

Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization



Newsletter SPOTLIGHT



**BROTHER
FRED
STUART**

Special Edition

October 26, 2015 Volume 1 Issue 1



IN LOVING MEMORY OF: BROTHER FRED JAMES STUART JR.

WHO TRANSITION FROM LABOR TO REWARD ON: SEPTEMBER 7, 2015



Former
FIFTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Christian
Disciple
Husband
Father
Granddad
Servant
Scholar
Layman
Officer
Trustee
Steward
Usher
Engineer
Founder
Builder
Planner
President
Statesman



Past and Present
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

Brother Stuart was a member of Second AME, Los Angeles for more than 57 years. He is the past President of the SCCLO, and the Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organizations. Brother Fred Stuart also served as Parliamentarian of the Connectional Lay Organization for eight years. His wife Ms. Ann Barnes Stuart is a member of Bryant Temple AME, Los Angeles. Fred leaves behind two daughters, a son and a host of family and friends. Three Bishops attended the home going services. Retired Prelates: Bishop Henning and Bishop Tyler-Guidry, and 5th District Bishop T. Larry Kirkland who delivered the Eulogy.

SPOTLIGHT CALENDAR

October 23, 2015

5th Episcopal District AcadAME Awards Banquet,
Theme: "Living with a Legend in This Lifetime,
A Legendary Affair"

Location: Los Angeles, Crown Plaza Hotel
Ticket donation \$70 each \$750 for VIP Table

October 26—27, 2015

5th District Planning Meeting
Los Angeles Hilton Hotel ~ Airport
5711 West Century Boulevard, LA

October 29 — November 1, 2015

Connectional Lay Executive Board Meeting
Los Angeles Sheraton Hotel ~ Airport
Opening Banquet ~ Thursday October 29 at 7:00 pm

February 14, 2016

Founder's Day

March 2016 ~ 59th Session

Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization
(Mini) Convention
Los Angeles, Hilton Hotel ~ Airport
5711 West Century Boulevard, LA

Inside Edition

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President's Corner



**Mr. Simeon P. Rhoden Jr., A.S.I.D.
Bass-Baritone**

President of the Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization for the past three years.

Mr. Simeon P. Rhoden Jr., born in the parish of St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, reared in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida from the age of 2. Mr. Rhoden attended Florida A&M University and received his BA in English Education and later attended The University of Oklahoma and earned his BAS in Interior Architecture with a Minor in Vocal Performance. Mr. Rhoden obtained his musical and vocal training at the University of Oklahoma, under the late Dr. Thomas Carey and in 1997, he studied vocal performance and German Lied in Graz, Austria; at the same time, he sang with the chorus for the Vienna Opera House during its opera season.

Mr. Rhoden has performed various principal roles for the Cimarron Circuit Opera Company of Oklahoma, Vienna Opera Company of Austria, and has performed with the Seattle Opera Company of Washington. A member of First A. M. E. Church Seattle and a member of The Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated.

Mr. Rhoden has one son, Gerald Rhoden, they both live in the Seattle area and are enjoying life to the fullest.

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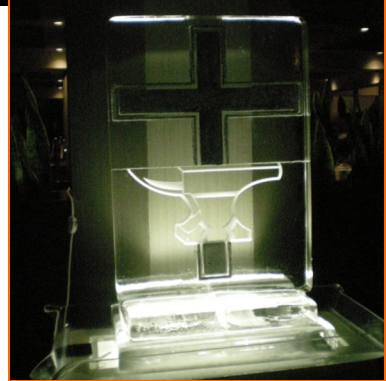
District News



Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization
of the African Methodist Episcopal Church



SPOTLIGHT



5th District Directors of Public Relations (DoPR)

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(Pictures Clip-Art)
(Photo from Web page)

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Deadlines





African Methodist Episcopal Church Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization

**Bishop Theodore L.
Kirkland**
Presiding Prelate

Dr. Willie C. Glover
Connectional Lay
President

**SIMEON P.
RHODEN JR.**
President

LAMAR ROSE
1st Vice President

PATRICIA SAMUEL
2nd Vice President

BARBARA MOORE
3rd Vice President

**NIXIETTA
WILLIAMS**
Recording Secretary

DIANNA MADDIX
Assistant Secretary

JUDITH BRADLEY
Corresponding
Secretary

**FLORETTE
HAMPTON**
Treasurer

NELDA HILLS
Financial
Secretary

**MARGUERITTE
DAVIS**
Chaplain

**DR. VERDA
BRADLEY**
Historiographer

FOSTER CHISOLM
Parliamentarian

**JUDGE
PATRICIA
MAYBERRY**
Director of
Lay Activities

FAYE BROWN
Director of
Public Relations

JENE'L SCONIER
Young Adult
Representative

To: The Family of Brother Fred James Stuart
From: The Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization
Subject: Resolution – Brother Fred James Stuart

We, the Fifth District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church express our sincere sympathy to the family during the passing of our beloved brother and friend – **FRED JAMES STUART**.

