

African Methodist Episcopal Church Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization

July 29th – July 31st 2015 | Airport Hilton | Kansas City, MO



Dr. Verda Bradley

Historiographer 5th District Lay Organization

FIFTY-EIGHTH (58TH) ANNUAL SESSION
FIFTH DISTRICT LAY CONVENTION

Hosted by The Midwest Lay Organization

Introduction

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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; Clergy; Delegates; Visitors and Friends

Pray that God will teach you His ways and transform your life by His Word.

Is.2:3

History is Important

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- “History is the yesterday of mankind; it is the memory of men. Without a knowledge of yesterday, without any memory, there is no guide to tomorrow. An organization without history lacks direction. But men who are conscious of their past can improve their future. They know that the forces that have shaped the past are similar to those that shape the world they live in and to those that will determine the future.”

- Mazour-Peoples



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- Literally, “people,” the word refers technically to the whole people of God incorporated into the body of Christ. The term has come to refer to those who are nonordained as distinguished from ordained [clergy](#).
- “The Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is commissioned to teach, train and empower its member for lay ministry, global leadership and service following the tenets of Jesus Christ. The purpose of this organization is to organize and train the laity of the AMEC so that lay persons may maximally utilize their God given abilities and skills to improve and extend the kingdom to create happiness, peace and harmony among its members.” (The Doctrine and Discipline of the AMEC 2012, Pg. 382)

First Annual Session of the Fifth Episcopal District: Trinity AMEC and First AMEC, Kansas City, Kansas

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- Minutes of First Annual Session of the 5th Episcopal District Laymen's League June 2-4, 1950
- Rt. Rev. D. Ormonde Walker, A.M., D.D., PhD. Presiding Bishop
- Officers:
 - Mr. George Jones President
 - Mrs. Georgia Marshall Vice President
 - Mr. Henry H. Glass Secretary
 - Mrs. Gladys Mallory Tyler Assistant Secretary
 - Mr. Chester Gaskin Treasurer
 - Mrs. Lucy W. Minor Chaplain

1950 Conference Presidents



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5th

- Puget Sound
- California
- Southern California
- Colorado
- Kansas
- Nebraska
- North Missouri
- Southwest Missouri
- Missouri

District

- Not Organized
- Mrs. Georgia Marshall
- Mr. C. W. Stafford
- Mr. A. L. Mitchell
- Dr. J. Louis Ransom
- Mr. J.J. Parks
- Mr. Joseph T. Ansel
- Mr. Clarence E. Owens
- Mr. A.L. Hammons

Minutes June 1950

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- Mrs. Fegan of the Southwest Missouri Conference stated on the advice of President Dudley of the Connectional Organization the name Laymen's League should be changed to Laymen's Organization.
- Attorney Dudley's profound and prolific tenure leadership resulted in the Lay movement expanding into all Episcopal Districts and Annual Conference Organizations.

Major Activities

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- Fifth District Historiographer Book
- Completing all of the Transcribing of the Colored Conventions held in AME Churches in 5th District:
- Thirty-five years before the abolition of slavery, visionary American prophet Bishop Richard Allen hosted a national gathering of Black men and women at Mother Bethel, Philadelphia.

At this, the first Colored Convention 1830, delegates from African American communities gathered, elections were held, committees appointed and official conversations about the African-American response to racial crises of the day were held. At the conclusion of the meeting, resolutions were passed and a statement of understanding presented by the president of the convention Bishop Richard Allen, copies of which were issued and made available to the public

Major Meetings

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- Attended CLO Executive Board Meeting November in Myrtle Beach, SC
- Attended Planning Meeting October 2014
- Attended 5th District Convention July 2014
- Attended Mid Year Meeting March 2015

Future Plans

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- Continue to develop the history of the organization

Recommendations

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- Thanks to all who assisted with this project. Special Thanks to Ada Groff who sent the first minutes.

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Questions

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