amp; Chair Local Church Development Committee</i>   |
| <i>Best Practices - Lay leadership (local thru connectional)</i>  | <i>Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey, Past President CLC</i>  |

Mrs. Dorothy Gill-Smith, CLC Regional Director, and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP gave greetings and an update on the district membership goal for 2020-2021. Dr. Mary Ponds, President, gave greetings and accolades to the steering committee and officers for their work and Presiding Elder Harrison for his support.

The Salisbury District Lay Council Officers are: Dr. Mary S. Ponds, President; Dr. Yvonne Tracey, First Vice President; Dorothy M. Gill-Smith, Second Vice President; Andrea Black, Recording Secretary, Catherine Rivens, Financial Secretary; Delphine McCullough, Treasurer; Paula Robinson, Chaplain, and Jean B. Kennedy, Parliamentarian.

The Systematic Lay Academy is named for Mrs. Mary G. Dawkins who served the Salisbury District as an administrative assistant to a host of Presiding Elders spanning over 50 years of service and in 2019 transitioned to be with the Lord.

The academy concluded with the Lay Council Closing Prayer. The link is provided for you to access the information presented.

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# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



Connectional Lay Council  
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

## REGIONAL NEWS – MID-ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Mid Atlantic Episcopal District  
Katherine Burrell, Regional Director



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

*“Freedom Church, Refocusing on our Purpose,  
Reviewing our Practices, Retooling our People,  
Reaching our Potential.”*

“Going Boldly to Rekindle Our Potential.”

**MID ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CONFERENCES:  
THE PHILADELPHIA AND BALTIMORE, VIRGINIA, ALLEGHENY,  
EAST TENNESSEE-VIRGINIA, AND OHIO**

### Regional News

Doing God’s Work, what does that mean in a time such as this? How and what do we do? I believe that we the Laity are called for such a time as this to keep our churches alive and vibrant. We must “Keep on Keeping on!” We shall never reach our potential, but we must never stop trying. Doing God’s work may be challenging in these times of having been in a “stay at home” mode for a year. Yet, we must continue to obey our calling to bring other to Christ. Our work will not be completed until Jesus returns. So wake-up everybody! Tomorrow we have work to do conventions to plan, workshop to lead and live to help save. Re-Light the fire!

In talking to the Lay leaders of Mid Atlantic, I find that there was a time of rest and re-grouping, but there is excitement and planning today! Each Conference and District Lay Councils are planning their Lay hour for their respective Conferences.

To the Glory of God!

Respectfully Submitted by  
Katherine S. Burrell  
Regional Director Mid Atlantic Episcopal District



# THE CONNECTION Newsletter




## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

### REGIONAL NEWS – MID-ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

#### *The Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference Katherine S. Burrell, President*

A Scholarship Workshop was held to help potential high school seniors and juniors to apply for The Samantha M. Wormley Memorial Scholarship Fund. The program was planned by the Scholarship Committee, chaired by Mr. Gil Turner. Mr. Turner and his team led the workshop with excellence. Dr. Larry B. Johnson presented on “How to write an essay.” Mrs. Stephanie Williams presented on completing the application and highlighting the importance of answering all questions. Ms. Patricia Scott presented on Financial Aide and the importance of getting all the necessary paperwork in on time. We were also joined by one of our former recipient Ms. Naomi Campbell.

Consider Joining our Birthday Club to support The Samantha M. Wormley Memorial Scholarship Fund or join us at our Stay- at- Home Banquet for some Faith, Fun and Fellowship with guest Master of Ceremony, Minister Robert Richardson and music and dance by J & J Experience. “Faith, Fun, and Fellowship.

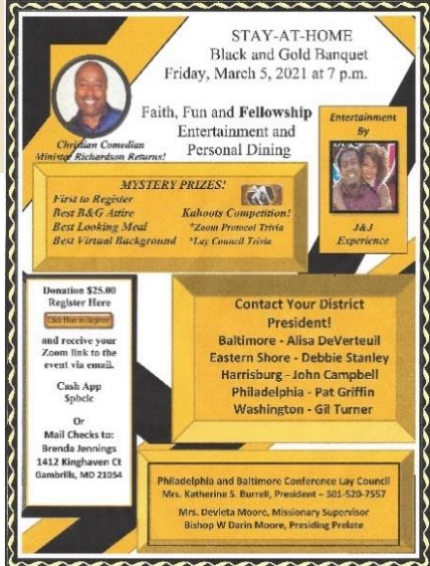


Celebrate with Us.  
Support the Samantha Wormley  
Scholarship Fund.

Join the  
Philadelphia and Baltimore  
Conference Lay Council  
Birthday / Anniversary Club

By making a monetary gift of your choice  
on your birthday and anniversary  
(wedding or other milestones)

Send your donation payable to,  
The Philadelphia and Baltimore  
Conference Lay Council  
Mrs. Brenda Jennings, Financial Secretary  
1412 Kinghaven Court  
Gambrells, MD 21054  
Mrs. Katherine S. Burrell, President



STAY-AT-HOME  
Black and Gold Banquet  
Friday, March 5, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Faith, Fun and Fellowship  
Entertainment and  
Personal Dining

Entertainment  
By  
J&J  
Experience

MYSTERY PRIZES!

First to Register  
Best B&G Attire  
Best Looking Meal  
Best Virtual Background

Kahoots Competition!  
\*Zoom Protocol Trivia  
\*Lay Council Trivia

Donation \$25.00  
Register Here  
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Zoom link to the  
event via email.  
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Or  
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Brenda Jennings  
1412 Kinghaven Ct  
Gambrells, MD 21054

Contact Your District  
President!

Baltimore - Alisa DeVerteuil  
Eastern Shore - Debbie Stanley  
Harrisburg - John Campbell  
Philadelphia - Pat Griffin  
Washington - Gil Turner

Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference Lay Council  
Mrs. Katherine S. Burrell, President - 301-520-7557  
Mrs. Devicta Moore, Missionary Supervisor  
Bishop W Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate

#### *Columbus-Cincinnati District Submitted by Taletha Davis Jones*

We are having the Columbus-Cincinnati District Conference on March 12-13, 2021. The conference is virtual. The District Lay Council will sponsor a lay academy on Covid-19 scams presented by AARP. Our theme is "**Reaching Our Potential.**" We will elect officers for the year and give two awards.



# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

### REGIONAL NEWS – MID-ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

*Washington District Lay Academy  
Submitted by: Gilbert Turner, President*

Three days before the 2020 General Election, the Washington District, under the leadership of Presiding Elder Alvin T. Durant, found itself meeting virtually in a collaborative effort to educate voters about historical and present-day voter suppression. The Lay Academy was the results of months of collaborative planning by the District's Voter Registration Committee, the District's Lay Council and the Union Wesley AME Zion Church's Lay Council. The Academy was hosted by the Union Wesley AME Zion Church in Washington, DC, which is pastored by The Rev. Dr. Brian S. Relford, Sr.

