

THE CONNECTION

JOSEPH K. DAVIS, EDITOR

“THE FREEDOM CHURCH: REFOCUSING ON OUR PURPOSE,
REVIEWING OUR PRACTICES, RETOOLING OUR PEOPLE, AND
REACHING OUR POTENTIAL”

May your heart be lifted
in praise this Christmas
for the wonderful gift
of Jesus and the joy He
brings to our lives.

*Merry Christmas
from the
Connectional Lay Council!*



God's Blessings,
Dr. Mary J. Matthews
International Lay Council President
The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church



A Word From Our President

From the President's Desk

Advent Season Greetings!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As you celebrate the Christmas holiday season and the coming New Year with your families and friends, share the blessed reason for the season "the birth of Jesus Christ."

As this year comes to an end, I want to thank each of you for all of your support, great work, sacrifices, and commitment to the ministry of the Connectional Lay Council. Our work makes a real difference in people's lives and your contributions have a lasting impact. On behalf of the CLC Executive Board, we want to thank you for everything you do to bless others through the ministry of the Lay Council.



President Matthews

I am extending a special invitation to each and every reader of this publication to register and attend the 11th Quadrennial Lay Convocation. The Convocation is a place where both clergy and laity comes together to reason out what we are going to the General Conference to accomplished. Then leave united, moving together to do the work of the General Conference. You can find information in this edition. I am looking forward to greeting you in Fayetteville!

In your service,
 Dr. Mary J. Matthews
 CLC President

2020 QUADRENNIAL LAY COUNCIL CONVOCATION
 HOSTED BY EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

MAR 19-21 2020
 save the date

PRE REGISTRATION BEFORE FEBRUARY 15, 2020	LATE/ONSITE REGISTRATION AFTER FEBRUARY 15, 2020
\$135	\$150

REGISTRATION FORMS MAYBE FOUND ON CLC WEBSITE

HOLIDAY INN 2801 YARD LANE FAYETTEVILLE, NC CODE: 655 QUEEN KIP \$115 + 13% TAX SUITES \$189.00 + 13% TAX	WINGATE 4182 BYLANE LARRY DO FAYETTEVILLE, NC ASK FOR RATE! CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL QUEEN \$110.00 + 13% TAX
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LEONDRAS "LELE" DAVIS, CONVOCATION CHAIR
 DR. MARY MATTHEWS, CLC INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
 BISHOP BENNETT MONROE, HOST BISHOP
 BISHOP MICHAEL FRENCH, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

SIMON
 3760 YADKIN ROAD | FAYETTEVILLE, NC

GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

2020 Lay Convocation Schedule

(this is a tentative schedule)



11th Quadrennial Lay Convocation Agenda

Thursday, March 19, 2020

11:00 am to 9:30 pm	Registration	Mrs. Priscilla Leeper
1:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Opening Evangelistic Empowerment Presentation	Dr. Otis T. McMillan
1:30 pm to 3:00 pm	Resolutions and Voting Process (Including Stretch Break)	Dr. Elvin Sadler
3:00 pm to 3:45 pm	General Conference Budget	Dr. Shirley Welch
3:45 pm to 5:00 pm	Administrative Board and Committees	Dr. Gregory R. Smith, Sr.
5:00 pm to 6:30 pm	Welcome Reception Dinner	
6:30 pm to 7:00 pm	Welcome Program	Mr. Hank Dobson
7:30 pm to 9:30 pm	Communion Worship Service	Bishop W. Darin Moore, Preacher

Friday, March 20, 2020

6:00 am to 6:30 am	Morning Watch	Mr. William Manning
7:30 am to 8:30 am	Breakfast with Candidates	Ms. Leondras (<i>Lele</i>) Davis
9:00 am to 10:00 pm	Registration	Mrs. Priscilla Leeper
GENERAL SESSION		
9:00 am to 9:15 am	Devotion/International President's Opening Statement	Dr. Mary J. Matthews
9:15 am to 10:45 am	General Conference Resolutions	Dr. Yvonne Tracey/Ms. Lula Howard
10:45 am to 11:00 am	<i>Stretch Break</i>	
11:00 am to 12:15 pm	CLC Bylaws and Legislation	Dr. Sheila Quintana
12:30 pm to 2:30 pm	Challenge Luncheon	The Honorable Cheri Beasley, speaker
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm	The General Conference (Vignettes for Comprehension)	CLC Education Committee
3:30 pm to 3:45 pm	<i>Stretch Break</i>	
3:45 pm to 4:45 pm	Presentation: Parliamentary Procedure	Dr. Frances Jackson
4:45 pm to 5:15 pm	Introduction of Candidates	
5:15 pm to 7:00 pm	Dinner (<i>On Your Own</i>)	
7:00 pm to 10:00 pm	Episcopal Candidate's Forum	Mrs. Katherine Burrell

Saturday, March 21, 2020

6:00 am to 6:30 am	Morning Watch	Mr. William Manning
7:30 am to 9:00 am	Prayer Breakfast	Mrs. Gelenia Aaron Frencher, Speaker
9:00 am - Until	Registration	Mrs. Priscilla Leeper
GENERAL SESSION		
9:00 am to 9:15 am	Devotion	
9:15 am to 11:00 am	General Officer Candidate Forum	Ms. Stephany Ricks Fields
11:00 am to 11:15 am	<i>Stretch Break</i>	
11:15 pm to 12:30 pm	Young Adult Initiative C.H.A.T.	Mrs. Dorothea (<i>Dottie</i>) Stevens
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Bishop Leake Scholarship Luncheon	Dr. Vergel Lattimore, Speaker
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Presentation: Social Political Action	Ms. Queen Degraphenreid
4:00 pm to 4:45 pm	General Conference Question and Answer Panel	
4:45 pm to 5:00 pm	Convocation Closing	

2020 Lay Convocation



The Connectional Lay Council of the AME Zion Church is looking forward to having **YOU** (Clergy and Laity) come and participate with us at the Eleventh Quadrennial Lay Convocation, **March 19-21, 2020** in the city of Fayetteville, NC.

Early registration only \$135.00 until February 15th 2020

After February 15th registration will be \$150.00

11th Quadrennial Lay Council Convocation

Where

Simon Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
5760 Yadkin Road, Fayetteville, North Carolina, 28303, USA USA

[Click Here to Register & View Event](#)

Please respond by clicking one of the buttons below

YES

NO

Remember to use the Lay Council Closing Prayer

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

2020 Lay Convocation Registration Form



CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL CONVOCATION
THE AFRICIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH
 Eleventh Quadrennial Lay Convocation Registration Form
 March 19-21, 2020
 Simon Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
 5760 Yadkin Road ~ Fayetteville, NC 28303



Theme: "Projecting, Preparing, Planning - for Empowered Participation"

Name:		
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Title: (Dr., Rev., etc)</i>
Address:		Apt/
City:		State/Zip:
Telephone: (Home)		(Cell)
eMail:		
Episcopal District:		Annual Conference:
District:		Local Church:

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

General Conference Delegate: Lay delegate Clergy Delegate Alternate Delegate: Lay Alternate Clergy Alternate

REGISTRATION FEE: Check Appropriate Box
 Pre- Registration by February 15, 2020 \$135.00
 Late/On-site Registration \$150.00

Registration includes: Welcome Reception, Candidates Breakfast, Prayer Breakfast, Challenge Luncheon, Candidates Journal, Registration packet with Convocation program, Plenary Session Materials, *Candidates for General Office Forum, Candidates for Bishop Forum, Young Adult Forum and Dialogue and much more.*

Bishop George J. Leake III Endowed Scholarship Luncheon - \$25.00 Number of Tickets x \$25.00 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make all checks and money orders payable to Connectional Lay Council. Mail form, with payment to: Connectional Lay Council, Attn. Priscilla Leeper, Post Office Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221. For more information Contact Priscilla Leeper, Registration Chairperson (704) 599-4630.

To Access the Registration form, go to: www.connectionallaycouncil.org and "click here to register" on the Convocation Banner at the top on the CLC Home page.

Special Dietary Requirements _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____ Telephone _____

Relationship _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Amount Received: \$ _____ Date Received: _____ Signature: _____

Payment Method: Online (credit/debit) Check# _____ Money Order# _____

Cashier's Check Cash Pre-Registration Late Registration On-site Registration

2020 Lay Convocation

BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL'S CONVOCATION

**~LODGING~
CLC
Convocation**

Holiday Inn 910.491.5352
2501 Two Bale Lane
Fayetteville, NC
CODE: AZC
Queen/Kings \$119.00 + 13% tax
Suites \$159.00 + 13% tax

Wingate Hotel 910.826.9200
4182 Sycamore Dairy Rd
Fayetteville, NC
Queen/Kings \$119.00 + 13% tax



FAYETTEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT

Greetings CLC Convocation Attendee

We are excited and looking forward to having you join us for the CLC Convocation in Fayetteville, NC to be held at the Simon Temple AME Zion Church. As you make your travel arrangements, please note the following:

FAYETTEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT (Grannis Field) is the airport servicing Fayetteville, NC. The following airlines are available: **American, Delta and United.**

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

RALEIGH DURHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (RDU) approximately 77 miles (1hour 13 min) and **WILMINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT** is approximately 93 miles (1hour 43 min) drive to Fayetteville, NC if that is the better option for you.

CLC Ground Transportation

Transportation will be provided for persons with flights arriving and departing from the **Fayetteville Regional Airport only.** To accommodate your travel needs, you are asked to complete the following information by **February 28, 2020** and submit to your request to CLC.FVP@gmail.com

*For questions or concerns, contact Lele Davis, 704.362.0400 or send email to CLC.FVP@gmail.com

I. ARRIVING FLIGHT:

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

AIRLINE _____ FLIGHT # _____

DATE OF ARRIVAL _____ TIME OF ARRIVAL _____

II. DEPARTING FLIGHT:

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

AIRLINE _____ FLIGHT # _____

DATE OF DEPARTURE _____ TIME OF DEPARTURE _____

2020 Lay Convocation Outreach Project



Child Advocacy Center/Fayetteville, NC/Cumberland County

**THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**

CLC Community Service Project

The Connectional Lay Council is committed to supporting a cause or responding to a community need to agencies or organizations in the city or county where the Connectional Lay Council Quadrennial meetings are held. The 11th Quadrennial Lay Convocation will convene March 19th -21st in the city of Fayetteville, North Carolina where the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District will be our host. The CLC will partner with the Child Advocacy Center who serves to protect children from child abuse. The Center is a 501c3 charitable organization who relies on generous donations to fund their program. The organization was founded in 1993 by a group of professionals seeking to coordinate services provided to child abuse victims and their families. The CAC provides safe and child-friendly environment where 19 community agencies come together to interview, investigate and provide support to sexually or physically abused children and their families. In the 2017 fiscal year, the center served 696 families and in 2018 fiscal year 686 families received services. The CAC “**Darkness to Light Training**” educates parents, grandparents, and everyone who works with children on how to recognize, prevent and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The CAC also provides “**Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse Training**” for professionals and organizations on how to recognize signs of child abuse and how to report suspicions of child abuse. The Connectional Lay Council has committed to offer our support to them in their effort to meet some of the needs of victims of human/sex trafficking of children. The Center is a place designed to offer healing and hope to children and their families. We can show our support in one of the following ways. We are asking you to choose the way you wish to help in the community outreach



- I. Provide 10 gift cards to help with purchases of items
- II. Provide 10 “Comfort Bags” – Comfort bags are gallon size zip lock bags filled with items for 2 different age groups – children (younger) and youth (older) See attached list. You may make 5 comfort bags for each age group or 10 for one age group. We ask that you send/bring your bags to the Lay Convocation in March.

Ms. Queen Degraphenreid, Chair, Community Outreach
Dr. Mary Matthews, International President, Connectional Lay Council

~Comfort Bags Wishlist for Children~

Young Children (ages 3-9)

Activity Books
 Crayons
 Coloring Books
 Colored Pencils
 Diaries
 Girls Jewelry
 Pencils (mechanic, untraditional)
 Puzzle Books (Word, Sudoku) Storybooks
 Travel Games (Magnetic ones are great!)
 Card Games (Uno, Old Maid)
 Silly Bands
 Small Toy Cars and Trucks
 Small Dolls/Barbie Dolls
 Toiletry Items (lip balm, lip gloss, comb, brush,
 small deodorant, etc.)

Older Children (ages 10-17)

Card Games (Uno, Old Maid)
 Diaries
 "Door" Basketball Hoop
 Jewelry (ex.- Claire's)
 Nerf Footballs (small)
 Pencils (mechanic, untraditional) Storybooks
 Travel Games (Magnetic ones are great!)
 Chess Sets, Checker's)
 Silly Bands Small
 Toy Cars and Trucks Small
 Dolls/Barbie Dolls
 Toiletry Items (lip balm, lip gloss, comb, brush,
 small deodorant, etc.)
 Small Pencil Sharpeners
 Sudoku Puzzles
 Word Search Puzzle



From the First Vice President

Leondras "Lele" Davis

December 2019



Greetings CLC Family!