No matter what your trials are, or how big your mountains seem; The Lord is there to see you through; He will go to all extremes. So, if your cross seems hard to bear, and you know not what to do; The One who loves you most of all will be there to see you through.

WHEREAS, the members of the Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church join together in celebration of the extraordinary life of Fred Stuart. While our hearts may be heavy, we take comfort in knowing that Fred fought the good fight and finished the race. He kept the faith and is now awaiting his crown of righteousness. We know Fred will be rejoicing with the saints, who have gone before him;

WHEREAS, we are witnesses of Brother Stuart's faithful attendance, loyalty and wholehearted support for the mission of Jesus Christ, the Church, his family, and the Lay Organization. His passion and enthusiasm will resonate in our minds and will serve as a great example for those who knew and marveled at his devotion to the Lord;

WHEREAS, Fred J. Stuart's leadership contributed to the monumental expansion of the Southern California Conference Lay Organization throughout his eight year tenure as President. He devotedly and unselfishly served as President of the Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization for eight years bringing new life into the organization. Brother Stuart continued to serve as the Connectional Lay Organization's Parliamentarian for eight years artfully demonstrating the finer points of Parliamentary Procedure with precision and in depth knowledge;

WHEREAS, an elected delegate from the Fifth District to the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church multiple times, Brother Stuart served as an elected Lay Representative on the Episcopal Committee for three consecutive General Conferences providing guidance in resolving issues impacting the assignments of Bishops to their various Episcopal Districts;

WHEREAS, after Brother Stuart concluded his terms in office, he remained faithful to the Lay Organization serving as trusted advisor and confidant to the last three Fifth District Presidents. Brother Stuart spoke with holy boldness never faltering or wavering in upholding the cause of righteousness. He did not get weary in well doing;

WHEREAS, the Fifth District Lay honored Brother Stuart through the establishment of the Fred J. Stuart Scholarship of Achievement as a means of memorializing his outstanding contributions to the organization by offering a scholarship designed to recognize and support young adults striving to further their educational endeavors. Brother Stuart recognized the importance of education in the development of our future leaders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we bow in humble submission to Him, who never makes a mistake and extend words of encouragement to the family in their time of sorrow. We lift you up in our prayers, but remind you, that even though your loved one transformed from his earthly body to his spiritual one, Heaven rejoices as it welcomes its newest Angel. Brother Fred J. Stuart will be deeply missed, but we rejoice for we know that he is at peace.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be given to the family of Brother Fred Stuart and a copy placed in the permanent archives of the 5th Episcopal District Lay Organization.

Humbly Submitted, Simeon P. Rhoden Jr. President

"May God bless us, with the true spirit of Christianity, that we may live together, not as man over man, but as Lay Persons working with God"

September 14, 2015



“Emanuel AME Survivors Feel Forgotten as Life Moves Forward”

District News



Polly Sheppard and Felicia Sanders, the only adult survivors of the Emanuel AME massacre, greet Brenda Nelson, who left the church for the night shortly before the fateful Bible study began. GRACE BEAHM/STAFF



(“Tyrone (center) and Felicia Sanders buried their son Tywanza who was killed June 17 while trying to protect his elderly aunt: photo: Post/ Courier)

ARTICLE ~ “The Post Courier” by Jennifer Berry Hawes (September 8, 2015)

“The blood splattered on her legs — that of her son, an elderly aunt, her pastors, nine people she loved had dried. She still wore the same clothes, a black skirt and a black-and-white blouse, crusty now. An endless night before, Felicia Sanders had left her blood-soaked shoes with the dead in the fellowship hall of her beloved lifelong church, Emanuel AME.”