Mrs. Yvonne Baskerville, Lay Council President at Union Wesley, welcomed Washington District's members and friends to the Lay Academy. The Rev. Dr. Clarence Cross, Co-Director of the District's Voter Registration Committee blessed us with the opening prayer. The prayer was followed by welcoming remarks from the host pastor and the Presiding Elder. Mr. Gilbert Turner, District Lay Council President, introduced the speaker for the first part of our Academy, The Rev. William H. Lamar IV, pastor of the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, DC.

Rev. Lamar greeted the District and succinctly laid the framework for what proved to be an inspiring message on voter suppression. His message was thought provoking, impactful and grounded in sound scriptural and historical research. Each slide took us to school on many levels; speaking to our seniors, young adults and even about those not yet born. The audience listened intently as Rev. Lamar stated, unapologetically, that the objectives of our current governmental structure has accomplished exactly what was intended; to limit the democracy that our people had dreamed about and continue to struggle for. Rev. Lamar's rousing presentation concluded with a period of questions and answers.

Following a health break, the second portion of our Academy was introduced by The Rev. Dr. Michelle Searles, Co-Director, AME Zion CED Varick's Children Ministry, which was the viewing of the award-winning documentary, "Let My People Vote." This documentary is the story of one man, Mr. Desmond Meade, trying to get voting rights restored for all people, especially citizens returning to our society after being incarcerated. Filmed in Tampa, Florida, 2 days before the 2016 presidential election, this short film covered a day-in-the-lives of civil right activists, Mr. Meade and Mr. Marquis McKenzie, going door-to-door registering people to vote. What began as an upbeat day of faith in our democratic process, for them, ends with a heartbreaking realization that racist voter suppressive practices still exist. At the conclusion of the film, the producer, Ms. Gilda Brasch and Mr. McKenzie thanked the Washington District for its interest in the voter registration struggle. They were eager to answer our questions and provide additional information on the ongoing work against voter suppression. At the conclusion of our time together, their forthright responses to our questions and comments confirmed our beliefs that the struggles of discrimination and racial bias would still be with us long after the votes of the election are counted. We cannot be complacent. Our work is not finished!



# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

### REGIONAL NEWS – MID-ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

*Newport News District Lay Council:  
Reaching Our Full Potential Through Retooling  
Submitted by Hurley Daye*

*Newport News District of the Virginia Conference is continuing to cultivate denominational loyalty, disseminate information, and develop the spiritual life of our laity through various media. All of this is to reach our potential using various platforms. Platforms such as conference calls, face book, Zoom and individual study. Due to the current pandemic throughout the world we have changed our mode of presentation to other platforms so as to promote the Kingdom of God to help us reach our potential.*

*We are grateful to Dr. W. R. Watson to provide a brief session of parliamentary procedures via conference call to refresh our memory bank of knowledge acquired in a previous session on parliamentary procedures. This was an effective session for participants during this conference call. We all need to conduct meetings correctly in order to function in our gatherings. for business purposes.*

*We are also thankful for the numerous Zoom presentations presented by our Connectional Lay Council developed by our International President Dr. Mary J. Matthews, Dr. Joyce Perry Edwards, Chair of the CLC Education Committee and the electronic mailings offered by Regional Directr, Mrs. Katherine Burrell. Mrs. Burrell hosted a Zoom Gathering for Mid – Atlantic whereas our district attended.*

*Early morning wake up evangelistic conference calls sponsored by the Evangelism department enhanced our spiritual lives with presenters from across Mid – Atlantic. The messages were spirit filled and seemed like they were designed for encouragement to individuals with specific concerns. Rev. Purlie Banks, an associate Minister at Hickory Grove A. M. E. Zion Church, Franklin, VA provided a plethora of information on the election registration and particulars on voting absentee, and other facts about the practices that occur in some of our polling places. Rev. Banks is a member of the City of Franklin Electoral Board.*

*This District President (Mr. Hurley Daye) continues to visit electronically various forums to acquire information to share with the membership of the Newport News District to encourage educational growth among the people of God through conference calls and local radio announcements and timely emails.*

*All in all we are thankful to God for allowing the opportunities to retool through various platforms. Our prayer is that the pandemic will be lifted from us and we can continue to reach our potential through the various learnings we have received during this time.*



# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



Connectional Lay Council  
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

## REGIONAL NEWS – SAED EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

*African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*

### South Atlantic Episcopal District

Loranda Melton, Regional Director

Grace, Peace, and Blessings to all!

Although we are in challenging times with Covid-19, we serve a God who is a Way-Maker, Heavy load bearer, Miracle worker and Light in the darkness. We are truly grateful that the lay ministry continues to flourish even in the midst of this pandemic. We are thankful to be blessed with technology that allows us to carry out the work of the Lay Council at every level of the church. It is hard to believe that we have been in this Global Pandemic of Covid-19 for a year; However, God has continued to give us the tools and resources to continue his work in the ministry.

On January 30, 2021, Zoom US was the platform for a dynamic leadership workshop entitled ‘The Art of Christian Leadership’. This “Wordshop” was presented by none other than Reverend Thelma Gordon, Pastor of the “Greater” Jones A.M.E. Zion Church. Ms. Loranda Melton, President of the Columbia-Camden District, gave a hearty welcome to the Zoom US attendees including visitors from other various districts within the South Atlantic Episcopal District.

Pastor Gordon began by informing us that “Wordshop” was designed to: 1) Cause us to Consider How We LEAD, 2) Offer Tips to HELP us to “LEVEL UP” our Leadership, 3) DRAW Attention to the WORD of GOD that WILL Lead us to Successful Leadership. She proceeded to ask us to consider our Leadership style. She painted an excellent picture of the Leadership and the Word of God as we traveled through various leadership styles and Biblical leaders. Along the journey we encountered self-reflection as a part of our leadership styles.

Finally, Pastor Gordon discussed in detail the 5 skills of Christian Leadership tying to the Word of God. (1) Building Vision – without vision the people perish; (2) Communications – vision has to be communicated; Habakkuk 2 reminds us to write the vision and make it plain; (3) Strategy – keeps the vision in tact; (4) Teambuilding – Exodus 18 –The story Moses’ father-in-law giving the LEADER some advice and lastly (5) Conflict Management – Ephesians 5:1 Motive Matters; Be imitators of God.

Pastor Gordon concluded the Wordshop with a few nuggets by letting us know that we have to be confident and know that our confidence is not in our ability but rather in God. Another important nugget was to remember that creativity is a plus, along with thinking out of the box. Finally, the most important nugget we were left with is that as a leader in any capacity, we always need to put a PRAYER on it.







# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

### REGIONAL NEWS – SAED EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  
Palmetto Conference Laymen's Council

**Bishop Frencher enthalls the Palmetto Conference Lay Council**  
By Linda P. Jones, Conference Reporter

Acclamations and commendations were the order of the day for Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Presiding Prelate of the Southwestern Delta Episcopal District and Chairman of the Board of Lay Activities on February 6, 2021 as he facilitated the annual Lay Academy of the Palmetto Conference. Exhorter Annie Williams, President of the Palmetto Conference Laymen's Council warmly welcomed the attendees as the program zoomed off to a rousing start. Diane Brice, President of the Spartanburg District Lay Council, presided over the morning's proceedings and Loranda Melton, President of the Columbia-Camden District Lay Council established the protocol that paved the way for a glorious day. Melton also serves as Southeast Regional Director for the South Atlantic Episcopal District for the Connectional Lay Council. After a spirit-filled devotion, the host Presiding Elder of the Spartanburg District, Reverend Dr. Victor Wilson, enthusiastically presented Bishop Michael A. Frencher.

Even a few technical difficulties could not stop the spiritual flow of this dynamic and thoroughly planned presentation. Bishop Frencher started by reminding the attendees of the Theme, "Reaching Our Potential, the Bible Way" and its meaning and saying that there is no need for anybody to settle for just being mediocre, common, humdrum or even mainstream, we were created by God to be the best we can be. He then went on to give the seven attributes that would enable us to reach our potential.

(1) We need to be **Diligent** - I Chronicles 28:7 (2) We need to be **Positive** - Philippians 4:8 (3) We Need to be **Responsible** - Acts 6:2-3 (4) We need to be **Humble** - James 4:10 (5) We need to be **Bold** - Proverbs 2:1 (6) We need to be **Accountable** - Matthew 25: 24-29 (7) We need to be **Purposeful** - Psalm 57:2.

The Bishop concluded this electric session by reminding the attendees that doing their best is the most important thing a person can do in life. As Christians, working in the Lord's vineyard, our primary purpose in life is to worship the Lord and carry out to the best of our ability, His will for our lives. By the end of the day, the zoom chat box seemed to be on overload with accolades from participants for this edifying session. Before recognizing the many guests, who traveled virtually to participate and support the laity of the Palmetto Conference, President Williams acknowledged the steadfast and stellar support of Reverend Dr. Alvin McLamb, Presiding Elder of the Columbia-Camden District and Reverend Dr. Victor Wilson, Presiding Elder of the Spartanburg District.

The visiting guests were a who's who among the leadership of the Connectional Lay Council: Dr. Mary Matthews, Leondras Davis, Connie Bell Wright, Mireille Landrum, Joseph King Davis, Dr. George McKain, and Elvira Faulkner- McIlwain.

#### FAN (Faith, Activity, Nutrition) Program

"...I am praying that all is well with you and that your body is as healthy as I know your soul is." (3 John: 1:2 NLT) Mt. Carmel and Steele Hill AMEZ Churches, Lay Councils, Lancaster District, have joined the FAN Program to promote a healthy church congregation.

FAN is a national program. The University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health, Columbia, S.C., is conducting a research project on the program.

Therefore, we are working directly with its staff. The program requires a number of surveys for the pastor, coordinator, committee, and church members. The training consists of 8 online weekly lessons. We look forward to the opportunity of promoting healthy habits to our church congregation.

Verta W. Looper  
404-408-4075

**Be a FAN for Your Church's Health!**

Want to help your congregation become healthier?  
**FREE ENROLLMENT IS OPEN NOW!**

Faith, Activity, and Nutrition (FAN) training is now **available online**. FAN has helped more than 200 churches become stronger in health.

This effective program is included in the National Cancer Institute's Research Tested Intervention Programs.

FAN Online Training includes 8 engaging lessons. You'll also receive **free resources** to support members in preventing chronic disease and improving health outcomes.

"FAN is a beautiful gift that is being offered to faith communities." - *Reverend Kathy James*

**Sign up for FAN Today!**  
Visit [prevention.sph.sc.edu/projects/fantraining.htm](http://prevention.sph.sc.edu/projects/fantraining.htm) to learn more.

**CONTACT US**  
FAN@femailbox.sc.edu  
877-975-5259

**FAN**  
Faith  
Activity  
Nutrition

"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers."  
- 3 John 1:2 (NIV)



# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

### REGIONAL NEWS – SAED EPISCOPAL DISTRICT



#### PEE DEE Conference “COVID Connect: A Conversation with Healthcare Providers”

“We are our Brothers and Sisters’ Keepers.” The Pee Dee Conference Lay Council and Christian Education Department answered the call to enhance the education of the community on the COVID-19 Virus, which has led to a global pandemic. The seminar, “COVID Connect: A Conversation with Healthcare Providers”, was developed and facilitated by Ms. Verta W. Looper, President, Pee Dee Conference Lay Council and Ms. Brenda W. Chisholm, Director, Pee Dee Conference Christian Education Department.

On January 31, 2021, via Zoom virtual platform, health care providers and others provided critical encouraging facts. Dr. Kharia J. Holmes, M.D., board certified internal medicine physician, addressed “A Critical Decision: Taking the COVID-19 Vaccine.” She presented data of Lancaster, S.C. County: 77 new daily cases are occurring in Lancaster County, 30.59% have been fully vaccinated which is lower than several S.C. counties, and minorities are being vaccinated at a lower rate than whites. She emphasized that minorities are disproportionately dying from the virus. Therefore, it is critical to agree to be vaccinated. Dr. Holmes replaced Dr. Kristin S. Black, M.D., board certified in family medicine, as a panelist, who tested positive for the virus during the week. Dr. Black earlier stated that she can understand the hesitancy, given some of the past medical discrimination and exploitation of some minorities. However, it is critical to get the vaccine. It was, also, highlighted that Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, a hard working African American female scientist participated in the development of the vaccine. Dr. Xaviera Maya Carter, M.D., a board certified obstetrician-gynecologist, discussed “Pregnancy and the Vaccine.” She encouraged pregnant and imminent pregnant women to discuss with their physicians the pros and cons. Dr. Carter concluded with her personal story of testing positive recently, although, she had received the first dose of the vaccine. She stressed the importance of the vaccine, which will reportedly lead to milder symptoms, if one contracts the vaccine. The last presenter was Ms. Ashley Shannon, Marketing and Community Relations Director, MUSC, Lancaster and Chester Hospitals. She informed the audience on “How Can I Get the Vaccine?” On February 1st, MUSC will be offering a new call center to assist with scheduling, 843-876-7227. DHEC’s Care Line is 855-472-3432. MUSC Health Lancaster Medical Center and Primary Care Lancaster Medical are MUSC current Lancaster providers for the vaccine, but more providers are quickly receiving approval. McLeod Health Center, 843-577-7881 is one location that is offering the vaccine in the Cheraw, S.C. area and Care South, 843-623-5080, in Chesterfield, S.C. Following Ms. Shannon were two peers, Mr. Odell Witherspoon, Jr, Steele Hill AME Zion Church and Mr. James Witherspoon,

.Article continues...