The season of Advent and Christmas is upon us and we should keep our focus on the Christ child. We should be like the candles we light during Advent... Be the 1st candle and ignite **Hope**; be the 2nd candle and ignite **Peace**; be the 3rd candle and ignite Joy; be the 4th the candle and ignite **Love** and then be the last candle and receive the **Light of Christ** so that others may see that light in you! Join me in a new tradition this year... beginning December 1st, read one chapter of the Book of Luke each day (24 Chapters on 24 days). On Christmas eve (Dec. 24th), you will have read the entire account of Jesus' life and wake up Christmas morning knowing **WHO** and **WHY** we celebrate!!! And as you prepare to celebrate with your family and friends, I pray that each of you will have a joyous and safe holiday season and that your new year will be filled with many blessings.

Eleventh Quadrennial Lay Convocation

Get Ready! Get Ready! Get Ready! In approximately 2 ½ months all roads will lead to Fayetteville, NC for the 11th Quadrennial Lay Convocation to be held March 19th-21st, 2020. The Reverend Brian Thompson and the Simon Temple AME Zion Church will serve as the host site. Mr. Hank Dobson, CLC Regional Director and the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District will be our host. Bishop Kenneth Monroe is Host Bishop and Mrs. Shelia Monroe is the Missionary Supervisor.

Dr. Mary Matthews, our International President; **Mrs. Lele Davis**, First Vice President/Convocation Chair, and the members of the Steering Committee are working diligently to make the Lay Convocation exciting, informative and a successful event for everyone in attendance. We hope you are excited and getting ready to join us!

The CLC Convocation is the place to be for all laity and General Conference delegates (clergy and lay) as we prepare for the 2020 General Conference. If you are a first time delegate, an alternate or young adult attending the General Conference, the Convocation has been planned with you in mind. The sessions have been designed to make sure you are informed and equipped! Don't let this opportunity to "Know before you go" pass you by! The Convocation theme is **Projecting, Preparing, Planning-for Empowered Participation!**

How much is **Registration**? We are glad that you have asked...



Early bird registration is **\$135.00 until February 15, 2020**

Late and onsite registration is \$150.00.

You may register online, click event on the CLC website, www.connectionallaycouncil.org or download a registration form, complete it and mail with payment to:

Connectional Lay Council
Attn: Mrs. Priscilla Leeper

P.O. Box 26770
Charlotte, NC 28221



Holiday Inn is AZC.

The Wingate Hotel (910.826.9200) is located at 4182 Sycamore Dairy Road. Room rates are also \$119.00 + 13% tax. The registration code for the Wingate Hotel is Connectional Lay Council Convocation.

Here's A Sneak Peek...

Morning Watch-Mr. William Manning, CLC Chaplain and the Prayer Team invite you to join us in prayer using our CLC prayer line- 857.232.0156 and the code is: 502866. If you are not able to attend the Convocation, all are welcome to participate by calling in from wherever you are to as we pray during the Convocation. The Morning Watch call will be held **6:00 am Friday, March 20th and Saturday March 21st**. Remember to share with others.

Lay Academy- Dr. Joyce Edwards and the Education Committee have planned an exciting Lay Academy to assist you in preparation for the 2020 General Conference.

Mr. Hank Dobson, Host Regional Director and the ENC Episcopal District have planned a Welcome Program and Reception. **The Holy Communion and Worship Service** will follow. **Bishop W. Darin Moore**, Presiding Prelate of the Mid Atlantic Episcopal District will bring the Communion Message.



Are You Excited Yet? If not, just take a look at our presenters and speakers! The Reverend Dr. Otis T. McMillan will open our Convocation with an Empowerment Evangelistic presentation. Our presenters include the **Reverend Dr. J. Elvin Sadler** and **Dr. Shirley Welch** who will discuss Resolutions, Voting and the General Conference Budget. The **Reverend Dr. Gregory R. Smith** will discuss Administrative Boards of the General Conference. **Dr. Yvonne Tracey** and **Mrs. Lula Howard** will discuss General Conference Resolutions. **Dr. Sheila Quintana** will discuss CLC By-laws and legislative matters and **Dr. Frances Jackson** will address parliamentary procedures. A panel will be available for Question and Answers.

Our speakers include: **The Honorable Cheri Beasley**, Chief Justice of NC will be the Challenge Luncheon speaker; **Mrs. Gelenia Frencher**, Missionary Supervisor of the Southwestern Delta will be the Heritage Prayer Breakfast speaker (The Prayer Breakfast is a Heritage theme so we ask you to wear African attire); The **Reverend Dr. Vergel Lattimore**, President of Hood Theological Seminary will be the speaker for the George J. Leake Scholarship Luncheon. The scholarship luncheon tickets are \$25.00 per person and can be purchased when you register.

The Candidate's Breakfast is NEW for the Convocation. The Episcopal candidates and the General Officer candidates will be invited to attend and share their platform during the breakfast hour with the attendees. For more information, please contact **Lele Davis** at CLC.FVP@gmail.com.

The Episcopal Candidate's Forum will be led by **Mrs. Katherine Burrell**. The candidates will respond to a series of questions provided by the committee. This will afford you the opportunity to hear how they plan to serve the AME Zion Church if elected.

Convocation Transportation... The CLC will assist you with your arrival to and departure from Fayetteville with service from the **Fayetteville Regional Airport** only. Please complete a travel form and email to **Mr. Hank Dobson-Hankley1@suddenlink.com** to schedule your arrival and departure dates.

Convocation Lodging... The CLC has arranged housing at the following hotels: **The Holiday Inn**, (910.491. 5352), 2501 Two Bale Lane, Fayetteville, NC. Room rates for a queen or a king are \$119.00 + 13% tax. Room rates for suites are \$159.00 + tax. The registration code for the



The General Officer's Forum will be led by **Mrs. Stephany Ricks -Field**. You will have the opportunity to hear from the General Office Candidates as well. This forum will follow the same format as the Episcopal Candidate's forum. It will also include a series of questions for each candidate to have an opportunity to respond. Both the Episcopal Candidates and General Officer Candidates' forum will allow you to learn a little more about how they plan to move the AME Zion Church forward if elected to serve.

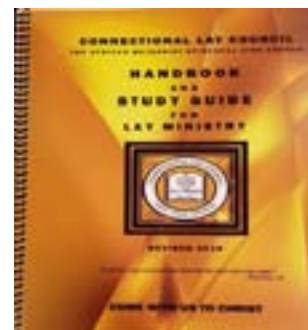


Also, NEW to the convocation is the Young Adult C.H.A.T. Session (Creating Honest Atmospheres Together). **Mrs. Dottie Stevens** Chair and the YAI are planning this inclusive session so we might learn and grow together. The CLC/YA will have t-shirts for sale. The proceeds of the T-shirts will support assisting one young adult per Episcopal district in attending the CLC Convocation. Everyone is asked to support the young adults by purchasing one or more t-shirts either for yourself or a young adult in your church, district or conference. You may pre-order your shirt with Dottie Stevens (Dottie.Stevens.YAI@Yahoo.com) T-shirt sizes small – large are \$15.00 each and x-large- 4xl are \$17.00 each. Please make your checks payable to the CLC. Visit the CLC table at the Board of Bishops Meeting in Birmingham to purchase one.

Social and Political Action Chair, Ms. Queen Degraphenreid will share a presentation and provide voting information for you take home to share as it relates to the upcoming election in 2020.

Community Outreach-The CLC will partner with the Children's Advocacy Center (Human Trafficking) for the CLC Community Outreach project. The CLC involvement and support for this community project is to provide items or snacks for younger and older children that are serviced by the CAC. Gift cards are also welcomed. **Ms. Queen Degraphenreid** serves as the CLC Community Outreach Coordinator.

Special Projects -The CLC will have Special Projects items to sell at the Convocation. If you know of items you wish to purchase, please contact the office for any items you would like to order and have ready for you when you arrive. As a reminder, the new CLC Handbook/Study Guides are in and are only @12.00 each. Place your order soon!



CLC Membership –**Mrs. Connie Bell Wright**, 2nd VP/CLC will be available for your membership needs.

Vendor Opportunities -Persons interested in securing a space as a vendor are asked to contact **Dorothy Gill Smith** @ DGSmith8091@gmail.com for a vendor package. (spaces are first come, first reserved)

Sunday Worship Service- All CLC convocation attendees are invited to worship with us at Simon Temple AME Zion Church (8:30am or 11am) 5760 Yadkin Road, Fayetteville, NC or the ENC church of your choice. The Reverend **Brian Thompson** is the Pastor.



Please Remember:

- To bring your Bible and the Book of Discipline
- To wear your black and gold
- To bring African attire for the Heritage Breakfast
- To encourage clergy and lay delegates to attend
- To encourage 1st time delegates, alternates and Young Adults to attend
- To register on or before February 15, 2020
- To make your hotel reservations
- To pre-order or purchase a t-shirt in support of the YAI (\$15.00-\$17.00)

We ask that you continue to disseminate this information and encourage the members in your episcopal district to plan to attend. If you have additional questions or concerns, contact **Lele Davis** at CLC.FVP@gmail.com.

CLC Website...Working together works! We are in need of dates, times and places of your Lay Council events... Local Churches, District Lay Councils and Conference Lay Councils are asked to submit your LC announcements as soon as possible. Some areas we have not heard from and we would love to include events from everyone across Zion. Please begin to send your information, dates, times and places as soon as possible to **Lele Davis** at CLC.FVP@gmail.com.



HOT OFF THE PRESSES!

**THE NEWLY REVISED CLC HANDBOOK
READY FOR PURCHASE**



**THE COST OF THE 134 PAGE HANDBOOK
AND STUDY GUIDE FOR LAY MINISTRY
IS ONLY \$12.00**

Use the Special Projects order form to place your order today!



Connectional Lay Council Special Projects Order Form
CLC Office Email Address: clc@clcusa.org Phone Number: (704) 309-4134 x2328

Name _____ Conference _____
 Address _____ Conference President _____
 Region _____ Episcopal District _____
 Phone Number _____ E-Mail _____
 Date _____ Regional Director Signature _____

Checks are made payable to Connectional Lay Council Mail to: P.O. Box 36726 Charlotte, North Carolina 28211

Item Description	Quantity	Purchase Price	Total Due
Educational Materials			
2017-2018 New Connectional Lay Council Handbook and Study Guide		\$12.00	
2017-2018 Facilitators Guide for Conducting Interactive Lay Academics		\$3.00	
2018-2021 Facilitators Guide for Conducting Interactive Lay Academics		\$25.00	
CLC Local Church Guide "An Effective Lay Council in the Local Church"		\$3.00	
Connectional Lay Council History "Equipping the Laity"		\$20.00	
Membership Merchandise			
Life Member Stole		\$20.00	
Medallions		\$15.00	
Lay Council Lapel Pins (Sales/ Military) (Reg/Life)		\$5.00	
Lay Council Connectional Lapel Pins		\$8.00	
CLC Apparel			
CLC Tote Bag, gold (S,M,L, XL, 2X, 4X, 5X)		\$20.00	
Black and Gold Advers Under		\$20.00	
Shirts, black w/CLC Logo		\$20.00	
CLC Black or Gold Connectional Caps		\$12.00	
CLC Gold Freedom Church short sleeve golf shirt (small - 3x)		\$25.00	
CLC Gold Praying on Purpose Tote Bag (S, XL, 2X, 4X, 5X only)		\$20.00	
Gold Connection T-shirts (small - 3x)		\$5.00	
CLC Women long sleeve colored Life Medallion shirt (small - 3x)		\$25.00	
CLC Black long sleeve colored shirt		\$25.00	
CLC Sewist vests (s, m, lg only)		\$25.00	
CLC Sewist vests (s, m, lg only)		\$25.00	
Special Projects Personalized Items			
CLC Folding Umbrella		\$28.00	
CLC Black Garment Bags		\$28.00	
CLC Tote - Overnight Travel Bag		\$28.00	
Insulated lunch boxes (black or gold)		\$28.00	
CLC Award Certificate Folders (logo on cover)		\$4.00	
CLC Logo Patches		\$2.00	
CLC Logo Purse Hangers		\$20.00	
CLC Connectional Messenger bags		\$20.00	
Subtotal			
Shipping (cannot be included)			
Total Amount Due			

Individual/Institution	SHIPPING RATES		Continental/Outside/Overseas
	Order Total	Standard Delivery	
All requests for items must be in writing and sent to the office by mail, email, or fax. Items may vary for your records. Request will be shipped upon receipt of full payment and shipping cost. ZIP Address must be included to mail shipped or individual Life Member.	\$2.50-\$5.00	7-8 Days	2-4 Days
	\$5.01-\$10.00	\$3.50	\$14.50
	\$10.01-\$20.00	\$5.50	\$17.50
	\$20.01-\$40.00	\$7.50	\$19.50
	\$40.01-\$75.00	\$9.50	\$21.50
	\$75.01-\$100.00	\$11.50	\$23.50
\$100.01-\$200.00	\$13.50	\$25.50	
Over 200.00	1% of order	15% of order	

Continental/Outside/Overseas
 Customer and District Presbytery may request return to originator, with the approval of the Regional Director. Presbytery should send their completed request to the Regional Director for signature, who will forward request to CLC for shipment. Regional Director should keep a copy of request and will require a certificate of all shipment, delivery and confirmation upon return-shipment more than 30 days.

