

African Methodist Episcopal Church
Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization
Fifty-Seventh (57th) Annual Session
Marriott Oakland City Center
Oakland, CA
Wednesday July 30, 2014

President Simeon Rhoden called the 5th District Lay Convention to order at 1:15 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Chaplain Marguerite Davis for devotion. The song "Glad to be in the service" was sung by all and was followed by prayer by Sis. Davis. Our scripture came from Matthew 28:16-20.

Following devotion, Pres. Rhoden called the meeting to order and roll call was conducted. At roll call Judge Patricia Mayberry, Director of Lay Activities and Harriette Ziegler, Desert Mountain Conference president, were excused; all others answered. Welcomes were given by Marilyn Lovelace-Grant, president of the host California Conference, Rev. Harold Mayberry of First AME Oakland and Bishop Theodore Larry Kirkland.

The registration committee's preliminary report was given by Corresponding Secretary Judith Bradley who reported 147 delegates. The delegation was then seated by conferences based on these preliminary numbers.

Parliamentarian Foster Chisholm read the Rules Committee Report. The report was discussed and then passed by the body.

Four Marshals were nominated and elected to serve during the convention. They were Phillip Jones (SCC), Jerome Greer (CAC), Lance Williams (SCC) and Jameke Hinton-Hodge (CAC).

President Rhoden reviewed the agenda for the convention and asked for approval. Nona Simpkins (MOC) requested that we add a report from the General Board as we have two individuals who are members of that Board. The Marshals were also requested to monitor the designated time limits set in the convention rules. Jackie Dupont-Walker moved that the Agenda be accepted with changes. The motion was properly seconded and passed. It was moved, seconded and passed that the Rules Committee's report be changed to reflect that the Marshal will enforce the time limits.

A summary of the minutes from the 56th Fifth District Convention were read. Eddie Broomfield (MOC) moved and Yvonne Liddell (DMC) seconded that we accept the minutes. The motion passed.

President Rhoden then turned the chair over to First VP Lamar Rose while he read his report. Copies were already in the kits so he did not read the entire report but highlighted those items of importance. Patricia Samuel, Second VP moved that we accept the report with commendations. Tom Sutton seconded and the motion was passed by the body.

Southern California Conference President Dr. Dorothy Vails-Weber asked if we could get a copy of the recommendations and at the next business session vote on them. Arrangements were made to make the information available for one of our later business sessions.

At this time we took a break.

After the break Bishop Kirkland introduced candidates who are running for a general office in 2016:

Editor of the Christian Recorder – Rev. V. Gordon Glenn

Bishop – Rev. Timothy Tyler

Bishop – Presiding Elder Allen Williams

Bishop – Rev. J. Arthur Rumph

Judicial Council – Rev. Delmon Howard

Following these presentations, we began the Lay/Clergy Forum which was moderated by Judge Patricia Mayberry. The panel members were Rev. Daryl Walker, Rev. Freda Cash, Rev Terry McCray-Hill, Foster Chisholm, Shawlee Lee, Lamar Rose and Jene'l Sconier. The panel spoke on three topics: How do we make the Church grow? What expectations do I have of my Lay Organization? How do clergy and laity work together to advance God's Kingdom?

How do we make the Church grow? Clergy and laity believed that the lay members are integral in attracting and retaining members in the church. Laity has to be more active and go out into the communities and bring people into the church. We need new innovative ways to teach and train current members so they can go out and reach others. Laity should be involved in the whole church not just one aspect. We must be humble, love and be inclusive.

What expectations do I have of my Lay Organization? Do these change for various levels? We need to be true trainers and catalysts and speed up reactions to issues that we face. We must demonstrate the spirit that God places on us as we develop programs for the total church. We need skilled people who can reach success through collaboration across the conference, district and connection. As members, we should be excited to be a part of the Lay Organization and be honest and true regardless of the level.