White Oak AME Zion Church, who shared, “I Said Yes to the Vaccine.” Mr. Odell reported that he believed in the science of the vaccine and had received his first dose in Charlotte, N.C. Mr. James reported that he definitely took the vaccine in Lancaster because of current health issues, including prostate cancer. Neither has experienced adverse side effects.

Many attendees were recognized for already taking the vaccine and having scheduled appointments. Questions were answered, and the seminar concluded with attendees receiving a plethora of information from diverse presentations, which, also, provided encouragement. The providers reminded the audience that we must maintain CDC preventive measures. After both doses of the current vaccines, there is still a 5% possibility of contracting the virus. Assistance to schedule an appointment was offered after the seminar for anyone who needed it. The facilitators are very appreciative of everyone’s participation and support.

Submitted by Verta W. Looper,  
President, Pee Dee Conference Lay  
Council  
2-14-2021





# THE CONNECTION Newsletter



## Connectional Lay Council THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

### REGIONAL NEWS – SAED EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

#### Georgia Conference Lay Council

The Georgia Conference were honored to partner again with the F.U.N organization to collect DIAL SOAP Bars for the outreach to persons in Georgia's prisons.

The Georgia Conference which is comprised of the **Conyers/Winder District**-Rev. Dr. John Paul Ruth, Presiding Elder, Mrs. Janice Williams, District President donated 3500+bars. The **Augusta District**-Rev. Lelar Hodges-Johnson, Presiding Elder, Ms. Sarah Townsend, District President donated 1400+ bars. **The Atlanta District**-Rev Reginald Morton, Presiding Elder, Ms. Coleen Daly, District Lay President donated 800 bars. In addition, The Landrum Family with Mr. Willie Landrum, coordinating, donated 1000 bars.

Much appreciate the works all of you do on behalf of the Georgia Conference and the partnership with the Dial Soap I look forward to continuing the partnership the late Ms. Betty Stephens (former GA Conf. Lay Council President and Board Chair) forged and fostered until her transition. We continue to cherish her memory.

Yours in Christ,  
Mrs. Mireille Landrum, GA Conf. President (2020-21)  
CLC Recording Secretary (2017-2021)

*"Prayer & Communication results in Progress & Understanding!"*

clcsecretary11@gmail.com  
678.420.8010 (C-11)

#### Georgia Conference Lay Council

The Augusta District took full advantage of the pride we can display without apology always, but especially in February for Black History Month. This year the newly appointed District President, Ms. Sarah Townsend, with the collaboration of her Presiding Elder, Rev. Lelar Hodges-Johnson planned and executed a educational, spirit-filled, diverse Black History Celebration using the 2021 theme: Black Family Relationship: Identity and Diversity. We were blessed with recitations, information and quotes from leaders who changed our lives, such as Fredrick Douglass, and Bishop James Varick. The mediation offered by Rev. Dr. Bernard Johnson took us back in time for a foundation and brought us up to the insurrection on January 6, and that we need to wake up from our slumber like Samuel and hear the call from God that our future is ever before us and what we need to do to care for ourselves and one another.

#### PROGRAM ORDER:

OLD NEGRO POEM: Mrs. Judy Butler

WELCOME: Mrs. Dimi Mapp

SCRIPTURE: Pastor Donald Boulter

PRAYER: Rev. Syteria Townsend

DRAMATIZATION OF FORERUNNERS:

- Frederick Douglass - by Master Gabriel Horton

- Sojourner Truth - by Ms. Mamie Holiday

- Harriet Tubman - by Ms. Rachel Miller

- J. H. Johnson - by Master Jamaal Miller

- Bishop James Varick - by Master Dwaylan Bull

MEDLEY OF NEGRO SPIRITUALS:Dr. Gale LeVon Bell

SPIRITUAL MEDITATION: Rev. Dr. Bernard Johnson

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP: Presiding Elder Lelar Hodges-

Johnson (PE. Augusta District/Mt. Zion AMEZ, Augusta, GA-Pastor)

SELECTION: "Somewhere around God's Throne" Mrs. Fredica Moss

APPEAL/ OFFERATORY PRAYER:Ms. Deborah Wilcox

REMARKS: Ms. Sarah Townsend, Augusta District President Lay Council

CLOSING SELECTION: "Lift every voice" - Mr. David Postell

CLC CLOSING PRAYER: Oh God, our Father, pour out your steadfast love upon us and keep us in your care. Now and forever more. Amen. Author: Mildred Faulkner



**AUGUSTA DISTRICT LAY COUNCIL**  
Georgia Conference  
South Atlantic Episcopal District

Ms. Sarah Townsend, District President  
Rev. Lelar Hodges-Johnson, Presiding Elder/Pastor

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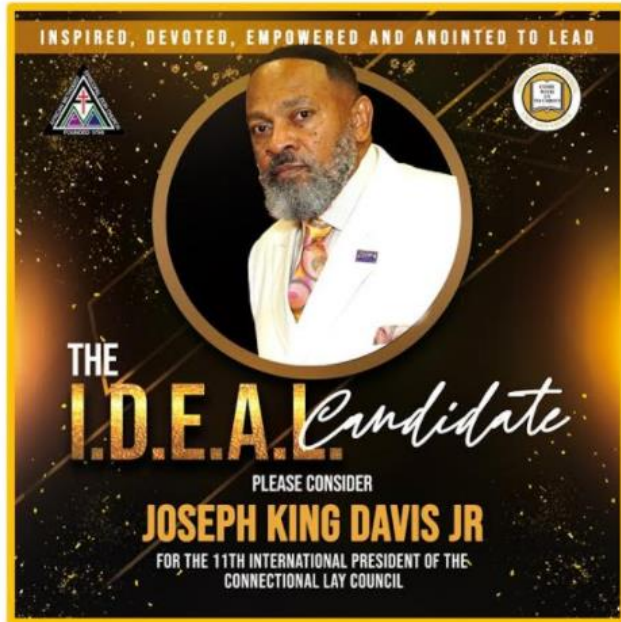
Celebration

Saturday, February 13, 2021  
2 p.m. via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 843 9306 8711 Or Dial In: 929-205-6099 No password