Let's take off and fly toward our 50,000 Card Carrying Members by 2021



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

- Regain expired Lay Council memberships in the Local Churches
- Increase membership growth in the Local Church by 10% over last year's existing CLC membership with reporting date ending period- June 2020.
- New Life Members growth by 10 per Episcopal District with reporting date ending period-June 2020

Membership Challenge: Domestic Episcopal District Goals

Piedmont	11,500
Eastern North Carolina	11,280
Midwest	4,000
North Eastern	5,270
South Atlantic	5,500
Mid Atlantic	5,000
Alabama Florida	5,150
Southwestern Delta	1,800
Western	500

Connie Bell-Wright, 2nd. Vice President 704-724-2759 clc2nd.conniebellwright@gmail.com

Public Relations for Clergy and Lay Leaders in the Local Church

By Joyce Perry Edwards, M.Ch.Ed., Ph.D., Education Committee Chairperson

While many would like to deny it as the fact relates to their own denomination, it is a well-documented fact that “mainline Protestant” denominational churches, of which the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is one, have experienced decline in membership and attendance during the last 50 years. In a 2017 article of the Washington Post predicted that if these churches continued their present trajectory, they would cease to exist in 23 years.

Rather than wring our hands about a phenomenon we see manifested every Sunday with more and more empty pews, we should try to do something about the problem—if we think we have something to offer the world. As an anxious observer who thinks we have a lot to offer anxious and unfilled people in a stress-producing world, I suggest this: let’s start acting like what we purport to be: **the church!**

For the purpose of this discussion, I am using this definition of church to provide focus: A local church is a gathering of believers who wish to develop and sustain their faith in God through their belief in the Christ as God incarnate, and who seek to develop the character of Christ as enabled by the Holy Spirit so that they bring others to the salvific wonder of a relationship with the true and living God. That definition may take a little thought, but the underlying assumptions are these: that we who are in the church---

(1) are in the church because we believe in the truth of Christ, and want to follow His teachings and be like Him;

(2) believe that the truth of Christ can sustain us to live victoriously

(3) believe that a relationship with God is found through belief in the Christ as the absolute leader (Lord) in our lives;

(4) belief in Christ awakens within us the Holy Spirit, the felt presence of God within us, who guides and comforts us for victorious living;

(5) know that worldly achievement and pleasures are a poor substitute for the fulfillment found in a relationship with God.

All of the above assumes that we accept one of the essential truths that Jesus so elegantly taught: “You can’t worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you’ll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other.” Matthew 6:24 MSG

So if we believe all the foregoing, are we as clergy and lay leaders communicating these beliefs to our publics?

Or are communicating something else? We as clergy and lay leaders in fact control the week-to-week, year-to-year practices and processes in a local church and therefore must assume responsibility for the outcomes. Are we driving the people away by being a lot of things but not a **church?**

Let’s consider our challenge of being a true church that attracts people from a public relations perspective. We have two publics: the internal ones—those who are sitting in the pews...at least on some Sundays. The second are those who do not come to our church but hear about what we are doing. There are at least two areas of consideration when we evaluate our public relations with our internal publics, the people who sit in the pews on Sunday; and there are also at least two considerations related to our external publics.

Internal Public Relations

(1) Does the worship hour in our church focus on the wonder of God, the saving grace of Christ, and the redemptive and guiding presence of the Holy Spirit? Or do we communicate greater concern about politics and government, history and culture, the world of materialism, success, secular education, societal acceptance and participation, health and wellness, and even acquisition of power and position by using time on these matters?

Perhaps some of the matters other than worship merit some attention by the church using other settings but not during the worship hour. Besides, much of what interrupts worship is not effective at all for informing or teaching because of the large group setting—it is what it is: an interruption! People do not come to worship to learn about politics, history, or culture, or even health or wellness; they come for to fulfill the needs of the soul—and only time focused on God and guided by the Holy Spirit can do that.

(2) Is our worship of God a corporate experience where all actively participate? Is there a message for all, including the children and youth? Or is this hour a performance by the preacher and the choir? Preaching must teach the doctrine of Christian living. If it only excites the emotions with rhythmic cadence and response but is empty of substantive teaching, it will not fulfill the needs of our souls—even for those of us who shout and dance in response. Moreover, the choir has no responsibility to entertain. Its purpose is to provide encouragement and support for the congregation to sing to the glory of God, learn the way of the Christ, and experience the presence of the Holy Spirit.

See Public Relations .pg 15

The Moses of Our People

By J By Susanne Johnson, Harriet Tubman Committee Chairperson



It is my prayer that every Zionite, along with their families, friends, and organizations, take time to view the biopic "Harriet" that is playing in local theaters. For those who have already viewed it - I say thank you for celebrating "The Moses of Our People". Because of Harriet's continued love for God, church and family she entrusted her property (as a free

woman) to the church that she so loved - the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Auburn, New York.

In viewing the film we must be ever so vigilant to separate fact from artistic freedom. Thus, it is extremely important that we know her history for ourselves and pass it on to our youth. We must also be mindful that the film was based on the enslaved Harriet Tubman but our property represents the "Free Harriet".

Cynthia Erivo's, original song "Stand Up" was co-written by our own Zionite Joshua Brian Campbell. This is the inspirational song you hear during the end credits.

For over 46 years there has been an annual pilgrimage to celebrate her contributions commencing at her gravesite and then traveling up the street to her home. Over the years, the numbers have grown and the celebration had to be housed in a larger venue. Yet, since the property has become a National Park, there are park rangers available for the tour following the program. During the year if anyone wishes to tour, Rev. Paul G. Carter and his wife, Christine, have been committed caretakers and have done tour guides for 29 years, now assisted by the park rangers.

For those who have not attended our pilgrimages please make time to join us in Auburn, New York on May 29-30, 2020. Not only will you be blessed by placing your feet on hallowed grounds but you will also meet Harriet's family who still reside in Auburn and attend the ceremony every year. The Board is feverishly making

plans to make this event a fruitful experience that you will always cherish.

In 2017, President of Connectional Lay Council, Mary Matthews, took on a personal initiative to raise a \$50,000 offering to contribute to the work of the Harriet Tubman Home. As a result Mary made a monetary presentation (\$52,000) to Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, Presiding Prelate and the Harriet Tubman Board, Inc. that represented the Piedmont District Episcopal District (Bishop George E. Battle) all the way to the Eastern West African Episcopal District (Bishop Uduak Effiong). They all joined hands together on Connectional Lay Sunday (honoring Harriet Tubman) to make the contribution to the Harriet Tubman Home.

Looking towards 2020, we were enthusiastic in anticipation for Harriet's face to be imprinted on the \$20.00 bill but because of #45 in the White House, that has been postponed for circulation until 2028.

We were truly saddened by the passing of U.S. Rep Elijah Cummings (D, MD-7) who along with- U.S. Rep. John Katko (R, NY-24) were recipients of the Harriet Tubman Quest for Freedom Award in 2018. On February 7, 2019 they re-introduced The Harriet Tubman Tribute Act, bipartisan legislation that directs the Secretary of the Treasury to place the likeness of Harriet Tubman on \$20 Federal Reserve notes printed after December 31, 2020.

Please be reminded that all of our churches should be recognizing Connectional Harriet Tubman Day the second Sunday in March each year. The monies collected on that date are not for your local churches but are to be forwarded to the Harriet Tubman Board, Inc. for the upkeep of "our property".





HARRIET: Based on the Faith of Harriet Tubman

A MUST SEE FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE
A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
IN MAJOR THEATERS NOW!!!!

Submitted by Queen Degraphenreid, Social Political Action Committee
Chairperson

In Review: The Movie, Harriet, based on the historic boldness and spiritual guidance of our own Zion Sister, Harriet Tubman, provides a re-awakening of the Underground Railroad experience of those who paved the way for our freedom. Lead by the voice of God, Harriet's perseverance and commitment to the struggle of freedom is personified in the Scripture Philippians 3: 13-14:



I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. In the words of an old gospel song, "I don't feel no ways tired. I've come thus far

from where I started from. Nobody told me that the road would be easy, but He did bring me this far to leave me."

He didn't leave or forsake Sister Harriet; He didn't leave Zion; and He didn't leave Us.

Queen E. Degraphenreid, Chair Social Political Action Committee



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



THE YOUNG ADULT INITIATIVE, IS LAUNCHING AN ONGOING T-SHIRT DRIVE"

Submitted by Dottie Stevens, Young Adult Initiative (Y.A.I.) Committee Chairperson



The Young Adult Initiative (Y.A.I) is a committee within the Connectional Lay Council under the leadership of Mrs. Dorothea Stevens that is called to provide early transforming educational and practical experiences in the doctrines, discipline and polity of the A.M.E. Zion Church that will serve to unite, edify, nurture, and encourage the young adult and youth laity.

Each T-Shirt purchase will benefit the mission to assist a young adult from each Region with registration fees for the upcoming March 2020 Quadrennial Lay Council Convocation in Fayetteville, NC. The Young Adult Initiative has identified various explanations for lack of young adult attendance and we've developed some solutions and are continuing to work together to develop other solutions. Supporting this cause with a purchase of T-Shirts will assist our efforts greatly.

The T-Shirts, as well as the design was developed and created by young adults who are passionate about the A.M.E Zion Church and God. The word mural and acronym "C.H.A.T", that is displayed on the t-shirts, was the result of young adults and supporters meeting, discussing and the contribution of one another throughout Zion. The acronym C.H.A.T, stands for "Creating Honest Atmospheres Together". It is the intention of the Young Adult Initiative that people of all age groups who wear the T-Shirts in support of the Y.A.I, will spark conversations and collaborations across generations.

If you would like to place an order or receive order forms, you may contact your Regional Lay Council Director or Mrs. Dottie Stevens by email at: dottie_stevens.yai@yahoo.com.

....Public Relations

Continued from page 12

External Public Relations

(1) What do we advertise in the public domain with flyers, radio announcements, and social media? Do we communicate our ministries of worship, age-appropriate Christian education, growth-encouraging means of fellowship, outreach and benevolence? Or do we primarily advertise only fundraisers, parties (called by whatever name), and entertainment events disguised as worship?

(2) How do we attend to the communications that people who hear about us receive? People talk around and to their family, friends, and co-workers about our church. What are we doing to assure that our internal publics are included in both information and activities about our church? Are all given information presented in an understandable fashion and invited to all activities? Is written information (bulletins, etc.) attractive and informative? Are all made to feel welcomes and invited to all aspects of church life? What are we doing to make sure all **know** they are welcome? Our internal publics are the main means of communication with external publics, so we should treat everyone with care! "And

now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13 NRSV But we must remember, love is an action verb!

In summary, the Church has something to offer—**everything** in a sense. But we must be the real thing—not purporting to be something that we'll not. If we are the real thing, God will do the rest. People need God, and a lot of people know they need God. But they need somewhere to feel God's presence. It's not easy to do so in our individualistic, materialistic, noisy, busy, loud and hurry-up world. The church should be that respite from our world, which wearies our souls to distraction. But this requires us as clergy and lay leaders to be focused—to think about what we are doing and what we are saying by our actions. It is easy to bring all the cares of the world into the church at every turn. But let us not be beguiled by Satan. He is not red and ugly. Satan is beautiful, tasty, seemingly fun, entertaining—but oh! Satan's beauty is only skin-deep, the fun so short-lived, the entertainment exhausting and often dangerous, and so unfulfilling! Isn't it worth our dedication and commitment to set ourselves apart so that we can be the real thing?

Parliamentary Motions Guide

General Conference Delegates How Well Do You Know Parliamentary Procedures?

Parliamentary Motions Guide

Based on Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (11th Edition)

The motions below are listed in order of precedence. Any motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion. § indicates the section from Robert's Rules.

§	YOU WANT TO	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2 nd ?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§21	Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§20	Take a break	I move to recess for	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§19	Register a complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
§18	Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
§17	Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§16	Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
§15	Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to ..	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
§14	Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§13	Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§12	Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§11	Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
§10	Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that [or 'to']	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

Incidental Motions – No order of precedence. Arise incidentally and decided immediately.

§	YOU WANT TO	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2 nd ?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§23	Enforce rules	Point of order	Yes	No	No	No	None
§24	Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
§25	Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules which...	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§26	Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
§27	Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§29	Demand rising vote	I call for a division	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33	Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes (if urgent)	No	No	No	None
§33	Request information	Request information	Yes (if urgent)	No	No	No	None

Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly – no order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else pending

§	YOU WANT TO	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2 nd ?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§34	Take matter from table	I move to take from the table...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§35	Cancel or change previous action	I move to rescind/amend something previously adopted...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 or maj. w/notice
§37	Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider the vote...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority

Regional News

Piedmont Episcopal District
Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.
Presiding Prelate
Mrs. Dorothy Gill Smith,
Regional Director
 Gloria Joyner Johnson, Reporter

PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Western North Carolina Conference

Under the leadership of Mr. Jerry McCombs, the president of the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Council called the Lay meeting/academy to order on September 28, 2019 @ 10:00 AM at Rockwell AME Zion Church, Charlotte, NC. The North Charlotte District, Dr. Wardell Henderson, Presiding Elder, Rev. Jordan Boyd, Pastor, Ms. V. Carolyn Hubbard, District President and Mrs. Stella Johnson, local president, were the hosts. The devotion was led by the conference chaplain, Mr. Gerald Rush along with the participants Mrs. Ida Henderson, Gloria Joyner Johnson and Mrs. Stella Johnson and music by the "Voices of Rockwell."