How do clergy and laity work together to advance God's kingdom? We must keep God first. We must remember that lay people are ministers also, not ordained, but commissioned to lead others to Christ. We must prepare ourselves by attending Bible Study, Sunday/Church School

and meetings on the various levels. We need to feed the needy, not the greedy and spread the gospel.

The business session adjourned for the day.

Our Celebration of Worship and Communion Service was held at First A.M.E. Church where Rev. Harold R. Mayberry is the pastor. During this service we collected \$2000 in the LAOS Offering and this was presented to the Ora Lee Brown Foundation. Rev. Mayberry's sermon topic was "This Is Not Your Fight" and the scripture came from 2 Chronicles 20:1-15.

Thursday July 31, 2014

Business began at 8:40 A.M. with First VP Lamar Rose presiding. A video was shown of the Devotion and Bible Study led by Chaplain Marguerite Davis that occurred at 7:30 that morning. There were not many people in attendance. Our Chaplain has put a lot of work into securing teachers for these sessions and we need to support her with our attendance and participation. The teacher/speaker this morning was Rev. Joyce R. Kitchen of Emmanuel Turner – Los Angeles and the presenter on Friday will be Rev. Cubie Finely, III of Bethel, Chino, CA.

The recommendations from President Rhoden's report were presented and discussed. Parliamentarian Foster Chisholm moved and Second VP Patricia Samuel seconded that we accept the President's recommendations. The motion passed with one (1) abstention.

President Rhoden presented his vision for the Lay Organization and he referenced Habakkuk 2:2-3. He said this vision is outlined in the President's report and asked that we review the vision he has set forth and pray on it. Discussion ensued.

First VP Lamar Rose and the Budget committee read the income portion of the Budget report. In 2013 a two-year budget was approved that covered 2013-2015. The fair shares for the various conferences were read: Southern California - \$2400; Midwest - \$2200; Missouri - \$2100; California - \$2000; Desert Mountain - \$1450 and Pacific Northwest - \$1350. All conferences were reminded that their final payments were due before the convention started. The committee asked that this report constitute the first reading. Southern California Conference Pres. Dorothy Vails-Weber moved that we receive the Budget report as the first reading. Second VP Patricia Samuel seconded the motion. It was briefly discussed and then was passed with one (1) abstention.

At this time we took a break to prepare for our Power Hour. YAR Jene'l Sconier led the devotion and Rev. Harold Mayberry introduced the speaker, Fire Chief Teresa Deloach-Reed, who serves as a Steward at FAME, Oakland. She is the 1st African American woman to hold the position of Fire Chief in Oakland.

The business session resumed after lunch. President Rhoden received an appeal for the Fifth District Lay to contribute to the Disaster Relief Fund. Each lay member was asked to contribute \$1 and then the Fifth District would match the amount raised and take one check to the fall Connectional Lay Executive Board meeting. Several pastors and visitors who were present were recognized at this time.

We resumed our lay training under the leadership of Director of Lay Activities Judge Patricia Mayberry. We discussed how laity and clergy can come together to further the Kingdom of God. The Clergy (from Cleros) have inherited the task of leading us into the light and away from Satan. The Laity (Laos) are all the people who make up the body of Christ. Despite our different titles, laity and clergy have a lot in common. Some commonalities include: frustration, isolation, discouragement, battle fatigue, loneliness, disrespect, lack of appreciation and need of affirmation. Some of the more positive things we share are serving the Lord unconditionally, equipping saints for ministry, building the Kingdom of God, effectuating stewardship and availing self of God's bountiful blessings. **All** God's people in **all** places and in **all** times **are** called to love and to serve.

We are all members of God's Army with several leaders but only one Commander-In-Chief, Jesus Christ. Each member has a specific purpose; responsibilities are delegated from clergy to laity, and we are developing spiritual gifts for ministry. We should share the vision for full execution (both sides talk and listen – share the communication).