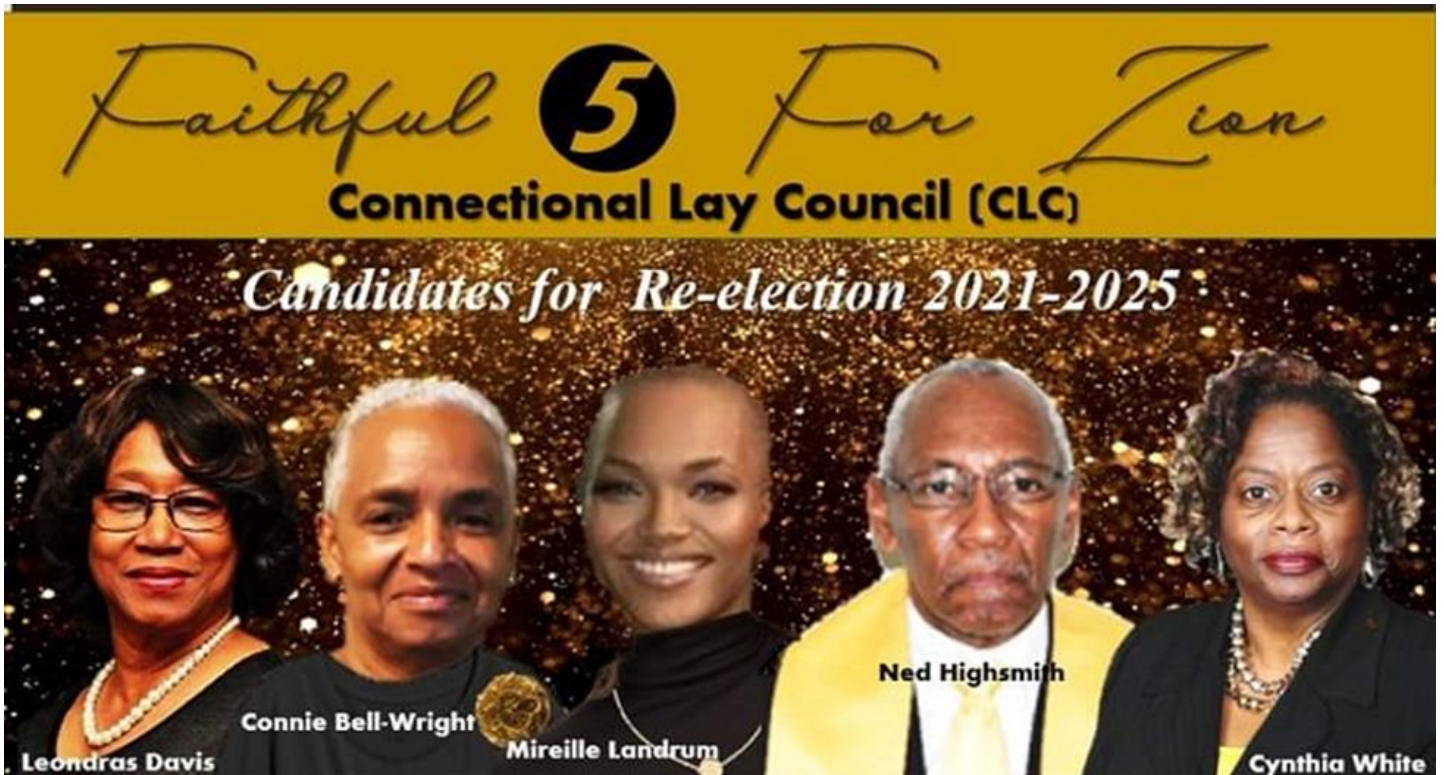
Mrs. Lovetta Holmes, Missionary Supervisor  
Bishop Mildred B. Hines, Presiding Prelate-SAED

“Committed to  
Connecting, Cultivating  
and Collaborating  
Across the Globe”



**THE FAITHful 5 for Zion – CLC Incumbents offering ourselves for re-election – 2021-2025**

We, the Incumbent Officers of the Connectional Lay Council solicit your prayers, your support, and your vote at the CLC 12<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Lay Convention. We are offering ourselves to serve you again the next Quadrennial 2021-2025! Follow us on our Facebook page *The Faithful 5 for Zion!* **Leondras “Lele” Davis, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Connie Bell Wright, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Mireille Landrum, Recording Secretary; Ned Highsmith, Financial Secretary; and Cynthia White, Treasurer**



# 12th Quadrennial Convention Connectional Lay Council



**African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**

*“Empowered by the Spirit with Strength to Serve”*



**Ms. Leondras “LeLe” Davis, *Convention Chairperson***  
**Dr. Mary J. Matthews, *International President***  
**Bishop Michael Angelo Frencher, *Chairman, Board of Lay Activities***

# 12<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Lay Convention

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

August 01 – 04, 2021

Hyatt Regency Atlanta

265 Peachtree St. NE ~ Atlanta, GA 30303

Shaw Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Host Church

Reverend Eldren D. Morrison, Host Pastor

Reverend Reginald M. Morton, Host Presiding Elder

Rt. Reverend Mildred B. Hines, Host Bishop



## CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

|                      |                   |                                 |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| NAME:                |                   |                                 |
| <i>Last</i>          | <i>First</i>      | <i>Title: (Dr., Rev., etc.)</i> |
| CITY:                | ST:               | ZIP CODE:                       |
| PREFERRED PHONE: ( ) |                   |                                 |
| EMAIL:               |                   |                                 |
| EPISCOPAL DISTRICT:  | ANNUAL CONFERENCE |                                 |
| DISTRICT:            | LOCAL CHURCH:     |                                 |

**Life Member:** Yes  No  **First Time Attendee:** Yes  NO  **Age Group** Under 18  18-40  Over 40

### REGISTRATION FEE: Check Appropriate Box

Early Registration by June 30, 2021  \$195.00

Late (postmarked after June 30, 2021/On-site Registration)  \$235.00

**Registration includes:** Convention bag, Official convention program, Lay Academy materials, Legislative materials, opening reception, ticket for Bishop George J. Leake III Scholarship Breakfast, Challenge Luncheon, and Victor J. Tulane Awards Banquet

#### Additional Event Tickets:

Bishop George J. Leake III Scholarship Breakfast

\$30.00 No. of Tickets

Challenge Luncheon

\$40.00 No. of Tickets

Victor J. Tulane Awards Banquet

\$50.00 No. of Tickets

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make all checks and money orders payable to CLC (Connectional Lay Council). Mail form, with payment to: Connectional Lay Council, Attn. Priscilla Leeper, Post Office Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221. Registration can also be paid via Cash App - \$clcamez or Givelify - Connectional Lay Council AME Zion Church. For Cash App or Givelify payment – registration form will need to be submitted via email or US Mail. For more information Contact Priscilla Leeper, Registration Chairperson (704)866-0742.