President Jerry McCombs

The business of the meeting included the Treasurer's Report by Mrs. Doris Griffin, the Membership/Scholarship Report by Mrs. Connie Bell-Wright, and the "We Care" Committee by Mrs. Sandra Y. Pickens. A representative from Clinton College solicited help with the college "Golden Bear Pantry" to stock personal essentials and snacks for the students in need.

The Regional Director gave words of encouragement along with a calendar of upcoming events. She stressed the importance of increasing the membership of the Conference Lay Council. A good number from WNCC should plan to attend the Connectional Lay Council Convocation in Fayetteville, NC in March 2020.

A summary of the six district presidents follows:

President Cheryl Gray of the Statesville District reported that they will observe Lay Day at Coulter's Grove AME Zion Church in Newton, NC. The pastor is Rev. Michael Hester. Sister Forest Bonaparte of Rhoney's Chapel AME Zion Church will be the afternoon speaker.

The Winston-Salem District led by President Sharon G. Hargrave, reported that the officers will remain the same as last conference year. The first annual Shirley H. Allen Scholarship of \$500.00 was awarded to a student who will be attending East Carolina University. Mrs. Allen's grandson who attends Livingstone College received \$100.00. Rev. Antoinette Joiner facilitated a workshop encompassing the "Retooling Our People" theme on the importance of voting. The speaker for Lay Day will be Mrs. Tonya Cornelius. Rev. Dr. Calvin Miller is the Presiding Elder.

Led by President Dr. Mary Ponds, the Salisbury District elected their officers for the conference year as Dr. Ponds, President; Dr. Yvonne Tracey, 1st Vice President; Mrs. Dorothy Gill-Smith, 2nd Vice President; Ms. Andrea Black, Secretary; Ms. Catherine Rivens, Financial Secretary and Mrs. Delphine McCullough, Treasurer. Their executive board has met and planned their calendar for the year which include Lay Day Celebration and Talent hour on October 6, 2019 at Ardis Chapel, Annual Systematic Lay Day on February 1, 2020 at Soldiers Memorial, the Annual Lay Recognition Banquet on April 4, 2020 at the Livingstone College School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts and a General Conference Forum on April 25, 2020 at Soldier's Memorial. Additionally, she thanked Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Grant Harrison, Jr. and his wife, Dr. Joanne K. Harrison for their unwavering support.

The Charlotte District reported that Ms. Lakesha Womack was the workshop facilitator at their meeting in August. She encouraged us to be servant leaders, to consider the needs of people not only in our neighborhoods, but also within the walls of the church. The Annual Campfire Service convened in September at



Gloria Joyner and Costella Conner

Regional News



Meeting Attendees

China Grove AME Zion Church, pastured by Reverend D. Scott Cunningham. They symbolically tossed paper that represented the negative habits, burden, perceived failures, etc. of the past conference year into the campfire using Philippians 3:13 as their scriptural reference. Dr. Benjamin Morrow is the Presiding Elder.

Mr. William F. Manning, Jr., President of the Lincolnton District reported his works in Zion at the local, district, conference and connectional levels. The organizational meeting was held August 17 at Vestibule AME Zion Church in Kings Mountain, NC. The Presiding Elder of the Lincolnton District is Dr. Charles F. Tillett.

Ms. V. Carolyn Hubbard, President of the North Charlotte District thanked the laity for helping to host the 129th Session of the Western North Carolina Conference Annual Conference. A special thank you was extended to Miss Alexis Howard, Ashara and Zion Smith and the musicians for Watkins Chapel AME Zion Church for providing music at the Albert Stout Scholarship Luncheon. Two meetings have convened and new officers elected for the conference year.



President Hubbard giving maiden report

The Lay workshop was facilitated by Dr. Sheldon R. Shipman the Pastor of Greenville AME Zion Church. The Theme-The Freedom Church: Retooling Our People was uplifted with the title "Empowering Our Laity through A Lifestyle of Worship." We become empowered when we become Enthusiastic Encouragers, our Motive is to provide proper nurturing, Praise and Prayer, Obey God's Word, Work the Word, Excel in personal devotion and develop Right Relationships. Then we will be empowered to Serve and Teach. Dr. Shipman had the attendees energized with his historical prospective on Retooling and the fact that it is in our DNA as the human family tree began in the cradle of civilization and the world's first holy books are found in Africa. We are empowered through a lifestyle of worship and intercession to pray, witness spread the Word and fellowship.

The attendance banner was presented to the Lincolnton District from the Salisbury District. Dr. Ponds made the presentation to Mr. Manning with

A kind warning that this was only a temporary situation for the banner.



Attendance Banner



Meeting Attendees

Regional News

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE North Charlotte District Observes Lay Day

On Sunday, October 27, 2019 the eighteen member churches of the North Charlotte District had been asked to be in attendance of the annual District Lay Day Observance. Under the guidance of Presiding Elder Dr. Wardell Henderson, the new president, Ms. V. Carolyn Hubbard planned the program along with the 1st Vice President, Mrs. Sandra Y. Pickens.



Meeting Attendees

Gathering at Rockwell AME Zion Church, Rev. Jordan Boyd, Pastor, the illustrious presiding officer was Miss Alexis Howard. A young adult, Miss Howard masterfully carried out her duties in a highly professional manner. Other members of the laity from the various churches who led the devotion were Mr. William Jones, Ms. Nakisha DeShields (also a young adult), Mrs. Taira Jones and Mrs. Castella Conner. Inspiring songs of faith were sung by the



Meeting Attendees

Torrence Grove Men's Choir.

President Hubbard presented the Lay Messenger for the day, Bro. Ivy Harvell of the Union Bethel AME Zion Church. Following musical selections by the Union Bethel choir, Bro. Harvell spoke from the subject, "The Man in the Mirror!" Using Corinthians 2: 1-10, Bro. Harvell reviewed some of the circumstances in his life that helped him grow in Christ. He "come to Jesus moment" happened one morning as he looked in the mirror and really looked into the eyes of the reflection and saw God looking back at him. His life profoundly changed after that as feels he knew in his soul that he had to change to be more Christ-like daily in his daily walk in the eyes not only of his family and church, but also in the eyes of God, the Man in the mirror." We should all remember than in our daily lives, God is looking at us.



President Hubbard

1



Mr. Ivy Harvell



Regional News

The Laity Rededication Litany was led by Presiding Elder Henderson, followed by acknowledgements by President Hubbard and the host pastor, Rev. Jordan Boyd.

Worship ended with the Lay Council Closing Prayer.



Little Rock A,M,E, Zion Church Attendees

Little Rock Celebrates Lay Day with U.S. Congresswoman The Honorable Alma S. Adams

Submitted by G. Joyner Johnson

On Connectional Lay Sunday, Dr. Dwayne A. Walker, the pastor of the Little Rock AME Zion Church permitted the leaders of the local Lay Council to lead the worship service as he along with the associate clergy worshipped with the congregation from the pews.



With great anticipation and reverence, all lay participants and clergy were led in prayer by Dr. Walker

prior to entering the sanctuary. The local Lay Council president, Mrs. Gloria Joyner Johnson, led with the Call to Worship. Following the Processional, led by the Youth and Young Adult Choir, dressed in black with gold ribbons, the Hymn of Praise, "Onward Christian Laity" was led by Ms. Sandra J. Lee. Mrs. Roye Buck led the Responsive Reading, Mrs. Jennifer Mitchell led the "Apostle's Creed", Mrs. Antoinette Cody read the Scripture and Mr. Stafford Mackey prayed a powerful very inclusive prayer. Mrs. Robin Bradford then introduced our speaker for the morning, Dr. Alma S. Adams who represents the 12th district of the state of North Carolina in the United States Congress for a third term.

She has served in many capacities including the Hunger Caucus, the Medicaid Caucus, the Congressional HBCU Bi-Partisan Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus and others. Throughout her career, Congresswoman Adams has promoted quality education for all students and has spearheaded legislation to boost funds for HBCU's, to provide nutritious breakfasts in schools and supports increased pay for teachers. She taught art at Bennett College, Greensboro, NC where she led an effort to increase student civic participation, coining the phrase "Bennett Belles are Voting Belles" and organizing annual marches to the polls. She is known as the "Conscious of the Congress."



Congresswoman Adams commended Dr. Walker for leading the congregation to the polls to vote and for his leadership in social justice, education, affordable housing and educational initiatives in Charlotte. She asked that we pray for the life of Congressman Elijah Cummings.

"Know Your Purpose" was her subject from Esther 4:14-16. She remarked that as the "Freedom Church", with a rich history, we know our purpose is to serve. Service is what you do, not what you say. Do what is right as you serve others. As Mordecai told Esther to

Regional News

“Retool her People” for such a time as this, we are to serve responsibly. Service is generated by love.

The laity is responsible to know “your lane”, do not be divided and to outreach in unity and love. We are to proclaim His Word and as with the prayer of Jabez, with faith, hope and love, do the Lord’s work without excuse and He will expand our territory. Our purpose to feed the hungry and aid the homeless and the helpless.

We should lean on the heritage of the Freedom Church. Retooling will not happen if we stand in our own way and not vote. Service is action oriented; therefore we must be involved to do the work as commissioned by God with prayer, commitment and faith. As we are retooled, we will go beyond and overcome



spiritual complacency.

Following the Invitation to Christian Discipleship, Mrs. Ruby Tarver, the local 2nd Vice President presented eight new life members for the stoling ceremony, assisted by the Connectional Lay Council 2nd Vice President, Mrs. Connie Bell Wright, Dr. Walker led the following new life members in the stoling celebration: Mrs. Robin Bradford, Mrs. Jacqueline Glenn, Mrs. Geraldine Lowe, Mrs. Shirley Mack, Mr. Ledger Morrissette, Mrs. Shirley Morrissette and Mrs. Millie Ruscito. This brings Little Rock’s total of Life Members of the Lay Council to forty-two. To God be the Glory!

For
Unto
us a
CHILD
is born
Unto us a Son
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6

Regional News

Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District Bishop Kenneth Monroe, Presiding Prelate Mr. Hank Dobson Regional Director



"The New Bern District Lay Council 2nd Annual Black and Gold Gala

The New Bern District Lay Council premiered the 2nd Annual Black and Gold Gala at Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church in New Bern, North Carolina. This highly anticipated affair has pivoted the initiative of celebration and recognition of lay persons within the New Bern District.

Madame President Helen Barrett envisioned and orchestrated a memorable evening of recognition of 19 laity who demonstrated exemplary commitment to Christian discipleship. For that, we are thankful. The Gala was a success and truly a blessing. The ambience of genuine Christian love was felt by all who at-



tended.

Everyone enjoyed the two tier cake, created by St. Julia AME Zion Church's First Vice President, Mr. Billie Shaw. Reverend Dr. Erlinda C. Dobson, Presiding Elder of the New Bern District, North Carolina Conference President, Virginia Gaddy and past North Carolina Conference President, Margaret Brown were in attendance.



The Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District Regional Director, Brother Hank Dobson shared a wealth of knowledge and inspiration. Everyone departed with a very detailed understanding of our current Quadrennial theme and a renewed commitment to share it with others.

In His Grace, the New Bern District Lay Council continues to be a meaningful contributor to the building of God's Kingdom.

St. Mark AME Zion Celebrates Lay Day

Lay Day at St. Mark AME Zion Church was held on October 20 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Thomascena LeGrand presided. The Leader for the Responsive Reading was Ms. Tarryn Nunn. The Scriptures were read by two youth, Summer Mullen and Garysson Lindsey. The Prayer was offered by Mr. Joe Nuchurch. The speaker was introduced by Ms. Monica Reid. The speaker was Dr. W. Edwyn, former Regional Director of the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District. Mr. Jesse Wilcher, President of the Lay Council and Ms. Pat Walker, 2nd Vice President, gave a certificate to Jalia Donnell, a youth, for becoming a life member. Mr. Charles E. LeGrand and Mrs. Sylvia Cotton were given plaques for being Lay Persons of the Year. The Invitation of Discipline was given by the Pastor, Reverend Julian C. Pridgen.

Please use the following link for the pictures:
https://www.facebook.com/stmarkameziondurham?_rd

Regional News

North Eastern Episcopal District

**Bishop Dennis V. Proctor
, Presiding Prelate**

Ms. Rhandi M. Stith, Regional Director
North Eastern Episcopal District Regional Lay Academy

Submitted by Lovell Jackson, Communications Committee Chairperson for The New York Conference Lay Council

The North Eastern Regional Lay Academy held its Lay Academy on Saturday October 19, 2019 at St. Catherine A.M.E Zion Church New Rochelle, New York.

The title was **"The Freedom Church Retooling Our People: The Challenges of the 51st General Conference.**

Ms. Rhandi M. Stith, North Eastern Regional Director introduced the Lay Academy Presenter Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey, Connectional Lay Council Immediate Past President.