We were shown a video created by Judge Mayberry and her niece Siinya Edmondson entitled "Break Every Chain". There is power in the name of Jesus to break every chain and there is an army rising up to break every chain. This entire presentation was shared with each conference Director of Lay Activities to share with their members.

Our business session resumed at 3:30 p.m. with First VP Lamar Rose as the chair. We heard the report from the Registration Committee. Because of a few questions on the report, the committee was asked to go back and confirm the numbers.

President Rhoden resumed the chair while First VP Lamar Rose gave his report. Gloria Mannix (CAC) moved and Jameka Hinton-Hodge (CAC) and Janice Brown (DMC) seconded that the report, without recommendations, be accepted. The motion passed. There was one recommendation in this report: to establish a web-based online accounting system for robust entry and reporting. The projected cost is \$250-\$300 annually. Southern California Conference President Dorothy Vails-Weber moved to accept this recommendation and Director of Public Relations Faye Brown second the motion. The motion passed with a count of fifty-eight (58) yes votes, thirty-nine (39) no votes and seventeen (17) abstentions.

The Registration Committee returned with the confirmed figures. Sandra Nelson (PNWC) moved and it was properly seconded that we accept the report. The motion passed.

Second VP Patricia Samuel gave her report. Since we do not have a strategic plan from the Connectional Lay, Pres. Rhoden asked Patricia to create a directory of conference lay organizations, officers and events. The Strategic Calendar Planners had been completed and were available for \$5. It was moved by Historiographer Dr. Verda Bradley that we accept the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Bill Dickens (PNWC). After a brief discussion, the motion passed with one (1) abstention.

The report from Third VP Barbara Moore was presented with assistance from YAR Jene'I Sconier. Deborah Bowman-Lee (DMC) moved and Wanda Moose (MOC) seconded to accept the report. The motion passed.

Historiographer Dr. Verda Bradley presented her report. It was moved by Wanda Moose (MOC) and seconded by Yvonne Liddell (DMC) to accept the report. Motion passed.

Recording Secretary Nixietta Williams read her report. Nona Simpkins (MOC) moved and Janice Brown (DMC) seconded that we accept the report as presented. Motion passed.

Treasurer Florette Hampton gave her report. Brenda Simpson (MOC) moved and Anita West-Ware (DMC) seconded that we accept this report. Discussion ensued. Southern California Pres. Dorothy Vails-Weber asked if we had established a process for auditing as we said we would do last year. President Rhoden said we agreed to have an audit last year, but have done nothing to date. Pres. Vails-Weber also asked if the Treasurer and Financial Secretary were bonded. Financial Secretary Nelda Hills said she checked with one audit company but they only deal with customers with \$50,000+ in funds. Pres. Vails-Weber has a company we can talk to and she will provide the information to the financial secretary. The motion to accept the Treasurer's report passed.

Financial Secretary Nelda Hills gave a verbal report. First VP Rose said we will accept the verbal report, but we want the recommendations in writing before we move on those. Wanda Moose (MOC) moved and Everett Fletcher (MWC) seconded that we accept the verbal report. The motion passed.

Report given by Parliamentarian Foster Chisholm. Gloria Manus moved and Historiographer Verda Bradley seconded that we accept the report. Motion passed.

Young Adult Representative Jene'I Sconier gave her report. Corresponding Secretary Judith Bradley moved and Financial Secretary Nelda Hills seconded that we accept this report without the recommendations. The motion passed.

Director of Lay Activities Judge Patricia Mayberry reported. She would like to have a retreat for DOLAs on all levels. The report also included a requirement that we devote at least one full day of our conventions to training – nothing less. We need to have more clergy register for our conventions. She is working on a survival camp for General Conference delegates and a teaching and best practice guide. Faye Combs moved and Wanda Moose (MOC) seconded that the report be accepted without recommendations. Jackie Dupont-Walker said a retreat has

been offered to those in the Southern California Conference. The motion passed. Fred Stuart (SCC) moved and Sandra Nelson (PNW) seconded that financial recommendations for a full day of training be referred to the Finance Committee to determine cost. Motion failed. Recording Secretary Nixietta Williams moved and it was properly seconded that we devote one full day to training. Motion passed. Rhonda Combs moved that we should encourage, not mandate, local Lay Presidents to get their pastors registered for the District Lay Conventions. The motion was properly seconded and passed. Judge Mayberry will seek outside funding to produce the training guide and best practice guide.