**Hotel Reservations:** Hyatt Regency – 265 Peachtree St NE, Atlanta, GA – (404) 577-1234

**Special Physical or Dietary Needs. If yes, check:**

If so, please let us your special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Amount Received: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order No. \_\_\_\_\_ Cash  Cash App  Givelify

Early Registration  Late Registration  On-site Registration

# 2021 Giving Challenge

**CHALLENGE**

I'm In



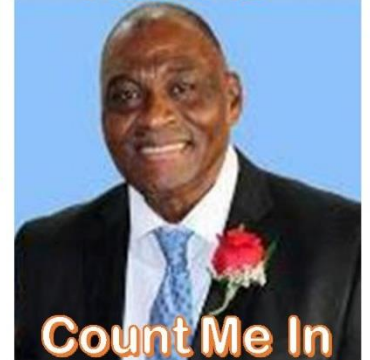
Join Me!

**2,021 Lay and Clergy**

**Give \$10.00**

[\\$clcamez](#)

I Like It



Count Me In

**In Support**

**Of Establishing the**

**“Lay Endowed Scholarship”**

**With**

**Hood Theological Seminary**



**Support Connectional Lay Sunday**

**LAY SUNDAY OFFERINGS**

**December 2020**

| <b>DATE</b> | <b>CHURCH</b>                         | <b>AMOUNT</b>      | <b>EPISCOPAL DISTRICT</b>                           |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 10/19/20    | White Rock                            | \$ 75.00           | P. O. Box 384, Granite Quarry, NC 28072             |
| 10/21/20    | Chi-chi Ray-Leazer                    | \$ 50.00           | 418 Robinson Rd, Salisbury, NC 28144                |
| 11/16/20    | St. Phillip                           | \$ 320.80          | 1330 Ash Street, Greensboro, NC 27406               |
| 11/23/20    | Paul J. Melton                        | \$ 25.00           | 8030 Plank Rd, Norwood, NC 28128                    |
| 11/23/20    | St. Stephens/Lincolnton District      | \$ 300.00          | P.O. Box 680415, Charlotte, NC 28216                |
| 11/23/20    | Trinity-Unity/Lincolnton District     | \$ 50.00           | P.O. Box 680415, Charlotte, NC 28216                |
| 11/23/20    | St. Peters/Lincolnton District        | \$ 50.00           | P.O. Box 680415, Charlotte, NC 28216                |
| 11/23/20    | Vestibule/Lincolnton District         | \$ 50.00           | P.O. Box 680415, Charlotte, NC 28216                |
| 11/23/20    | Bynum Chapel/Lincolnton District      | \$ 30.00           | 213 N. Cansler St., Kings Mountain, NC 28086        |
| 11/23/20    | Rudisill Chapel/Lincolnton District   | \$ 40.00           | P.O. Box 680415, Charlotte, NC 28216                |
| 11/23/20    | Oak Grove/Lincolnton District         | \$ 25.00           | P.O. Box 680415, Charlotte, NC 28216                |
| 11/23/20    | Emmanuel Memorial/Lincolnton District | \$ 75.00           | P.O. Box 680415, Charlotte, NC 28216                |
| 11/23/20    | Neely's Grove/Lincolnton District     | \$ 50.00           | P.O. Box 680415, Charlotte, NC 28216                |
| 11/25/20    | Parker Chapel                         | \$ 30.00           | 578 Old Charlotte Rd, Concord, NC 28025             |
| 12/3/20     | Gilmore Chapel                        | \$ 25.00           | 762 Central Drive, Concord, NC 28037                |
| 12/3/20     | Soldiers Memorial                     | \$ 100.00          | 306 N. Church Street, Salisbury, NC 28164           |
| 12/14/20    | Rocky Mount, Concord District         | \$ 25.00           | 1547 Kingston Drive, Kannapolis, NC 28083           |
| 12/14/20    | Bethel, Concord District              | \$ 25.00           | 1547 Kingston Drive, Kannapolis, NC 28083           |
| 12/17/20    | Walls Memorial                        | \$ 55.00           | 2722 Bancroft St., Charlotte, NC 28206              |
| 12/17/20    | Winston-Salem District Lay Council    | \$ 250.00          | 3900 Bridal Crossing Court, Winston-Salem, NC 27106 |
| 1/4/21      | North Charlotte District Lay Council  | \$ 125.00          | 9411 Misenheimer Rd, Charlotte, NC 28215            |
| 1/4/21      | Blue Ridge Lay Council                | \$ 400.00          | 98 Wedgefield Pl., Asheville, NC 28806              |
| 2/8/21      | Zion Wesley                           | \$ 50.00           | 133 Zion Wesley Church Rd, Troutman, NC 28166       |
|             |                                       | <b>\$ 2,225.80</b> |   |
| 10/21/20    | St. Thomas                            | \$ 200.00          | 810 Bullard Street, Roseboro, NC 28382              |
| 10/21/20    | Monte R. Forte                        | \$ 100.00          | P. O. Box 574, Roseboro, NC 28382                   |
| 10/21/20    | Evans Metropolitan                    | \$ 50.00           | 301 N. Cool Spring St., Fayetteville, NC 28302      |
| 10/27/20    | Vernell C. Burns                      | \$ 25.00           | 3304 Woolwitch Ct, NC, Castle Hayne, NC 28429       |
| 10/27/20    | Porters Chapel                        | \$ 50.00           | 560 Weight Station Rd, Hertford, NC 27944           |
| 10/27/20    | Goldsboro District Lay Council        | \$ 200.00          | 502 Bay Street, Warsaw, NC 28398                    |
| 10/27/20    | New Bern District Lay Council         | \$ 100.00          | 1611 Pembroke Ave, New Bern, NC 28562               |
| 11/4/20     | Solid Rock                            | \$ 30.00           | 710 N. Main St, Wake Forest, NC 27587               |
| 11/4/20     | Lock's Creek                          | \$ 30.00           | 4070 Lock's Creek Church Rd, Fayetteville, NC 28312 |