“...Shortly after, she (Polly Sheppard) went to Sunday service for the first time. “It’s a different atmosphere to have all these different people in there, all these dignitaries,” Polly said. “I just have to get used to it.” Since the killings, Vice President Joe Biden, U.S. Sens. Tim Scott and Lindsey Graham, and Haley all have sat in Emanuel AME’s pews. The victims’ families have met President Barack Obama and the first lady, who talked with each before Obama delivered the Rev. Clementa Pinckney’s eulogy. So did Biden and his wife. Biden, whose son died three weeks before the shootings, told Tyrone Sanders: “We have something in common. We both lost a son.” Before he was gunned down that night, the Rev. Daniel Simmons Sr. wanted to welcome homeless folks into the church. Felicia suggested security. “You don’t need security,” Simmons said. Nobody much disagreed. Until now.”

“I’m heartbroken,” Felicia said. “I felt so safe at Emanuel. That hurts the most. I always felt like as long as I’m there, I’m OK.” Until now. Seeking answers Next came the questions for God. The Bible study’s passage that June 17 evening was a widely known one from Mark 4 that discusses sowing spiritual seeds — and how seeds wither without nourishment. It made Felicia think of the killer. “I want to know why the seed was sitting there for an hour. I want to know why he admitted the next morning he almost didn’t do it because he thought we were nice. I needed somebody who knows. I didn’t go to theology school,” Felicia said. “I just want answers. That’s all I want.” Her therapist asked if she had a minister to talk to....”

“...But five of them had died with her son. Amid so much reverence for the Emanuel Nine, the survivors wonder why they aren’t called the Emanuel 12. “I’m a survivor and the mother of a child who’s died. I’m forgotten about as somebody who’s alive, but I’m remembered for someone whose child is gone,” Felicia said. In Tywanza’s presence After Tywanza’s death, Felicia locked the door of his bedroom. Her granddaughter lost the key. So it sat silent and empty through his funeral, his birthday, the day he should have started new college classes. On Saturday, Felicia and Tyrone summoned a locksmith. On Sunday, they stepped into their son’s bedroom. They sat together amid Tywanza’s presence: his poetry, his bicycle, his books, his instruments. He hung his writings everywhere. Then, together, Felicia and Tyrone walked out and locked the bedroom door behind them, to keep the memories safe.”

(Reach Jennifer Hawes at 937-5563 or follow her on Twitter at @JenBerryHawes.)

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150908/PC16/150909382#.Vf91P-3YpaQ.facebook>

(News Article e-mailed by : Jene’I Sconier,
5th District Young Adult Representative (page 5)

**MARILYN LOVELACE-GRANT,
PRESIDENT**

by
Karla Patterson
California Conference,
Director of Public Relations



President Marilyn Lovelace-Grant is a member of First A.M.E. Church, Oakland where the Pastor is Reverend Dr. Harold R. Mayberry. She is active in the local Lay Organization and serves on the Steward Board.

Marilyn was first elected President in 2012 then reelected in 2014. From the moment the gavel was passed she has shown outstanding leadership and vision. Marilyn's vision scripture is: *"And I Will Show You a More Excellent Way"*.

While serving as President, she has refocused the CCLO on training and developing laity to serve as leaders in the local churches; reorganized CCLO business processes and meetings; strengthened relationships between Laity and Clergy by creating opportunities for dialogue; and trained new Lay Organization leadership.



Marilyn Lovelace-Grant,

**MISSOURI CONFERENCE
ANNUAL LAY CONVENTION**

by
Tamara Zellars Buck
Missouri Conference,
Director of Public relations



Tamara Zellars Buck is the newly elected Director of Public Relations for the Missouri Conference Lay Organization. She is a member of Perry Chapel AMEC in Charleston, Mo., where she also serves as Lay president, choir member, a steward and a member of the social media commission. She is an associate professor of mass media at Southeast Missouri State University.

Blanche Abernathy,
Director of Public Relations

**DESERT
MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE**



EL PRESIDENTES`



5th District

Mr. Simeon Rhoden



CC

Marilyn Lovelace-Grant



DMC

Melba Salter



MIS.C

Pamela Williams



MID.C

Melvin Jenkins



PNW

Shawlee Lee



SCC

Dr. Dorothy Vails-Weber

(PHOTOS FROM WEB PAGE
– AME 5TH DISTRICT)

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Southern California Conference
Laura Terry,
Director of Public Relations



SAVE THE DATE
SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, December
5, 2015

Southern California Conference
Lay Organization's
67th Annual
LAY EXTRAVAGANZA
AND
SILENT AUCTION

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FEATURING: MUSIC BY:
LESLIE DRAYTON

When: Music and Auction
11:30 p.m.
Luncheon 12:30 p.m.