We were dismissed at 6:18 PM for our dinner and we would resume at 7:45 PM.

Business resumed at 7:55 PM with Second VP Patricia Samuel presiding.

Young Adult Representative Jene'I Sconier presented her recommendations to the body for approval. It was recommended that the YAR budget be increased so they could travel throughout the district with the Director of Lay Activities. Cassandra Marshall (SCC) moved and Bill Dickens (PNWC) seconded that we accept this recommendation. The motion passed with three (3) abstentions. It was recommended that we implement a separate budget to allow fundraising to assist young adults in attending the district meetings. Louise Welch (MOC) moved and Eddie Broomfield (MOC) seconded to accept this recommendation. Discussion ensued. The motion failed with ten (10) abstentions. It was recommended that we have other events and activities for young adults during our district meetings in addition to the Lay Christian Arts Festival. Don Jones (MWC) moved and Everett Fletcher seconded that we accept this recommendation. The motion passed.

Financial Secretary Nelda Hills presented the recommendations from her report to the body for approval. Some of the recommendations were on systems we already in place, we just need to use them. The final recommendation was on establishing deadlines for fair shares. It was recommended that the first installment be due by February 1 and the second installment be due by May 1 of each year. Discussion ensued. The dates were changed to the Planning Meeting and the Mid-year dates. Southern California Pres. Vails-Weber moved and Wanda Moose (MO) second that we accept this recommendation. The motion failed. Payment deadlines will be made by the President and the Finance Team, but for now the first payment is due by the date of the Mid-Year and the second half is due before the start of our district convention. It was also recommended that receipts be given when the checks are received by the Financial Secretary.

Sandra Nelson (PNW) reminded us that the Lay Organization is scheduled to meet two times per year and we only have one meeting- our annual convention. Pres. Rhoden said we will look into scheduling another annual meeting.

Director of Public Relations Faye Brown gave her report. Third VP Barbara Moore moved and Eddie Broomfield (MO) second that the report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Ada Groff, Chairperson of the Constitution and By-Laws committee, said the Fifth District Constitution and By-Laws were sent to the Connection but were returned for some minor corrections. Changes were necessary and made in Articles 2, 3 and 5 and in Section 13. The by-laws were not accepted because of the life member section. The corrections are currently being made and will be resubmitted. The committee is also working on the conference lay constitutions and by-laws. DOPR Faye Brown moved and it was properly second that we adopt the amendments presented and this report. The motion passed with two abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned for the evening.

Friday August 1, 2015

The day began with Devotion and Bible Study led by Chaplain Marguerite Davis and by Rev. Cubie Finely, III of Bethel in Chino, CA. Pres. Rhoden called the business session to order at 8:40 and we prepared for our elections.

Recording Secretary Nixietta Williams read the Credentials Committee final report. There were 129 eligible voters. Eddie Broomfield (MO) moved and Wanda Moose (MO) seconded that the report be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

For the election process, Jackie DuPont-Walker and Phyllis Kitchen (MW) were elected as tellers; Brenda Simpson (MO) and Janice Brown (DM) were clerks; and Landra Williams served as secretary.

We held the election for the Fifth District CLEDC Representative. The nominees were Wanda Moose (MO) and Bill Dickens (PNW). Chaplain Marguerite Davis moved and SCC Pres. Vails-Weber seconded that the nominations be closed. Motion passed. Wanda Moose was elected as the CLEDC Representative.

