Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization



Introduction

Laity Fulfilling the Great Commission



July 30th - August 2nd 2014 | Marriott Oakland City Center | Oakland, CA

TO: Bishop T. Larry Kirkland, Fifth Episcopal District; Mrs. Mary Kirkland, Episcopal supervisor; Dr. Willie Glover, Connectional Lay President; Judicial Council, Connectional Officers; Mr. Simeon Rhoden, President, Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization; Fifth District Lay Officers; Presiding Elders; Pastors; Members of the Clergy; Delegates; Visitors and Friends

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

I thank you for another year of traveling throughout the Fifth Episcopal District, in an effort to teach, train and educate. My travels took me to the majestic and picturesque Great Falls, MT, to beautiful, but sweltering Kansas City, MO and to relaxing, yet historic Oakland, CA. Thank you all for embracing training as an important dynamic within the Lay Organization.

The quadrennium commenced with the adoption of the Lay Organization's new theme. Our new theme re-enforces the theme of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Our theme "Laity, Fulfilling the Great Commission reminds us that our work requires us to reach beyond the four walls. We, as laity, must strive to connect with lost souls through the use of evangelistic techniques, in order to tell a dying world about a living Savior. Because he lives, we receive his rich and benevolent blessings daily.

Laity, we have a mission. God commands us to do his will. Through our teaching, training and the execution of his mandate, we will achieve our goals and objectives. We are the children of God. We will serve until we reach our next plateau. We will be true to God, the AME Church and the Lay Organization. To God be the Glory!

Major Activities

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TRAINING

- 32nd Session Biennial Connectional Lay Convention Atlanta, GA July 30, 2013
 "Christian Lay Leaders-Developing Lay Leaders for the Harvest"
- Fifth District Lay Organization Executive Board St. Louis, MO -"Understanding the Duties of Lay Organization Officers"
- Mid Year Convocation –Fifth Episcopal District Denver, CO –March 12, 2014
 Clergy/Lay Forum –"Issues Facing the Church from a Clergy/Lay Perspective
- St. Mark AME Church-Los Angles, CA March 15, 2014 Trustee Training
- SCCLO Executive Board Meeting Allen Chapel AME Church –San Bernardino, CA
 2012 Disciplinary Changes
- Midwest Conference Lay Organization Training Bethel AME Church Kansas City, MO – April 5, 2014 - "Membership Rights in the AME Church" and "What's Your Position"

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TRAINING

- California Conference Lay Organization Executive Board Meeting First AME Church-Oakland, CA – May 18, 2014, "Visionary Leadership – Motivating and Revitalizing the Lay Organization"
- Pacific Northwest Conference Lay Organization Union Bethel AME Church –Great Falls, MT – May 22, 2014 - "The Anvil – Echoes-General Conference and 2012 Disciplinary Changes
- Fifth District Lay Organization Convention 57th Session –Marriott Oakland City Center –July 30, 2014 – Clergy/Lay Forum Part II – Taking a Constructive Look at the Lay Organization
- Fifth District Lay Organization Convention 57th Session –Marriott Oakland City Center –July 31, 2014 – Clergy/Lay Building God's Kingdom Together-"It's a Partnership"

Major Meetings





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- 32nd Biennial Session Connectional Lay Organization

 Atlanta, GA August 2013
- Fifth District Planning Meeting November 2013- St. Louis, MO
- Fifth District Mid-Year Convocation March 2014 Denver, CO



Future Plans

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- Director of Lay Activities Retreat
 - Hosting Conference Director of Lay Activities
 - After receipt of Study Guides from Connectional Lay Director of Lay Activities
 - Open to all Directors of Lay Activities at all levels
- Offer a Fifth District Wide General Conference Survival Camp for Delegates to the 2016 General Conference
- Director of Lay Activities Corner on Website
- Publication of Training materials on line

Recommendations





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- 1. The 58th Session of the Fifth District Lay Organization Convention be devoted to at least one full training day.
- 2. Each local President be responsible for registering his/her pastor to the 58th Session of the Fifth District Lay Organization to ensure the pastor's exposure to training through the Lay Organization.
- 3. The Lay Organization make available in its budget funds to reproduce a Fifth District Lay Organization teaching and best practice guide.

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