**LAY SUNDAY OFFERINGS**

**December 2020**

|          |                                    |                    |   |              |
|----------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---|--------------|
| 11/12/20 | Norrington Lay Council             | \$ 150.00          | P. O. Box 1781, Lillington, NC 27546            | Eastern NC   |
| 11/16/20 | Josephine Latimore                 | \$ 25.00           | P. O. Box 1211, Pittsboro, NC 27312             | Eastern NC   |
| 11/23/20 | Holt's Chapel                      | \$ 72.00           | P.O. Box 31, Oriental, NC 28571                 | Eastern NC   |
| 1/4/21   | New Zion                           | \$ 100.00          | 4967 Hwy 705, Robbins, NC 27325                 | Eastern NC   |
| 1/4/21   | Wilmington District/Cape Fear Con  | \$ 1,300.00        | P. O. Box 15576, Wilmington, NC 28408           | Eastern NC   |
| 1/4/21   | Thomascena L. LeGrand (St. Mark)   | \$ 100.00          | 531 S. Roxboro Street, Durham, NC 27701         | Eastern NC   |
| 1/4/21   | Charles E. LeGrand (St. Mark)      | \$ 25.00           | 531 S. Roxboro Street, Durham, NC 27701         | Eastern NC   |
| 1/11/21  | Clarkton District Lay Council      | \$ 200.00          | P. O. Box 1256, Elizabethtown, NC 28337         | Eastern NC   |
| 1/14/21  | Graham Chapel                      | \$ 100.00          | 458 East Arcadia Rd, Reigelwood, NC 28456       | Eastern NC   |
| 1/14/21  | Jesse W. Welcher (St. Mark)        | \$ 20.00           | 531 S. Roxboro Street, Durham, NC 27701         | Eastern NC   |
| 1/14/21  | St. Mark                           | \$ 100.00          | 531 S. Roxboro Street, Durham, NC 27701         | Eastern NC   |
|          |                                    | <b>\$ 2,977.00</b> |   |              |
| 10/19/20 | New Hope                           | \$ 20.00           | 2409 County Road 4030, Holts Summit, MO 65043   | Midwest      |
| 10/18/20 | Valerie Washington                 | \$ 25.00           | Cash App  | Midwest      |
| 10/18/20 | George Walker                      | \$ 25.00           | Cash App  | Midwest      |
| 10/18/20 | Martin Temple                      | \$ 200.00          | 1529 Tina Ln, Flossmoor, IL 60422               | Midwest      |
| 10/18/20 | Theresa Flagg                      | \$ 10.00           | 1326 E 6th St., Centralia, IL 62801             | Midwest      |
| 10/18/20 | Hughlett Temple A.M.E. Zion Church | \$ 25.00           | Cash App  | Midwest      |
| 10/18/20 | Eleazar Merriweather               | \$ 25.00           | Cash App  | Midwest      |
| 10/18/20 | Martha Scudder                     | \$ 25.00           | Cash App  | Midwest      |
| 10/21/20 | Lynda Byrd                         | \$ 50.00           | 21309 W. Redwood Dr., Plainfield, IL 60544      | Midwest      |
| 10/27/20 | Samuel Brown Temple                | \$ 77.00           | 4400 Kennerly Ave, St. Louis, MO 63113          | Midwest      |
| 11/4/20  | St. Peters                         | \$ 75.00           | 4841 Paseo Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64110          | Midwest      |
| 11/12/20 | Speaks Temple                      | \$ 50.00           | P. O. Box 1599, Bellevue, NE 68005              | Midwest      |
| 11/16/20 | Washington Metropolitan            | \$ 100.00          | 6927 Groveland Drive, St. Louis, MO 63121       | Midwest      |
| 11/23/20 | Mt. Pleasant                       | \$ 100.00          | 3664 Grade Rd, Rockford, TN 37853               | Midwest      |
| 12/17/20 | Greater Walters                    | \$ 100.00          | 21309 W. Redwood Dr. Plainfield, IL 60544       | Midwest      |
| 1/4/21   | St. Paul                           | \$ 100.00          | 958 Belmont Ave, Toledo, OH 43607               | Midwest      |
| 1/4/21   | Johnson Chapel                     | \$ 225.00          | P. O. Box 401, Springfield, KY 40069            | Midwest      |
| 1/14/21  | Knoxville District Lay Council     | \$ 325.00          | 3421 Riverview Dr., Knoxville, NC 37914         | Midwest      |
|          |                                    | <b>\$ 1,557.00</b> |   |              |
| 9/24/20  | St. Paul                           | \$ 100.00          | 121 Harriet Tubman Way, Spring Valley, NY 10977 | Northeastern |

**LAY SUNDAY OFFERINGS**

**December 2020**

|          |  |                    |   |              |
|----------|--|--------------------|---|--------------|
| 10/18/20 | Natalie Wimberly                       | \$ 20.00           | 615 Third St., Greenport, NY 11944            | Northeastern |
| 11/12/20 | Metropolitan                           | \$ 90.00           | 76 Belknap Ave, Yonkers, NY 10710             | Northeastern |
| 11/12/20 | St. Stephens                           | \$ 30.00           | 31 Rogers St, Branford, CT 06450              | Northeastern |
| 11/16/20 | Clinton Memorial                       | \$ 100.00          | P. O. Box 736, Greenport, NY 11944            | Northeastern |
| 11/23/20 | Liberating Power                       | \$ 38.75           | 32099 Old Stage Road, Laurel, DE 19959        | Northeastern |
| 12/24/20 | Trinity                                | \$ 35.00           | 203 Oak St, Binghamton, NY 13905              | Northeastern |
| 1/4/21   | Walters Memorial                       | \$ 75.00           | 12 Gregory St., Bridgeport, CT 06604          | Northeastern |
| 1/4/21   | Shrewsbury Avenue                      | \$ 500.00          | 285 Shrewsbury Ave, Red Bank,NJ 07701         | Northeastern |
| 1/4/21   | St. James                              | \$ 115.00          | 116 Cleveland Ave, Ithaca, NY                 | Northeastern |
| 1/4/21   | Peoples                                | \$ 100.00          | 2306 S. Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13205        | Northeastern |
| 1/25/21  | Greater Centennial                     | \$ 750.00          | 1076 Yonkers Ave, Yonkers, NY 10704           | Northeastern |
| 2/8/21   | Frederick Douglass Memorial            | \$ 75.00           | 400-402 Madison Ave, Elmira, NY 14901         | Northeastern |
| 2/8/21   | Jeraldine Swift-Dennison (St. Frances) | \$ 20.00           | 18 Smith Street, Port Chester, NY 10573       | Northeastern |
|          |  | <b>\$ 2,048.75</b> |   |              |
| 11/12/20 | New Prospect                           | \$ 100.00          | P. O. Box 22, Drayton, SC 29333               | SAED         |
| 11/16/20 | Good Hope                              | \$ 55.00           | 967 Gaines Church Rd, Camden, SC 29020        | SAED         |
|          |  | <b>\$ 155.00</b>   |   |              |
| 10/18/20 | St. Mark                               | \$ 50.00           | 1909 Kirkbridge Circle, Yardley, PA 19067     | Mid-Atlantic |
| 11/12/20 | Lomax                                  | \$ 125.00          | 2704 S. 24th Road, Arlington, VA 22206        | Mid-Atlantic |
| 11/12/20 | Tynes Chapel                           | \$ 25.00           | 4832 Dry Ford Road, Rocky Gap, VA 24366       | Mid-Atlantic |
| 11/12/20 | Clinton                                | \$ 200.00          | 223 Elizabeth Ave, Rockville, MD 20850        | Mid-Atlantic |
| 11/23/20 | First                                  | \$ 50.00           | P.O. Bos 6489, Charlottesville, VA 22906      | Mid-Atlantic |
| 12/3/20  | Hickory Grove/Newport News District    | \$ 50.00           | 5115 Hunters Creek Place, Suffolk, VA 23435   | Mid-Atlantic |
| 12/3/20  | O'Berry/Newport News District          | \$ 25.00           | 5115 Hunters Creek Place, Suffolk, VA 23435   | Mid-Atlantic |
| 12/3/20  | Saint Mary/Newport News District       | \$ 50.00           | 5115 Hunters Creek Place, Suffolk, VA 23435   | Mid-Atlantic |
| 12/3/20  | Walters Temple/Newport News District   | \$ 50.00           | 5115 Hunters Creek Place, Suffolk, VA 23435   | Mid-Atlantic |
| 12/3/20  | Zion Southampton/Newport News Distri   | \$ 50.00           | 5115 Hunters Creek Place, Suffolk, VA 23435   | Mid-Atlantic |
| 12/17/20 | Liberating Power                       | \$ 37.25           | P. O. Box 4161, Salisbury, MD 21803           | Mid-Atlantic |
| 12/17/20 | Eastern Shore District Lay Council     | \$ 150.00          | P. O. Box 4161, Salisbury, MD 21803           | Mid-Atlantic |
| 12/17/20 | Price Memorial                         | \$ 50.00           | 221 Barnsdale Road, Charlottesville, VA 22911 | Mid-Atlantic |
| 1/4/21   | Ruth                                   | \$ 14.00           | 95 W. Connelly Blvd, Sharon, PA 16146         | Mid-Atlantic |
| 1/4/21   | St. Matthews                           | \$ 100.00          | Thorn & Walnut Street, Sewickley, PA 15143    | Mid-Atlantic |