We paused the elections to prepare for our Power Hour. Before dismissal, Phyllis Kitchen (MW) gave the First Timers report. There were 15 preregistered but 22 were present. Pres. Rhoden greeted them individually and then took a picture with them.

The speaker for our Power Hour was Ms. Michelle Lang. She is the Associate Director of Campus Ministries for Warner Pacific College in Portland, OR.

When the business session resumed, Pres. Rhoden introduced Rev. Francine Brookins, a candidate for Bishop in 2016 who came to greet the convention.

Chaplain Davis moved and Second VP Patricia Samuel seconded that we use the same clerks, tellers and secretary from before. The motion passed. Eddie Broomfield (MO) moved and Historiographer Verda Bradley second that the top 5 vote getters will be elected as our delegates to the Biennial and the sixth person would be the alternate. The motion passed.

The floor was opened for nominees for the Young Adult Delegate to the Biennial. Cassandra Marshall (SC) was nominated by SCC Pres. Vails-Weber and Jene'l Sconier. DOLA Patricia Mayberry moved and it was properly second that the nominations be closed. Motion passed. Cedric Patton (MW) moved and YAR Jene'l Sconier second that the secretary cast one unanimous ballot to elect Cassandra Marshall as our Young Adult delegate to the Biennial. The ballot was cast and Cassandra was elected.

The nominees for adult delegates to the Biennial were Tamika Jones (SC), Faye Brown (PNW), Lamar Rose (MO), Yvonne Liddell (DM), Barbara Moore (CA) and Dianna Maddix (MW). The nominations were closed with these six names. The final counts were: Tamika Jones (96), Faye Brown (89), Yvonne Liddell (81), Lamar Rose (80), Barbara Moore (58) and Dianna Maddix (56). Dianna Maddix will serve as the alternate. Pres. Rhoden, DOLA Patricia Mayberry and YAR Jene'l Sconier will also attend the Biennial by virtue of their offices.

We took a break and moved back in place to resume the business session. At 2:30 p.m. Pres, Rhoden call the meeting back to order.

Janice Brown (DM) reported for the Time and Place Committee and distributed calendars for the next five years. Since 2016 is a General Conference year, we will not have our annual convention in the summer. We will have a mini convention at the site of the Mid-Year meeting and all of the conferences will host. In 2019, the fifth district will be hosting the Biennial. They are interested in three cities so far: Denver, Seattle and Los Angeles. The Connectional Lay will make the final decision on the location. SCC Pres. Vails-Weber moved and DOPR Faye Brown second that we accept this report. The motion passed with one (1) abstention.

Jackie Dupont Walker gave the report for the Social Action and AME V-Alert committees. She read the resolutions on voter registration and educational/financial empowerment from the General Board meeting. Sunday September 21, 2014 will be Voter Empowerment/ Freedom Sunday. Janice Brown moved and Faye Brown second that we adopt the resolutions submitted. The motion passed.

Anita West-Ware gave the report for the Scholarship Committee. Two new scholarships have been added this year – Lay Community Service and Lay Leadership. All the forms and information are available on the Fifth District Lay website. The committee received 42 applications for scholarships. Students are encouraged to submit their applications well before the deadlines. The balance in the scholarship account is \$15,787.70. Nona Simpkins (MO) moved and Historiographer Verda Bradley seconded to accept the report.

Don Jones (MW) recommended that three additional names be added to the scholarships: Doris Bailey, Tom Sutton and Harold Shields – all past district presidents. Pres. Rhoden asked the committee to consider this recommendation and report back to the body. Historiographer Verda Bradley recommended that the applicants only apply for one scholarship and not all four. She also inquired if applicants can reapply annually. All of these recommendations and questions will be forwarded to the Scholarship Committee.

A discussion ensued on the Lay Christian Arts Festival. SCC Pres. Vails-Weber asked why the participants do not get a chance to read their poetry to the delegation. She asked the YAR and the LCAF Committee to reconsider this and report back to the body. Fred Stuart (SCC) said we need to rethink the whole program. He suggested alternating the categories so we give out larger monetary awards to the winners. Pres. Rhoden asked that all suggestions go to our Young Adult Representative Jene'I Sconier for further consideration.