Where: Carson Community
Center
801 E. Carson Street
Carson, CA 90745

Ticket donation: \$60 per person
Tables of 10: \$600
available at

<http://2015scclo.brownpapertickets.com>

Attention All Bible Scholars

by
Sharon Burnett
Midwest Conference,
Director of Public Relations



Hi

My name is Sharon Burnett. I am the Director of Public Relations for the Midwest Conference. I am proud to be our liaison for both print and broadcast medias. My minor in college was journalism/communication so writing comes natural for me. I am a native Kansan and a lifelong member of St. Paul AME in Wichita. I have been active in our local Lay organization for over 15 years. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve!



Please test your knowledge of the scriptures. Some things you will remember from your YPD days. For the senior saints—you will remember these facts from ACE League.

1. Name the 12 disciples
2. How long did Isaiah walk naked in the wilderness?
3. Who said, "I have run a good race and ought a good fight?"
4. What 7 things does the Lord hate because they are an abomination to Him?
5. What are the names of Timothy's Mama and Granny?
6. On what day did God create day and night? (or separate dark from light)

Bonus question:

Where was Moses when the lights went out?

124th Session of the Pacific Northwest Annual Convention



by
Patricia Dobbins
Pacific Northwest Conference,
Director of Public Relations

The 124th Session of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference was held at the Seattle Airport Hilton Hotel August 16 through August 23, 2015.

Lay Witness Night held August 21, 2015: The PNWC Lay Organization presented a program "A 2 PT. Praise – Elijah to Elisha, A Double Portion". Part One consisted of "Elijah Praise – Prayer, Praise, and Testimony" which featured Mr. Robbie Williams. Part Two featured Myles and Company.

Installation of PNWC Lay Officers:

The following officers were installed:

Shawlee Lee - President
Bobby Brown - Vice President
Sandra Nelson - Second Vice President
Roxanne Buchanan – Third Vice President
Sylvia Payne – Recording Secretary
Felicia Corbin - Assistant Recording Secretary
Fannie Williams – Corresponding Secretary
Mary Scott – Financial Secretary
Felicia Caldwell – Treasurer
Michell Alert – Chaplain
Bill Dickens – Director of Lay Activities
Patricia Dobbins - Director of Public Relations

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(Picture of anvil from: web page)
(Picture of Disciples –Clip Art)

Titles of Bills from the Legislation Committee:

(ELEVEN BILLS SUBMITTED TO THE FIFTH DISTRICT FOR DISCUSSION)

1. (CLO PL 01) Chief Financial Officer (Treasure of AME Church) Issue: “ The Qualifications for office needs to include certified accounting skills.”
2. (CLO PL 02) Merging the Department of Annuities and Investment with the Treasurer’s Office. Issue: “Combine the two depts. Too much duplication of duties, cut down on cost.”
3. (CLO PL 03) Transparency of Assessments Determination at all levels of AME Church. Issue: “Inform in a clear and succinct manner, the methodologies and/or algorithms used in financial assessments of each Episcopal district toward General Budget and each annual Conference and local church.”
4. (CLO PL 04) Reporting Liabilities/Accounts Payable and Indebtedness at the Quarterly Conference. Issue: “To report more than just the balances of property debt, etc. provide more details.”
5. (CLO PL 05) Quarterly Conference Consistency. Issue: “State the purpose of a Quarterly Conference, with clear intent and a stated schedule and format.”
6. (CLO PL 06) The Official Board Purpose and Duties Clarified. Issue: “Include a summary of the purpose and role of the Official Board.”
7. (CLO PL 07) Stewardship and Finance Commission. Issue: “Creating a ‘Finance Committee’ which will not be optional as is now under section III of local organization.”
8. (CLO PL 08) The Steward Board -Clarified. Issue: “To delineate and clearly state the unique responsibilities of the stewards by amending and reordering entire subsection A. I. a. for better readability.”
9. (CLO PL 09) Terms of Service for Members of the Board of Stewards. Issue: “To establish consecutive terms of service for members of the Board of Stewards that will best benefit the local church. A periodical change in leadership (stewardship).”
10. (CLO PL 10) Terms of Service for Members of the Board of Trustees. Issue: “It is important that positions of leadership have an appropriate turnover that would ensure that resources are updated for effective church administration .”
11. (CLO PL 11) Member in Good and Regular Standing. Issue: “Along with the definition found in the glossary of the Book of Discipline there should be qualification of this status included in the ‘Membership’ section.”
12. CLO PL 12 Supervision and Evaluation of Pastors. Issue: “(INTENT) To establish a process for evaluating the performance of pastors; to timely identify area of concerns for the local church and implement a system of recourse and documentation used in future assignments.”
13. CLO PL 13 Adjustment of Degree Requirements for Ordination and Bishop Candidates. Issue: “With the proliferation of diploma mills, it is important to clearly state what academic credentials qualify as acceptable for itinerant and Episcopal candidacy.”
14. CLO PL 14 Itinerant Minister’s Reporting at the Annual Conference. Issue: “(INTENT) To provide an avenue for itinerant ministers who do not pastor to give an account of their stewardship during the conference year.”

