

African Methodist Episcopal Church
Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization

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

Melvin L. Jenkins, Esq.

President, Midwest Conference



FIFTY-SEVENTH (57TH) ANNUAL SESSION
FIFTH DISTRICT LAY CONVENTION

Daily Fulfilling the Great Commission

Hosted by The California Conference Lay Organization

Opening Statement



Laitty Fulfilling the Great Commission



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TO: Bishop T. Larry Kirkland, Presiding Prelate of the Fifth Episcopal District; Mrs. Mary Kirkland, Episcopal supervisor; Dr. Willie Glover, Connectional Lay President; 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

On behalf of Team Midwest, I greet all of you in the name of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We also want to extend congratulations to the Fifth District Lay Organization as we convene for the 57th Annual Session.

As the newly elected President of the Midwest Conference Lay Organization (MWCLO), it is with great enthusiasm that I report the numerous accomplishments of the past year, then under the leadership of Brother Donald Jones.

As we look back at the past accomplishments, we cannot help but to look forward to what is ahead of us. We all know that the African Methodist Episcopal Church is a great institution with a rich history and legacy. It is our prayer that we strive to work together, Lay and Clergy, hand in hand to bring more souls to Christ and to make life better for all. We, Team Midwest, are excited to announce a Unity Service, Lay and Clergy to be held in late September after the Midwest Annual Conference. Further, to stress the team concept of the MWCLO, we are holding a Commitment Service in October to emphasis the strength in an unbroken chain.

Laity Fulfilling the Great Commission



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Finally, we in the MWCLO cannot contain our excitement and enthusiasm as we plan for the 58th Annual Session of the Fifth District Lay Convention to be held in Kansas City, Missouri, the home of the Negro League Baseball Hall of Fame and the revived 18th and Vine District.

As we work together over the next several days, let us do so, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace", Ephesians 4:3.

Yours in the Struggle,

Melvin L. Jenkins, President, MWCLO

Statistical Report

Laitly Fulfilling the Great Commission



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1. Number of Local Lay Organizations in the Conference:		36	
2. Number of Churches in Conference & Number of Cities		# Churches: 60	# Cities: 45
3. Total number of members in Lay Organization		300	
4. This is an Increase/Decrease Over Last Year		Increase/Decrease	
5. Number of Persons to This Convention:		15	
a. Connectional Officers:	0	g. Local Church Presidents:	0
b. District Officers:	2	h. Local Church Adult Delegates:	0
c. Conference Presidents:	1	i. Local Church Youth Delegates:	0
d. Conference Adult Delegates:	10	j. Observers:	0
e. Conference Youth Delegates:	1	k. Director of Lay Activities:	1
f. Total Nr. First-Timers:	0	TOTAL NUMBER DELEGATES:	15
6. Number of Persons Deceased This Year:			10
7. Number of Churches Visited Last Year:			18
8. Number of Workshops Held Last Year:			10

Conference Lay Projects or Accomplishments

Lay Fulfilling the Great Commission



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This past Conference Year, the Lay Organization remained focused on “Unity in the Body” as we continued to work closely with the clergy and are all, “United in Ministry”.

Our major emphasis has been in five areas; Training, Scholarships, Young Adult Activities, Annual Convention, and Lay Night at the Annual Conference.

TRAINING

The Free Training Conference Calls is still our method of endeavoring to reach everyone in our Conference that includes the states of Kansas, Nebraska, and Northwest Missouri. The following topics were covered in the calls: Duties and Responsibilities of Officers; Themes – Lay and Connectional; From Membership to Discipleship; Education and the Church; and How to Conduct the Business of the Church.

We also embarked upon reviewing, [The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2012](#). This was accomplished by Monday night conference calls for one hour. We began January 6, 2014 and held the last session on June 30, 2014. Very lively discussions were held and everyone agreed that while it was a long commitment, it was well worth the effort.

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The highlight of the year was our Annual Clergy/Laity Workshop where Patricia Mayberry, Esq., Fifth District Director of Lay Activities was our Facilitator. The topics were : “Membership in the AME Church- Does Membership Have Benefits?” and “What Is Your Position”. More than 160 persons participated , included Lay and Clergy. Needless to say it was a very informative session and persons left with new ideas and hopefully a new appreciation for African Methodism.

LAY NIGHT AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Lay Night at Annual Conference “lifted up” the plight of those who are homeless with a production written by Blanche Banks entitled ,“Dignity Through Duress”. This also served as an Out Reach Project as toiletries and monetary gifts were collected and donated to a local charity. There was superb acting and moving vocal renditions that made this truly an eye opening experience.

ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Annual Convention opened with Worship and our guest speaker was Bishop Clement W. Fugh, Presiding Prelate of the Fourteenth Episcopal District. His message dealt with the AME Church and the subject was , "Treat Her Like A Lady". He also blessed us with a timely workshop on Leadership. The Fifth District President conducted the election and installed the newly elected officers at the Royal Blue and White Banquet. Also at the Banquet ,we presented our Scholarship Winners and welcomed three new Life Member, Jo Lee Brooks, Kay Moore, and Stefanie Scott.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

The Annual Scholarship, “All You Can Eat Pancake Feast , “was held and all of the proceeds went to the Scholarship Fund. A Health Fair and Voter Registration was held to reach those in the community. The Scholarship winners were Shelby Ware - \$1,000.00 and Ayrton Lewallen - \$500.00. Book Awards of \$200.00 were given to Ashleigh Hollis and Aleyah Murray.

YAR ACTIVITIES

The YAR has continued to offer programs and activities to engage persons between the ages of 18-30. Activities included Monthly Gospel Skate every first Sunday, a Gospel Extravaganza , and “Awaken – The Turn Up Revival”. The Youth and Young Adults of the Conference participated in the Choir and the Revival Preacher was Rev. Barry Settle of First AME Church, Kansas City, Kansas.

OTHER NOTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Team Midwest has continued with its 6:00 a.m. worship services every fourth Sunday of the month in the Kansas City area. Other local lay organizations outside of the Kansas City area usually are charged with responsibility for worship services on third or fourth Sundays.

The Conference Lay Organization is proud to announce that it has resumed publication of its bi-monthly newsletter, *The Lay Gazette*.

Budget

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- District Budget Paid Prior to Convention: \$2,200 (April 2014)
- District Budget Paid On-Site at Convention: \$ 0

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Questions

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