Meeting Attendees

Mr. Lawrence Johnson. Regional Chaplain opened the academy with a devotion and singing of the grace. Dr. Tracy acknowledged the absence of Mrs. Marie Baxter. Afterwards Dr. Tracy began reading the icebreaker titled "Whom to Leave Behind" The earth is doomed.



There is a spaceship designated for members of the A.M.E Zion Church launching to another planet to preserve the denomination by

calling a meeting of the General Conference. There is a last minute change in the weight that the ship of Zion's members can carry. There is only room for seven passengers.

Our role as participants were to choose the first passenger that must get off the ship, then chose the second passenger who must get off the ship and finally the third passenger that must get off the ship. Only seven passengers can remain on the Zion's ship to the General Conference. We were to choose three "members of Zion in good standing" who will not make the trip and participate in the call meeting of the General Conference. The passenger list consisted of the following:



Dr. Yvonne Tracey

- Chair, Resolutions Committee – Former Jehovah Witness (converted to Zion)
- Chair, Connectional Budget – Pregnant wife of the Senior Bishop
- 1st time Lay Delegate – Member of the Togo Annual Conference
- Executive Director of Global Missions – A former Christian Scientist
- General Secretary – Auditor – Preferred language is Spanish
- Senior Bishop – Financially generous to the church
- President of the Board of Bishops – Age 70
- Parliamentarian - Homosexual
- Chief Justice, Judicial Council – A former Mormon
- 1st Time Clergy Delegate – A former pastor in the Baptist Church

We were given two minutes to make our decision of who will come off the ship and five minutes to find two people who will agree with you. At the end of the time period we shared our decision and gave the reason why we picked that person. Dr. Tracy discussed each person's portion and explained who was the most important and who would be needed.



Regional News



Mr. Jasper J. McCormick

At the end of the exercise lunch was served. The academy continued after lunch with a discussion by Dr. Tracy of the sessions and topics that would be held at 51st Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the A.M.E Zion Church. Dr. Tracey asked Mr. Jasper J. McCormick to serve as the resource person to verify any incorrect statements or answers. The General Conference is composed of ministers and lay delegates who are elected at the Annual Conference of which they are members. The General Conference is the supreme body of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. She briefly spoke on all topics.

a group we were to come up with a resolution, which would prevent any portion of the Connectional Lay Council Bylaws from being omitted permanently from the A.M.E. Zion Church Book of Discipline. Session 3 An Initiative: Questions to the Restructuring Commission Session 4. Question & Answer: Laity Wants to Know Open Questions and Information for First Time Elected Delegates. We as Lay persons should proceed at the task at hand and voice our concerns if the Bylaws of the Connectional Lay Council are taken out of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Book of Discipline. Then 1. It is a legal book, which is used in a court of law, 2. Presiding Elders, pastors, and clergy that "if it is not in this "Book" they don't have to follow what is said verbally. 3 The absence of Bylaws will take away Lay power. The academy was very educational and informative with the on set of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church going into the 51st General Conference in 2020.

serve as the resource person to verify any incorrect statements or answers. The General Conference is composed of ministers and lay delegates who are elected at the Annual Conference of which they are members. The General Conference is the supreme body of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. She briefly spoke on all topics.



Dr. Tracey with Conference Presidents

and physical strength of the Senior Bishop. 2.Silence – Work of the Restructuring Commission. 3.Number of General Officers Open elected/Appointed Positions. 4. Connectional Budget, Appropriation/Apportionments 5. Ministers Bill of Rights and Retirement. 6. Judicial Council – Tenure of Judges, Nominations Affect. 7. Assessment of operational and financial impact of 2016 department restructuring. 8. Assessment of WWA and EWA Indigenous Bishops and the work. 9. Status of Indigenous Bishop for Central South Africa Education. Rapid Expansion of Overseas work. Production of a cost effective and flawless 2020 Book of Discipline. 10. Millennials/Young Adults Viable and Intentional Inclusion Initiatives. Session 2. Building Collaboration: Connectional Lay Council Resolution. As



Dr. Tracey with Districtts Presidents



Dr. Tracey with Conference, District and Local Presidents



Regional News

The New York Conference Lay Council Lay Academy

Submitted by Lovell Jackson, Communications Committee Chairperson for The New York Conference Lay Council

The New York Conference Lay Council held it's first Lay Academy on Saturday October 5, 2019 at St. Catherine A.M.E. Zion Church New Rochelle, New York.

The title for the academy was "Biblical Instruction on Equipping Ourselves For Ministry.

Our Conference President, Rhandi M. Stith presented The Reverend Monica H. Marshall, New York Conference Lay Council Board Chairperson and the Pastor of Varick Memorial A.M.E. Zion, Brooklyn, New York as the Presenter.



Reverend Monica Marshall

Reverend Marshall opened the academy with a prayer followed by requesting us to locate the scripture Ephesians 6:10-18 in the Bible. As Reverend Marshall began the academy she explained that she was not sure of what the Board of Lay Activities does once she was appointed as Chairperson for the

Board. She understood that there were clergy and laypersons and without the laypersons it would be impossible for the clergy to function. She proceeded to discuss with the academy attendees the following questions for response from all. **1. "What is it a Lay person does being a member of the Lay Council. We cannot retool something that is already tooled. So what is it we do?"** **2. "Is what we are doing helping us to understand what it is we are suppose to do as lay people?"** **3. Is everyone who is in attendance the local church lay person in his or her church and what sets us apart from the regular lay person?** **4. Is paying the \$5.00 for membership and carrying the little black card is that all there is in being part of the Lay Council?** **5. What makes it different from the other organizations?** We need to have clear understanding of what we are to do as Lay people. This is why we are here today attending the Lay Academy. She continued to explain that there are lay persons that barely attend

church and definitely don't know what's going on in the bigger church. It is our responsibility to disseminate information to let the lay people know how powerful they are and that they do have a voice and the pastor's voice is not the only voice.

We are to let people know that we have spirituality. There are people who can touch other people they can help persons in the church for understanding of the sermon. Some church members who did not and cannot explain what the sermon was about because it went over their head and never got anywhere else above the sermon.

If we speak with them they might get a better understanding of what the pastor has said. There are people we can touch just because they like us. They may not like someone else who has a lot of information and will not speak with them. If we know we have that kind of feel and know you have that kind of reach we need to touch those people. There are people that will talk to us but not to anyone else. There are people who might not want the Pastor to pray for them because they don't want the pastor to know where they are not, also that they might not be as strong as they pretend to be. They might have fallen off this week that is our cue to say, "Let's pray". An ordinary member might be able to do it but we as the Lay person have an added responsibility to the Laity. There are those who don't attend church and need to know what is going on in their church. Then there are people in the church who do not know what to do and have no investment in the church. They think that putting their \$5.00 in and going to prayer meeting once a month makes them a good member. It is up to us to explain what makes a good member. The Lay Council person has an added responsibility to the Laity as well as to inform the Pastor about something in reference to a member in the church (sick, death, hospitalized). We are to attend our meetings and take the information back to the church also take seriously the job we have. The question was asked, **"What is the difference between Christian Education and the Missionaries who are also to disseminate information"**? Reverend Marshall explained that every local church might not have a particular organization. Every local church is not run the same way because every pas-



Meeting Attendees

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tor is different . She pays the \$5.00 for every member of her church to be apart of the Lay Organization. In other churches members have to give their \$5.00. The bottom line is that we want all persons of the Laity to be a part of the Lay Organization. In the big picture The Christian Education department is the teaching arm of the church. They are the teaching arms to let everyone



Meeting Attendees

know that there is a Lay Council, also other organizations. There is a big arm and under that arm are other organizations. In some churches there is the Lay Council but all churches should have a Class Leaders system. The class leaders are mini pastors. There is enough information about the church

and life that you can be taught in each organizations and never get the same information because there is so much to learn and know. The Lay Organization let's the Laity know what's happening with the Laity all through out the denomination. The definite information we all can share is the Good News, Jesus saves and Jesus satisfies. We are to give people a sense to know that they are part of the big picture. There are things going on outside of the local church and we are to share the information also encourage them to attend. (Quarterly Conference, Lay Academy, District Conference, Annual Conference) they might not want to go and want to know where the money is going and not realize they are missing information by not attending. We should have that information to share. We are to be encouragers but we cannot encourage others if we do not believe it or doing it ourselves. We have people who are very unhappy with the church and will say so in complaints. We are to disseminate information that will keep the church healthy and for it to be the best it can be. To be a good Christian you have to be spiritual. It also takes spirituality to hold an office. Anyone can make excuses for what they don't want to do. It is time for us to stop making excuses because our church is failing; our denomination is failing because we are making to many excuses as ministry and as lay people. Reverend Marshall referred to the scripture "The Whole Armor Of God" In the church the devil will try to get in the mist of what your trying to build or put together that is his job if no one else in the church is doing their job he is. She referred to Paul's statement in scripture

as to put on the Whole Armor of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. There might be times when you try your best that's when the devil will put a target on your back. He will try to divide the people. We have to be prepared that when we take on this responsibility to be a disseminator of truth and pull people together the devil will work against what we are try to build. God has not provided a partial set of weapons before us he has provided a complete set. He has given us the Whole Armor we are the ones who don't use it. We go into battle unprepared for battle of the apposing forces in the church (the pulpit, the pew, and the choir, etc.). The discussion continued with Reverend Marshall having us to identify each piece of the armor and state it's purpose. We as Lay people who God has called need to be prepared in complete dress in the Whole Armor of God to feel powerful to go up against the evil forces that is put before us so that we can accomplish and complete the work God.

The New York Conference Lay Council 2019 Activities

Submitted by Lovell Jackson, Communication Committee Chairperson for the New York Conference Lay Council

The One Hundred Ninety-Eighth Session of The New York Annual Conference was held at the Marriott Hotel in Tarrytown, New York. The Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Host Church was the host and the host pastor was the Dr. Stephen Pogue. The Lay Activities started off with our annual Augustus W Printz Scholarship Luncheon and ended with the Stoling Service held during the evening worship service.

Augustus W. Printz Scholarship Luncheon

The luncheon opened with Ms. Rhandi M. Stith, New York Conference Lay Council President as the Mistress of Ceremonies, Ms Katherine Fisher AARP representative gave greetings.

Ms Lovell Jackson, New York Conference Communications Chairperson read The Statement of Purpose, followed by The Prayer and Grace given by Mrs. Betty Watkins New York Lay Council Chaplain and Mrs. Ruby Figueroa, New York Conference Lay Council 2nd Vice President, Introduced the Luncheon Speaker.



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Mr. Stephen Monroe a lifelong member of Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church Mount Vernon, New York and a graduate of Livingstone College, Salisbury, NC. Earned a BS on Sports Management. He is currently employed at the Intrepid Sea Air & Space Museum as a Warehouse Supervisor.

Mr. Monroe's message to the Luncheon attendees was "Staying to Course" He addressed the topic with two main points. 1."It's what you're standing on that keeps you from sinking."The test of character when no-bodies around. Perseverance may become your middle name. The actions of today will effect your tomorrow. 2."There's no point in carrying dead weight". It's okay to let people go. Not everyone can walk your walk. Not everyone is going to make it with you. In concluding Mr. Monroe stated everyday is a new test, some hard some light. Stay ten toes down and 3 eyes open. The third eye is for conformation; believe it the first time not after it breaks you.

Ms. Dottie Stevens The Region, Ms. Eloise Homer District and Ms Rhandi Stith New York Conference

The Lay Academy speaker presented by Ms Angela Mc Neil

Ms Xellex Z. Rivera is a native of the Bronx, New York and a graduate of Manhattan College, Riverdale NY, with a double Masters Degree in Counseling and Mental Health Counseling. She is a Licensed Provisional Mental Health Counselor, as well as a Credential Alcohol



and Substance Abuse Counselor Trainee in New York State. She is a proud HBCU graduate, Xellex attended Livingstone College, Salisbury, NC with a major in Liberal Arts; English. In 2019 she conferred her third Masters Degree from Walden University in Philosophy. Ms Rivera currently works as the Program Director at a NYC Family Shelter in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

Ms Rivera began her message to the Lay Convocation by focusing on the different generations and ages in the church and it breaks down some of the stereotypes in the church. Her topic "Airplane Mode: Who is in the Church Today?" Ms Rivera discussed and gave helpful solutions to 12 reasons why millennials are Over Church: 1. Nobody's Listening to Us. 2. We're Sick of Hearing about Values & Mission Statements. 3. Helping the Poor Isn't a Priority. 4. We're Tired of You Blaming the Culture. 5. The "You Can't Sit With Us" Affect. 6. Distrust & Misallocation of Resources. 7. We Want to Be Mentored, Not Preached At. 8. We Want to Feel Valued. 9. We Want You to Talk to Us About Controversial Issues (Because No One Is). 10. The Public Perception. 11. Stop Talking About Us (Unless You're Actually Going to Do Something). 12. You're Failing to Adapt.

In Conclusion: Ms Rivera stated that we can't keep trying the same thing and wish the millennials to show up, it will not happen. We have to change the way we deliver the service. The God that we preach and teach is the same. However the way it is delivered has to change. The message was called Airplane Mode. Why? Because the cell phone is design to find a connection. At this point in Zion we are in Airplane Mode. We have



The Presentation of Scholarships was present to the honorees by Ms. Fay L. Fagan Augustus W. Printz Scholarship Fund Chairperson

The Augustus W. Printz Luncheon ended with The Bishop giving the appeal and Rev. A. Alfred Carson Carson carried it out.