This concluded our business session for the day. We were dismissed to prepare for the Lay Christian Arts Festival and the Lay Awards Banquet.

Saturday August 2, 2014

The day began with devotion and Bible study led by Rev. Anthony Hughes of St. Paul – Berkley. Following this we entered our Memorial Period.

The business session was called to order by Pres. Rhoden and the Legislation Committee gave its report. Co-Chairs Sandra Nelson (PNW) and Midwest Conference Pres. Melvin Jenkins discussed the bills in general and copies of the bills were distributed along with the committee report. The committee was authorized to finalize some of the bills and bring them back for a second reading at the call of the President. Parliamentarian Foster Chisholm moved that the report be accepted and DOPR Faye Brown second. The motion passed with two (2) abstentions.

Treasurer Florette Hampton gave her report which covered October 1, 2013 through July 25, 2014. The account balance was \$39,444.55. Corresponding Secretary Judith Bradley moved that we accept this report with commendations. California Conference Pres. Lovelace-Grant second and the motion passed. We need an internal audit committee to check these reports. We need detailed reports from the planning meeting and the mid-year convention.

The Budget Committee gave out hard copies of their report. It was announced that the evaluation forms were on the website.

President Rhoden reported on our outreach project for this convention. Each attendee was asked to bring new socks with them to the convention. We received 668 pairs of socks and they will be donated to the FAME Oakland feeding program.

At this time we received reports from the Conference Presidents. Each President presented their statistics and recommendations. Pres. Rhoden had the body stand and give President Lovelace-Grant and the California Conference commendations for a job well done in hosting this convention.

Two recommendations from the California Conference were voted on by the body. The first was to create a convention manual for the host president of the conventions. Historiographer Verda Bradley moved and Janice Brown (DM) second that we accept this recommendation. Motion passed.

The second recommendation was to have convention branding by the district leaders for all convention related printed materials. Secretary Nixietta Williams moved and Eddie Broomfield (MO) second that we accept this recommendation. The motion passed.

Second VP Patricia Samuel moved and Chaplain Marguerite Davis second to accept all of the Conference Presidents' reports. The motion passed.

CLEDC Representative Wanda Moose gave her report. Pres. Rhoden wants a bi-monthly report on where the money goes.

Chaplain Marguerite Davis gave her report and recommended that we purchase a keyboard to go with us the conventions for use during the opening devotions and for the LCAF.

Historiographer Verda Bradley moved and 2nd VP Patricia Samuel second that we purchase a key board. The motion failed.

President Rhoden initiated discussion on the Episcopal Residency and our stand on this issue. He pointed out that the previous administration had pledged \$1000 from the Lay Organization. Discussion ensued. LoRessie Montgomery Branch moved that the Lay Organization support the purchase of the Episcopal Residency with strict financial accountability. The motion was properly second and the vote was taken. There were 35 yes votes, 35 no votes and 12 abstentions. The Executive Board will now have to make the final decision at a later date.

Midwest Conference President Melvin Jenkins and the Midwest delegation invited the Fifth District to Kansas City, Missouri for the 58th Annual Convention in 2015. The invitation was accepted.

The Resolution Committee report was given by Chair Nona Simpkins. Pearline Hayes (SCC) moved and Wanda Moose (CLEDC) second that this report be adopted. Motion passed.

Louise Welch, Chair of the 5th District Lay Organization Commission of Health, had a report to give with recommendations but we ran out of time. Pres. Rhoden apologized and asked that her report be turned in to be posted on the website.

This concluded our business and our convention. We formed a love circle of 84 people and Pres. Rhoden gave us the closing prayer.

Simeon Rhoden, President

Nixietta Williams, Recording Secretary

Dianna Maddix, Asst. Recording Secretary