**LAY SUNDAY OFFERINGS**

**December 2020**

|            |                              |                     |   |                         |
|------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1/14/21    | Gailbraith                   | \$ 200.00           | 1114 6th St., NW, Washington, DC 20001      | Mid-Atlantic            |
|            |                              | <b>\$ 1,226.25</b>  |   |                         |
| 11/25/20   | AL/FL - Jefferson District   | \$ 300.00           | 402 S. Desounettes Ave, Demopolis, AL 36732 | AL/FL                   |
| 12/14/20   | Jackson District Lay Council | \$ 150.00           | 2880 Radcliff Road, Saraland, AL 36571      | AL/FL                   |
|            |                              | <b>\$ 450.00</b>    |   |                         |
| 11/23/20   | Moorse Chapel                | \$ 73.00            | P.O. Box 215, Coffeeville, MS 38922         | SW Delta                |
| 11/25/20   | Moore Chapel                 | \$ 21.00            | P. O. Box 144, Morrilton, AR 42110          | SW Delta                |
| 1/11/21    | New Beginnings               | \$ 50.00            | P. O. Box 925, Oklahoma City, OK 73101      | SW Delta                |
|            |                              | <b>\$ 144.00</b>    |   |                         |
| 10/18/20   | Dr. Sheila Quintana          | \$ 50.00            | Cash App                                    | Western                 |
| 11/4/20    | St. James                    | \$ 200.00           | 825 Monte Diablo Ave, San Mateo, CA 94401   | Western                 |
| 12/14/20   | Leake Temple                 | \$ 115.00           | P. O. Box 211763, Anchorage, AK 99521       | Western                 |
|            |                              | <b>\$ 365.00</b>    |   |                         |
| 11/30/2020 | Dr. Mary J. Matthews         | \$ 100.00           | PO Box 3155 Sanford, NC 27331               | Central Southern Africa |
|            |                              | <b>\$ 100.00</b>    |   |                         |
| 11/30/2020 | Dr. Mary J. Matthews         | \$ 100.00           | PO Box 3155 Sanford, NC 27331               | Western West Africa     |
|            |                              | <b>\$ 100.00</b>    |   |                         |
| 11/30/2020 | Dr. Mary J. Matthews         | \$ 100.00           | PO Box 3155 Sanford, NC 27331               | Eastern West Africa     |
|            |                              | <b>\$ 100.00</b>    |   |                         |
| 10/18/20   | Perry Young                  | \$ 20.00            | Cash App                                    | Unknown                 |
| 10/18/20   | Kamal                        | \$ 20.00            | Cash App                                    | Unknown                 |
| 10/18/20   | Cheryl Walker                | \$ 50.00            | Cash App                                    | Unknown                 |
|            |                              | <b>\$ 90.00</b>     |   |                         |
|            | <b>TOTAL:</b>                | <b>\$ 11,538.80</b> |   |                         |

## LAY SUNDAY OFFERINGS

December 2020

IT'S VERY SIMPLE:  
**Almsgiving**  
IS TO LOVE OTHERS  
**Fasting**  
IS TO LOVE YOURSELF  
**Prayer**  
IS TO LOVE GOD  
**LENT**  
IS ALL ABOUT **love**

**GOAL: \$50,000**  
All Funds will go To Establishing  
the  
"Connectional Lay Council Lay Leadership  
Endowed Scholarship"  
with  
**Hood Theological Seminary**  
Theological Preparation for Effective Ministry in a Diverse Society

### **This one's (scholarship) for you, Laity! "Celebrating the People in the Pews!"**

As servants of the Most High God, and disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ that are guided by the Holy Spirit, the vision of the Connectional Lay Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is to prepare the lay members of our denomination for a life of service in the Kingdom of God. We will do this by developing ourselves and others as Christian disciples; helping others to know, worship and follow Christ in spirit and in truth; and collaborating and cooperating across organizational, institutional and denominational boundaries to minister to the masses.

All laity in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church are strongly encouraged to catch the vision for Christian Leadership, Accountability, Stewardship and Christian Service so together we might usher in the Kingdom of God through the A. M. E. Zion Church.

The Connectional Lay Council will be the recipient of the 2020 Lay Sunday offering; to established an educational endowed scholarship (CLC Lay Leadership Endowed Scholarship) at Hood Theological Seminary. The scholarship will provide annual scholarships for AME Zion Church lay leaders to attend Hood Theological Seminary. Let us embrace the scripture, II Corinthians 9:7, and give cheerfully in support of the Lay Scholarship.

Continue giving through July 31, 2021! Please make all checks payable to the Connectional Lay Council and mail to Connectional Lay Council PO Box 26770 Charlotte, NC 28221-6770. Additionally, you can give by **cash app** (\$lcamez) or **Givelify**. NOTE: When donating by Cash App include your Episcopal District (Lay Sunday Donation/Episcopal District)