Lay Council Lay Convocation



The theme for Lay Convocation "Retooling Our People"

The Lay Convocation began with Reflections on

Mrs. Marie Herndon Baxter given by Mr. Ira Golden The Connection,

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In Conclusion Ms Rivera stated that we can't keep trying the same thing and wish the millennials to show up, it will not happen. We have to change the way we deliver the service. The God that we preach and teach is the same. However the way it is delivered has to change. The message was called Airplane Mode. Why? Because the cell phone is design to find a connection. At this point in Zion we are in Airplane Mode. We have two generations that are trying to get connections. They are trying to connect to us but we are stuck in Airplane Mode. Ms Xellex Rivera presentation to the New York Conference at the Convocation was very interesting and informative.

After the presentation Ms Rhandi, New York Conference Lay Council gave the President's report. The election of The New York Conference Lay Council officers and District Presidents were held following the re



Left to right: Ms Rhandi Stith Conference President, Mr. Charlton Davenport 1st Vice President, Ms Ruby Figueroa 2nd Vice President and Membership Committee Chairperson, Ms Angela McNeil Recording Secretary, Ms Lottie Tann Financial Secretary, Mr. Ira Golden Treasurer, Ms Betty Watkins Chaplain, Ms Eloise Homer President Westchester District, Ms Virginia Montaque President New York City District, Ms Eleanor Poole Preident Long Island District, Reverend Monica Marshall Board Chair.

The Convocation ended with the Lay Council Song "Onward Christian Laity" and the Lay Council Closing Prayer.

Life Membership Stoling

The worship service began with The Call to Worship followed by The Invocation, the Congregational Hymn "My Hope is Built On Nothing less", The Scripture Lesson, The Prayer Hymn "Sweet Hour of Prayer.

Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, Presiding Prelate asked for

the New York Conference Life Membership Stoling service to begin by calling the President for the New York Conference Lay Council Ms Rhandi Stith to come forth.

Ms Rhandi Stith called the names of all persons willing to be received as Life Members. Dr. David A. Aiken Sr. came forth to assist in the stoling

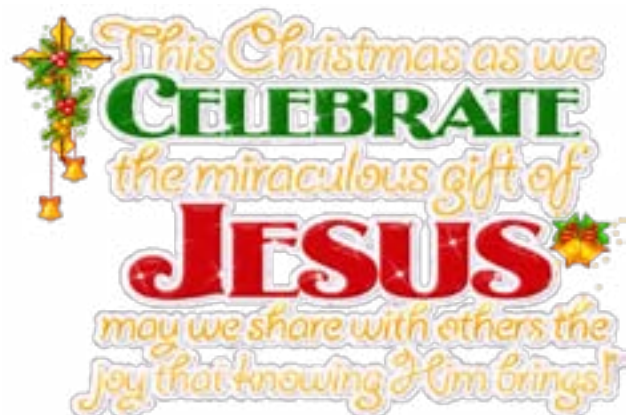


All Life Members wearing their stoles begin the reading of The Life Membership Stoling Celebration and led by The New York Conference President Ms Rhandi Stith with back-



ground music selection "Lord Prepare Me to Be A Sanctuary". Bishop Dennis V. Proctor congratulated all the new Life Members at the end of the ceremony.

The New York Conference Lay Council would like to congratulate all new Life Members of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.



Regional News

Clinton Memorial AME Zion Church
614 Third Street, Greenport, NY LID District
-NY Conference

Submitted by Jacqueline A. Edwards
Local Lay Council President
Clinton Memorial AME Zion Church



Clinton Memorial we celebrated Lay Sunday on October 20th, 2019. The Local Lay President Jacqueline A. Edwards presided as Worship Leader, the Lay Speaker

Operations & Security Coordinators for Chase Bank, delivered the message, her title was "Retooling Our



Mrs. Karen McNeil member, and Lead Associate
Praise/Prayer-Recycle/Reuse/Renew. Officers and members participated in the worship service, which inspired all. She gave us techniques of prayer to recycle for our children, refreshed our remembrance of prayer and praise to be recycled and reused for a renewal of our commitment to God.

The message led us to our litany of rededication for the laity. Our pastor Rev. Natalie Wimberly gave the appeal for Christian discipleship and offered a special prayer for the laity.

We were pleased to lift an offering to support the AME Zion Academy and University in Liberia as well as our Mother Church, Mother AME Zion in Harlem.

Information was distributed about the Lay Council our theme, objectives, mission, purpose, etc. for those

in attendance that were not members.

Members also joined the LI District Lay Council for an afternoon movie fellowship. Movie "Overcomers" which was inspiring for all including the youth



New England Conference - Hartford District

Submitted by Shelly Henry, Hartford District Lay Council President

Walters Memorial A.M.E. Z. Church, Bridgeport, CT.:

Recognized Connectional Lay Sunday on October 13, 2019. Mrs. Effie Mwando of Workman Memorial A.M.E.Z. Church (The WOW church) brought the message for the day. Title of her message was "Retooling Our People" Ephesians 4:11-12, Psalm 27:4-5

1. Retool yourself.
2. Who should be retooled?
3. Why should I be retooled?



From left to right: Mrs. Stephine Francis, Assistant Lay Newsletter Editor, Tanaya Henry, Missionary Supply Captain, Rev. Elevelyn Clayton, Shelley Henry, Mrs. Effie Mwando.

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From left to right: Rev. Elvin Clayton, pastor of Walters Memorial AMEZ Church; Shelley Henry, Walters local lay president & Hartford district Lay President, Mrs. Effie Mwando, Workman's Local Lay President, Mr. Angagza Mwando, Local Preacher of Workman A.M.E. Zion Church

Cross Street A.M.E.Z. Church, Middletown, CT.:

Cross Street local lay council president, Mrs. Dorsene Dulphe recognized Connectional Lay Sunday on October 27, 2019. Rev. Moses Harvill who is the pastor, so graciously allowed Shelley Henry, Hartford District Lay Council president bring the message on this special day. Her title was **Evaluate, Refuel then Re-tool for a Kingdom Building Mindset**. Mrs. Henry noted it is important to evaluate what is going on within your life; weather in church, home or work. Remove the clutter so you will have time for God and to hear him. Also, to have time

for family, friends and the ministries God has for you to do. We are to have a Kingdom building mindset. This was a blessed day. Rhandi Stith, the Northeast Regional Lay Director performed the



Connectional Lay Life Membership Stoling Ceremony for Mrs. Dorsene Dulphe, Local Lay President and Mr. John Edward Weston Trustee and both from Cross Street.

Archer Memorial A.M.E.Z. Church, Windsor, CT.:



October 20, 2019, Annual Lay Council Sunday Service was held at Archer Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, Windsor, CT. where Rev. William Campbell is the pastor and Mrs.

Delia Jubrey is the Local Lay Council President. We were honored to have our Hartford District Lay Council President Mrs. Shelley Henry bring the message for this special day. The scripture came from the book of Ephesians chapter 4 verse 11-13 and the thought given for this message was **“Keep Retooling Until Something Happens, KRUSH,”**. Mrs. Henry stated that the five Connectional Lay Council purposes and objectives are our tools to help us conduct lay ministries and they can be retooled to fit the dynamics of your church. Each church has its own way of doing things and its ok to rework the objectives and ideas to benefit your local lay council and church to work the ministries God has set before you.

We were blessed to have within our mist



From left to right: Carolyn Humphrey, New England Conference Lay Council President, Anita Schofield, New England Conference Lay Council Treasurer & CLC Chairperson of Communications & Technology, Rev. Moses Harvill, Pastor of Cross St., Janice Perry, Local Missionary & Senior/Jr, Board President, Shelley Henry, Local & Hartford District Lay Council President; Rhandi Stith, Northeast Regional Lay Director and New York Conference Lay Council President and Dorsene Dulphe, Cross St. Local Lay President.

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Spottswood A.M.E. Zion Church, New Britain, CT.:

On October 20, 2019 our New England Conference Lay Council President, Carolyn



Carolyn Humphrey, New England Conference Lay Council President & Local Lay Council President of Mt. Olive, Waterbury, CT.

Humphrey gave the lay message at Spottswood A.M.E. Zion Church in New Britain, CT. where Rev. Samuel Blank is the pastor. She spoke on Retooling our people as we Seek the Lord, Submit to the Lord and Serve the Lord. Thanking our Lord and Savior for all he has, is, and will do and don't know about. 'I

constantly remember you in my prayers'. 2Timothy 1:3

Workman Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, Torrington, CT.:

Ephesians 4:20-22
Sister Darleen Battles was Workman Memorial AME Zion Church lay speaker.

She inspired the congregation in several ways.

1. To trust God at all times.
2. Stay focus.



From left to right: Mrs. Effie Mwando, Workman's Local Lay President, Rev. Kevin Johnson, pastor, and Mrs. Darlene Battle, lay speaker

Our Sister Margaret Q. Mack gave update on why lay council membership and participation is important to your spiritual experience.

St. Stephens A.M.E. Zion Church, Branford, CT.:

Mrs. Mary Beamon is the local Lay Council President and Rev. Odinga Perry is the pastor of St. Stephens A.M.E. Zion Church, Branford, CT. Sundae Black, Director of Christian Education for the Hartford District and a faithful member of Mt. Olive A.M.E. Zion Church, Waterbury, CT., was the speaker at Stephens. Ms. Black spoke on Love and loving your church and stop talking negatively about your church.

Varick A.M.E. Zion Church, New Haven, CT:

Mrs. Gloria Cothran, Varick's Local Lay Council President and the 2nd Vice President of the New England Conference Lay Council and Rev Kelsey G. L. Steele who is the pastor took this day and the days to come to inform everyone of Zion's educational institutions; A.M.E. ZION Academy, Liberia, A.M.E. Zion University, Liberia and Mother A.M.E. Zion Church, NY which are in great need of funds to build, rebuild and repair. Mrs. Cothran who is great at disseminating information thought it not robbery to inform their large congregation of what the Connectional Lay Council is doing to bless our brothers and sisters overseas and in New York by making a poster board for all to see and read for themselves. This is a great way to get the local congregation to help keep the funds coming in; Praise God from whom all blessing flow.



Regional News

New Jersey Conference Celebrates Lay Day

On Sunday, October 20, 2019 The New Jersey Conference held its Annual Connectional Lay Day Sunday Celebration. The host church was Wesley A.M.E Zion Church, in Burlington, NJ. The host Pastor, Rev. Zaniel T. Young and the congregation welcomed laity and clergy with smiles and open arms. Even though it was pouring rain outside, Zionites came together from all over New Jersey to lift up the Laity and The Lay Council. As it has become a slogan from the New Jersey Conference Lay Council President, Dottie Stevens, "From Mahwah to Bridgeton, Lay and Clergy Hand in Hand" was proven true once again for this celebration. There were over 110 people in attendance and about 20% of that count were members of the clergy of every rank.

Some of the afternoon highlights:



Five lifetime members were to be stoled: Winifred Davis from St. John A.M.E. Zion Church, Mizpah, Sandra Newman, Victory A.M.E. Zion Church, Pleasantville, Diane Cobb, T. Lewis, and Ella Ford all from St. Stephen A.M.E. Zion Church. Due to the weather, 3 of the 5 were stoled.



Miss Aaryn Zolanie a 4 year old member of Victory A.M.E Zion Church of Pleasantville, NJ delivered the hymn/song of preparation, and sang it direct to the Lay Day Speaker. She sang, "This Little Light of Mine". Just for the record, Aaryn a supportive Lay member in training.

The Lay messenger of the hour, **Mrs. Johnsilynn Maize-Daniels**, from St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church, Cliffwood, NJ rose to the occasion. Her message, "God Uses Ordinary People" - "Remain Faithful to the Cause" was one to be remembered. The scripture used was Nehemiah 1:4-11. Johnsilynn's message was not just powerful, but God used her to set fire to those in attendance. She brought, taught, and shared. One thing that took flight with this president was, "NO JESUS, NO PEACE". The next day Rev. Janet Jones, pastor of Shrewsbury Ave. A.M.E. Zion Church put the phrase into another format... "KNOW JESUS, KNOW PEACE". God used the New Jersey Connectional Lay Day Celebration to get our attention, to further unite us, and to "Retool His People" in order to "Equip ourselves for Ministry".



New Jersey surely had a grand Annual Connectional Lay Day Celebration which ended with the Camden District Presiding Elder, Rev. Dr. Lawton Nelson, Jr. and the previous Presiding Elder of the Jersey City District, Rev. Dr. George W. Maize both giving the Laity words of encouragement and applause. To God we give all the Glory!

Shrewsbury Ave. A.M.E. Zion Church Visits Mother Zion

The Shrewsbury Ave. A.M.E. Zion church Lay Council, of the Grand old New Jersey Conference sponsored a bus to visit Mother A.M.E. Zion Church in New York



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Regional News



On the bus were Lay Conference President Dotti Stevens, and Camden District President Doris Hollis. The pastor of Mother Zion church, Reverend Malcolm Byrd provided us with a personal and very informative history of the

church and its beginnings. Rev. Byrd started the tour in the sanctuary of the great church where we sat and listened to the historical narrative. Rev. Byrd explained the reasons for the move from John Street Church. He gave us a running history up to the present and the challenges the church is facing today. We sat and listened intently to the history, adults, young adults, all of various ages. Rev Byrd treated us to the sounds of the church's pipe organ as he played a few traditional hymns of the church.



When he finished we moved the tour to the museum, where he explained the paintings on the wall, the conference table, and the tomb of our first Bishop and founder James Varick. After the tour Rev. Byrd rode with us to eat lunch. What a wonderful historical tour and fellowship with one Zions Stars. God Bless you Reverend Byrd and thank you for keeping the

history and the faith. All who ventured on that trip were Blessed.



Western New York Lay Council 2019 Retreat: Retooling Ourselves

Submitted by Joyce Harrington
Western New York Conference President

The Western New York Lay Council was blessed on October 19, 2019 at its annual Lay Retreat. The Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church Lay Council hosted the retreat where the Rev. Derrill A. Blue is Presiding Elder/Host Pastor. Greetings were extended by the Rochester/Syracuse District President Valarie Hardy and Eraina Linder 2nd Vice President Memorial AME Zion Lay Council. Scripture reading by Barbara Fite, Albany District President and Prayer by Reginald Ingram, Buffalo District President.

The focus of our 2019 retreat was to bring to life this year's portion of the quadrennial theme, Retooling our People, through a four-part program: praying with love, caring for loved ones, embodying change in our spiritual leadership and local outreach.

Praying with Love

Our Meditation Speaker, Rev. Bessie Lucas, called upon us to retool our practices with love. She encouraged us to bring a loving spirit to prayer. She reminded us that to live as God expects us to we must love him, ourselves and our neighbors.

Regional News

Caring for Loved Ones

This year marked the third year of our local theme 'Having the Talk'. Sharon Jones, from Durham Memorial AME Zion Church, Buffalo New York presented on understanding the financial aspects of eldercare. Sharon urged us to talk with our loved ones and develop care plans that address what to do if the time comes that we cannot care for them ourselves. She shared important financial aspects to consider including what Medicare or insurance will cover and how Medicare and care facilities assess patient's finances, including what is looked at and how far back a patient's finances are looked into. She also stressed making sure you or someone you know is always checking on your loved ones, whether they are being cared for at home or at a care facility, to ensure they are being well cared for.

Embodying Change in our Spiritual Leadership

Our International President, Dr. Mary J Matthews, gave the Lay Academy workshop "**Retooling the Leader in Me: Be the Change you want to see**"

Dr. Matthews shared key leadership principles and how to best leverage them within a spiritual context. She shared George Barna's definition that a Christian leader is someone who is called by God to lead; leads with and through Christ like character; and demonstrates the functional competencies that permit effective leadership to take place. Her message on leadership as given by Jesus came from Matthew 20:25-28, to be a leader you must be a servant to others. She connected these principles to those of Dr. Stephen R. Covey, we must be proactive not reactive. In summary, spiritual leadership should focus on influencing people towards God's agenda in our church, community and family. When we give our life in service to others we should be proactive, begin with the end in mind, put first things first, think win-win, and first understand, then be understood.

Dr. Matthews inspired us to foster change by first changing ourselves and embodying the change we strive for within our own spiritual leadership within the church. For example, the leader who wants to inspire kindness must first extend kindness in his/her own practices and interactions as an inspiration and example to others. We must be the change we want to see.

Outreach

A donation was made to Beyond the Sanctuary, an outreach ministry that serves the Rochester community with essentials such as food, clothing and spiritual guidance.

South Atlantic Episcopal District

**Bishop Mildred B. Hines,
Presiding Prelate
Mrs. Loranda Malloy Melton
Regional Director**



"Steele Hill Laity Shares Church History"

The Indian Land, S.C. Fall Festival attracts thousands of attendees. Members of the Laity of Steele Hill AMEZ Church, Lancaster, South Carolina, accepted the opportunity to share historical information about the church, which was founded in the 1800s. On Saturday, October 5, 2019, the members set up a booth which included historical photos and other materials. Project Manager was Mariah Williams, and Nadine Morrison was the Team Captain. There were approximately 240 vendors at the Festival, and six of those were religious organizations. one of the organizers, Mariah Williams stated: "We want to be more visible in the community and have others learn about our church. Steele Hill's Lay Council President, Terrance Barr, stated: "We were proud to be one of the vendors spreading the gospel. I cannot help but thank all the members who volunteered their time and resources, so that we represented God and our church family."



Regional News



The Steele Hill Lay Council officers are Terrance Barr, President, Fred Witherspoon, Vice-President, Margaret McIlwain, Secretary, and Nadine Morrison, Treasurer. As the laity of Steele Hill continues to invite others to "Come With Us To Christ", we are displaying our loyalty to the principles of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Reverend Sandra Sistare is the pastor.

Mid Atlantic Episcopal District

Bishop W. Darin Moore,
Presiding Prelate
Mrs. Katherine Burrell
Regional Director

Submitted by Katherine Burrell,

Regional News

"Freedom Church, Refocusing on our Purpose, Reviewing our Practices, Retooling our People, Reaching our Potential."

Happenings in The Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference Lay Council. Katherine Burrell is the President

"Going Boldly to Rekindle Our Potential"

Other activities sponsored by the Council this year included the following: provided lunch on two occasions to community groups in June and July, attended Conference Lay Academies and the 100th Celebration of the Pee Dee Conference, Co-sponsored a Community Blood Drive at the District Conference, participated in the Lay Person of the Year Recognition Program, supported Van Wyck Elementary School's Reading Program and delivered a "Spirit Rock" to the school. The Council sponsored a Connectional Lay Sunday Observance on October 20th and recognized Breast Cancer Survivors the following Sunday, and provided a gift for each. On November 3rd, lay members attended the movie, "Harriet", paying tribute to the great and courageous work of Harriet Tubman.



Mid – Atlantic Annual Lay Academy was held during our Leadership Training Institute, using the Scripture - 2 Timothy 1:6-7, the Lay Academy was designed to allow participants to engage in a self-reflection of the potential instilled in us by our fore-fathers to serve God and the Church with excellence. Reviewing the ideals of why Zion is the Freedom Church we examined why we must

know where we came from to know where we are going and how to get there. We reviewed the potential that our fore-fathers had and how they birthed the A.M.E. Zion Church. We looked at the relationship of Paul and Timothy and how Paul reminded Timothy that this faith was instilled in him by his grandmother and mother.



Regional News

Our goal and learning objective for the course was to give participants the opportunity to learn that because our potential is present within us, we have to rekindle and reignite the fire to serve God and the Church "boldly" as we seek to understand our past, our present, and our future in "Zion Methodism"

We had Laity from each of our Conferences in attendance, with a full open discussion.



We are very proud of Mrs. Lorraine Toler, Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference Lay Council Historian who was recently named the historian for the Connectional Lay Council. Mrs. Toler worked along with her late husband,

Mr. James Russell Toler, Mr. Victor Tulane and Arthur Brooks. She has a wealth of Zion history to share. Mrs. Toler spoke at Contee A.M.E. Zion church for Lay Sunday. Her topic was "Then and Now" taken from 1 Samuel 17:17-24 and Ephesian 6:11-16. She compared the world today with Biblical times of when David volunteered to fight Goliath.

I celebrated Lay Sunday at Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church, my home church. Our Lay Speaker was Dr. Larry B. Johnson. His message was taken from the Doxology in Jude 1:24 KJ, he spoke on the "I" in HIM who is able to keep you from falling.



from the executive board and other lay members to map out plans for the coming conference year. Our first event, Reorganization and Planning Meeting was held on August 17, 2019 at Transformation A M E Zion Church in Dover, Delaware, the host pastor is Dr.



Lay Organization Meeting

Reginald J. Chandler There was representation from each church and the theme component for this year "Retooling Our People" was conducted by District President. The material in the study guide was utilized for the workshop with small group discussion about the different components of this year's focus. (please see attached photos)

On October 20, 2019, Laity Sunday, many of our churches celebrated the morning service with Lay Speakers, to include Felicia Matthews -Liberating Power, Lucille Williams -Mt. Hope, Sandra Clark -Scott; William English -St. James; Dr. Rochell Peoples



Eastern Shore District Members

The Following Are Activity Reports From The Philadelphia And Baltimore Conference District Lay Councils

EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT started the conference year at the District Planning Meeting with members



Regional News



Dr. Chambers ESD Budget



Patricia Briddell – Membership Appeal



Deborah Stanley – Lay Academy

Transformation; Shirley Pinkett-Wallace Temple. Also, each church was asked to collect an offering for the Lay Appeal to be sent to the Connectional Lay Council. On that Sunday afternoon, the Eastern Shore District held their district lay service at St. Paul AME Zion Church, Dr. Thomas Tucker, host pastor. The program included music from St. Paul Sanctuary Choir, directed by Ms. Melva Wright. Our speaker for the district service was Thom Foster, a member at Transformation AME Zion Church where he serves as the local lay president. Bro. Foster did an excellent job under the theme hashtag #game changer. At the service the offering appeal was made and the District was able to collect and forward to the Connection an amount of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for that day. Many thanks to each of our local presidents who participated on the program on that day. On that Sunday we had scheduled to stole two (2) candidates for Life

the stoling service.

Washington District Lay Council

As part of our ongoing effort to Retool Our People By Reaching Our Potential, the Lay Councils of the Washington District, Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference, continue to be involved in ministries within our local churches as well as our surrounding communities. Coming off of three days of anointed teaching and preaching at the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District's Leadership Training Institute, we were primed for Lay Sunday Services. Several recaps of Lay Councils' recent activities follows:

New member, Mrs. Sherene Harris, delivered a very impactful Lay Sunday message, "Retooling Our People," during the morning worship service and laity participants led the service. Recognition and honor was bestowed on Mrs. Roberta Batey, past Lay president, for 45 plus years of dedicated leadership and service. Lay Leaders Johnnie Tolbert, Jimmie Gross, Gerald Johnson, Jerry Hill, Mike Ashton and Elaine Puryear were recognized for going above and beyond with outstanding service. The Youth Sound Ministry, T.J. Freeman, Yann Atchole, Kennedy Freeman, Danielle Henderson and Tyler Spann were presented volunteer certificates and a token monetary gift for their weekly operation of the sound system.



Members in the Lay Council, Mrs. Patricia Briddell and Mrs. Lolita Ashley. Only one person was present due to the inclement weather. Mr. Chuck Williams who serves as the past president of Baltimore Lay Council and now serves as the Regional Director for Angola performed

Regional News

Following service a delightful reception prepared by Trinity's Culinary Ministry was enjoyed by all. The Great Hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion by Lay Member Sharon Robinson. It was truly a great day in the life of our beloved Trinity family. Submitted by Shirley Richardson Union Wesley AME Zion Church

Union Wesley AME Zion Church

Connectional Lay Sunday at Union Wesley AME Zion Church was an inter generational led service with the youth participating in scripture reading and the Youth Choir singing alongside the Gospel Ensemble. Lay Council President, Mrs. Yvonne Baskerville gave opening remarks stressing the importance of membership and welcoming all members of the church to join the Lay Council. Mrs. Patrice Relford, Union Wesley's First Lady, was the featured Lay speaker. Mrs. Relford delivered a powerful message taken from Deut. 31:9-13. The message was entitled, "Can You Handle The Truth?" The three points of her message were; We must have a personal commitment to know the truth, We must have a personal commitment to live the truth and a personal commitment to teach the truth. A personal commitment to know the truth requires us to seek the truth, to learn and understand who we are as a people and a nation. She emphasized that we continue to let others tell our story. The Truth remains obscured. We must be willing to learn and teach the true history of our people. We have a royal history we have yet to embrace and proclaim. She concluded by reminding us, "God is the same yesterday, today and forever." Submitted by Yvonne Baskerville and Brenda Ruffin

Lomax AME Zion Church

In October several Lay Council members supported our NAACP Arlington Branch 72nd Freedom Fund Banquet where the church was highlighted



and thanked for its involvement in promoting education, freedom, and justice for all. Not to be forgotten, was our effort to evangelize others during an impassionate Lay Sunday Worship Service, where different age groups of the church participated in the program, with the

new president of the Lay Council, Ms. Debra Byrd providing the message. As a part of our ongoing effort to promote outreach ministry, the Lay Council continues to be active in community service projects and community action programs. We pledged to work cooperatively and collaboratively with all other ministries within our church this year. Hence, we partnered with the Men's Ministry on a recycling and repurposing of goods FUNDrive to collect and donate clothing, books, small appliances, and other goods to the UNIQUE Thrift Store in Merrifield, VA. In November, we will partner with our Food Pantry to collect non-perishable food items for distribution as a part of our Holiday Food Drive. NBC 4 Food and Friends will provide turkeys, and members of the Lay Council will volunteer in support of this community action program.



Supporting our local NAACP 72nd Freedom Fund Banquet



Supporting our local NAACP 72nd



Lomax, Giving back to the community. FUNDrive 2019

Also, in November in conjunction with the Young Adult Ministry we will venture on a field trip for a private showing of the movie, "Harriet". In December, we have invited our local community to come to Lomax in support of our Annual Christmas Bazaar. Submitted by Debra Byrd

Grace Memorial AME Zion Church

Connectional Lay Sunday at Grace Memorial AME Zion Church was presided over by our new Lay Council President, Mr. Devin Magee. Mrs. Jacquelyn Johnson, a returning member to Grace Memorial delivered a very impactful message, with other lay members involved and supporting the entire morning service.

Mrs. Johnson's stirring message was entitled, "In Tune!", from Matthew 26:36-40. She reminded us how the different instruments in an orchestra have to be in tune in order to produce the sounds of beautiful concert. And how in scripture, Jesus continually reminds us that He and the Father are one... in tune. As she closed, she asked, "to whose drum beat do we walk?"

Following this inspiring message, Mr. Magee was presented with a Connectional Lay Council medallion and the other lay council participants were presented with Connectional Lay Council lapel pins. Submitted by Gilbert Turner



Virginia Conference

The Virginia Conference has only held the Lay Banquet the day before our last check-up meeting "Celebrating 400 years 1619 to 2019, From Slavery to Freedom". I was also the speaker for Lay Day at the St. James A.M.E. Zion Church, Salisbury Maryland where the Pastor is the Rev. Dr. David L. McLendon. Submitted by William English, Conference President



I pray everyone is doing well. The Norfolk District celebrated Lay Day with a beautiful and uplifting concert with Carrie'n the Voices. We also had a stoling presentation where the following Lay Life Members were stoled:

Lisa Praileau, Metropolitan AME Zion Church and Toni Garrett, Gilmerton Star AME Zion Church.

We also presented a Life Membership Certificate to Denise Turner, Hood Chapel AME Zion Church.

Our membership drive for the year has begun and we are working toward 100% participation from all of our churches. As the 2nd Vice President for the VA Conference, I plan to contact all of the churches in the conference to reach 100% as well as cleaning up the rosters. I am in contact with the CLC 2nd Vice President for assistance. Submitted by Cynthia White



Trinity Lay Sunday



On Sunday, October 20, 2019, Trinity AME Zion Church observed Lay Sunday. New member, Mrs. Sherene Harris, delivered a very impactful message, "Retooling Our People," during the morning worship service and laity participants led the service. Recognition and honor was bestowed on Mrs. Roberta Batey, past Lay president, for 45 plus years of dedicated leadership and service. Lay Leaders Johnnie Tolbert, Jimmie Gross, Gerald Johnson, Jerry Hill, Mike Ashton and Elaine Puryear were recognized for going above and beyond with outstanding service. The Youth Sound Ministry, T.J. Freeman, Yann Atchole, Kennedy Freeman, Danielle

Henderson and Tyler Spann were presented volunteer certificates and a token monetary gift for their weekly operation of the sound system. It was only fitting that we

recognize the new members on that day. Each of the 16 new members received a New Member Certificate from Pastor Freeman and a gift from the Contact Ministry (Sandra Bears, President). Following service a delightful reception prepared by Trinity's Culinary Ministry was enjoyed by all. The Great Hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion by Lay Member Sharon Robinson. It was truly a great day in the life of our beloved Trinity family.



Regional News

**Western West Africa
Episcopal District
Bishop Hillard Dogbe
Presiding Prelate
Mr. Lawrence Kofi Atsyor
Regional Director**

The celebration of the Lay Sunday this conference year, saw an increase in the number of societies that supported it. Some societies went further than the normal order of service celebrations to heighten the activities of the Lay Sunday.

Permit me to cite a few examples.

At the Alleyne society the Laity supported by the Pastor in charge organized a Breast Cancer Screening for the church as part of the of church. To give back to society as a kind gesture, the general public was invited.

The Aggrey Memorial society organized street evangelism the "word on the street". before church service. Members displayed placards with scripture verses on them as they stood along the streets o Mambrobi.

Metropolitan society also organized a similar evangelism program before the Lay Sunday. Permit me to quote part of Bishop Speaks Society's report. "It was really an occasion where God's given talents deposited in the Lay was showcased; in the sermon, the songs, the conducting of the entire service by the Lay and above all the appeal for funds".



Lay Council
stolling of Life
Members at the
West Ghana
Conference



Meet the Candidates for the Episcopacy

Elect

Rev. Dr. **Myrtle**
Bowen



for **BISHOP 2020**

Moving to the Next Level



Compassionate Message

As I have traveled across our beloved Zion (home and overseas) I have observed the struggles to balance the demands of the church and the world. There is a need for a compassionate message and messenger, to convey to our clergy, our congregations and our culture that spiritual leadership is sensitive to their needs and the concerns of those who have walked away from the church altogether.

Consistent Ministry

Looking back over the last 27 years of my ministry, how blessed I have been to work alongside awesome Presiding Elders, Pastors and members to strengthen the work of local congregations and leaders. This has been done consistently throughout my ministry and now, in pursuit of this high office, my desire is to work with the entire A.M.E. Zion Church, much in the same way to ensure we are "healthy, vibrant, growing, and equipped" to provide transformative leadership and ministries.

Committed Mission

It is imperative to serve this present age by using a prophetic voice for preaching and teaching the good news of the Gospel. With a global view of Kingdom Building, I am fully committed to using the Office of Bishop to equip persons of every rank and file for the work of God's Kingdom. Together we will lift our standards for a better Zion! I'm a Candidate for Episcopacy who is Committed to Developing Dynamic Disciples.

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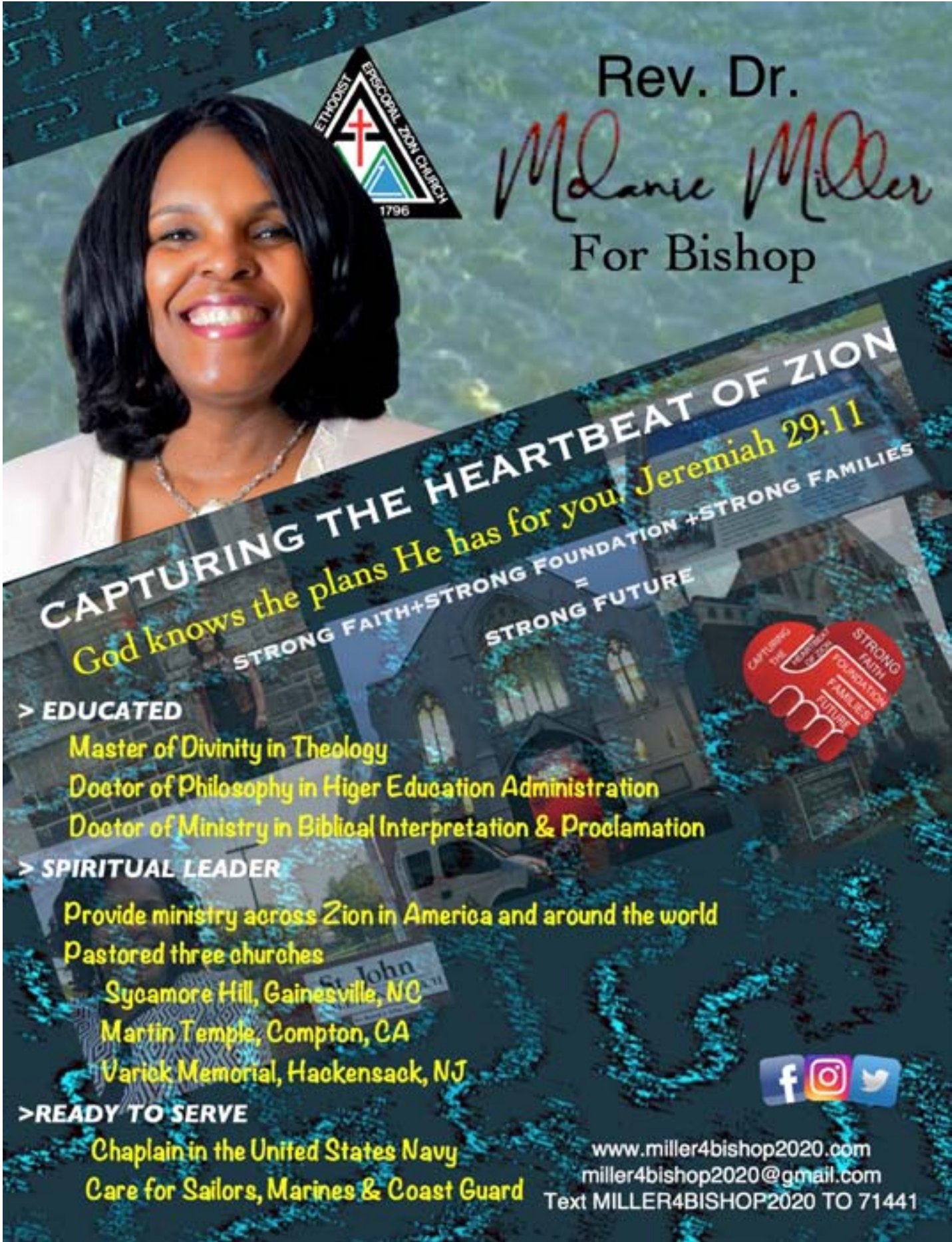
Reengaging and Retooling of local
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greater mission impact—making
disciples—through EFFECTIVE
EVANGELISM.

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social and economic justice through LEADERSHIP in
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and community-based organizations.

PRAYER

Recognizing and Reclaiming the centrality
of PRAYER in worship, the work of ministry,
service to our communities and our ability
to witness of the saving grace and power
of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Rev. Dr.

Melanie Miller

For Bishop

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Best Wishes!

to
Dr. Mary Matthews
and
the Connectional Lay Council

**Keep Up
The Great Work!**
God Bless!

FROM
Reverend Dr. Dwayne A. Walker
Pastor of Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church
Candidate for the Office of Bishop
in the A.M.E Zion Church

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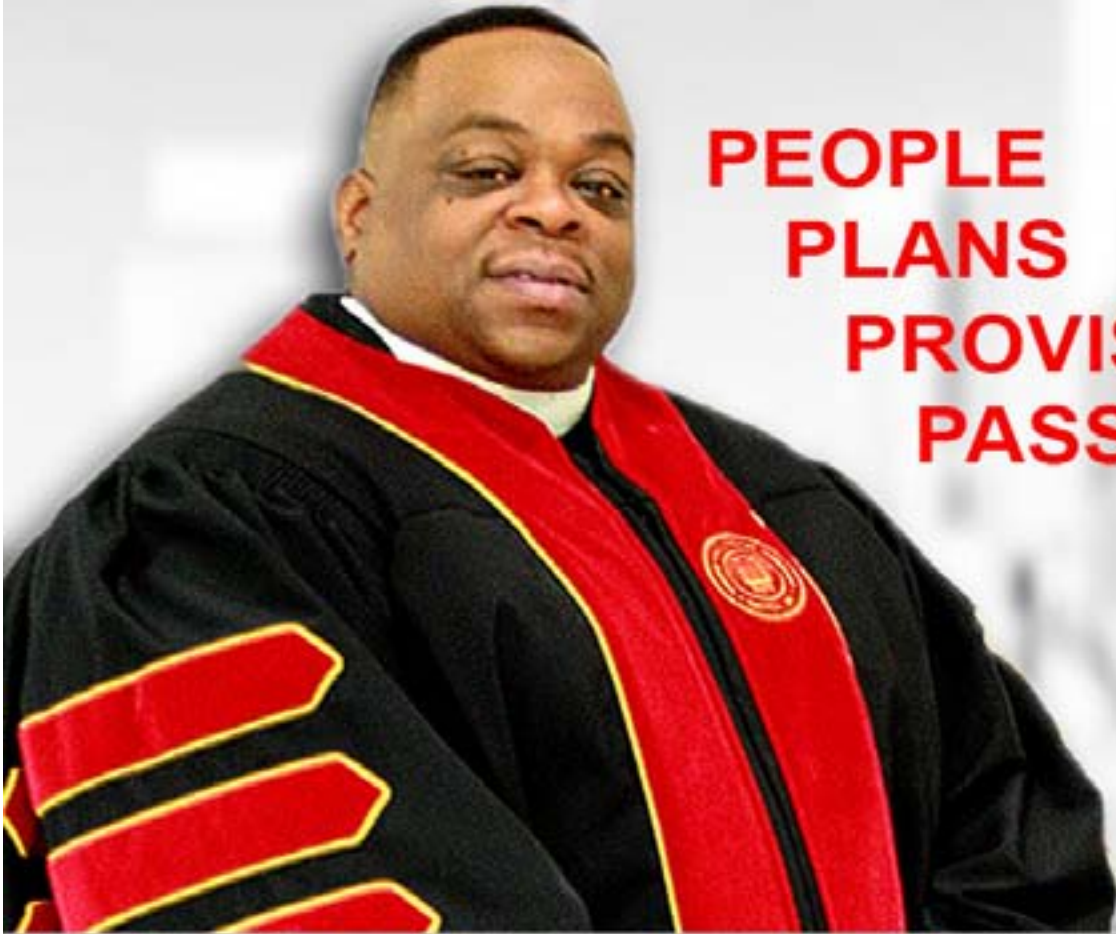


*Reverend
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Candidate for General Secretary
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Lakesha Womack

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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