Legislation Continued

15. CLO PL 15 Ministerial Training Board Composition and the Course of Instruction. Issue: “To amend Ministerial Training Board to include lay instructor, and include the study of the Doctrine and Discipline of the AME church, and training in Fiscal and Personnel Management.”

16. CLO PL 16 Connectional Record Keeping Certification Documents on Sexual Misconduct Policy Education and Training. Issue: “(INTENT) To provide a central connectional repository for certification documents of sexual misconduct policy education and training of all clergy, laity and volunteers of the African Methodist Episcopal Church for provision to liability insurance companies when needed.”

17. CLO PL 17 Development of Human Resources Policy for the AME Church. Issue “(INTENT) To authorize an ad hoc committee to establish consistent standards of operation that are adequately defensible in any civil court.”

18. CLO PL 18 Public Relations Professional. Issue: “(INTENT) To reassign the Public Relations Representative position to the Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and broaden the position’s scope.”

19. CLO PL 19 Mandatory Reconfiguration of Districts 14—20 by 2020. Issue: “(INTENT) To establish a process for the reconfiguration of the AME Church work in Districts 14—20.”

20. CLO PL 20 Reduction of Travel Expenses for Retired Bishops and General Officers. Issue: “To capture budgetary savings by phasing out travel expenses reimbursements for retired bishops and retired general officers.”

CURRENT PAY

Retired Bishops (Annual) Expenses \$101,952.00

Retired General Officers (Annual) Travel \$76,383.00

	Yr 2017	Yr 2018	YR 2019	Yr 2020
Retired Bishops Expenses	\$81,561.60	\$61,171.20	\$40,780.80	\$20,390.40
Ret. General Officers Travel	\$61,106.40	\$45,829.80	\$30,553.20	\$15,276.6
Net Budget Savings	\$356,670.00			

21. CLO PL 21 Extension of Episcopal Committee Authority. Issue: “(INTENT) To authorize the Episcopal Committee to function in the interim of the General Conference.” “Taking some power away from the Council of Bishops who now make appointments, and other district decisions during the interim of the General conference.”

(Total of 21 bills from the Connectional Lay Organization (CLO) for approval at the Biennial)

Reported by L. Terry, Director of Public Relation, Southern California Conference

* CLO = CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION

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HIGHLIGHTS OF KANSAS CITY



GUEST SPEAKERS:

MR. ALVIN BROOKS

Registration and Credentials Team



MS. JACQUELINE PAYTON



Ms. Judith Bradley, Ms. Mary Scott, below Ms. Kathy Green, Ms. Bobbye Henderson and Ms. Charlotte Floyd

Candidate's Forum



Ms. Jene'l Sconier

Young Adult Representative



The Photo below:

Judge Mayberry, President Rhoden, and Fred Stuart at the 2014 Mid Year Convocation. The 5th Annual "Evening of Elegance and Scholarship Banquet" where Fred Stuart donated \$2,000 to the "Fred J. Stuart Scholarship of Achievement." (page 11)



Events of the Biennial 2015



Salute to AME Heritage



Sister Jackie DuPont-Walker, Southern California Conference; Dr. Willie Glover, President of Connectional Lay Organization; and Mr. Simeon Rhoden, President of the Fifth Episcopal District:

The Desert Mountain Conference of the 5th District Lay presents the Flag of America memorabilia to Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston, SC.



Awards

President Rhoden, Judge Patricia Mayberry, and Bishop Leath. Judge Mayberry is awarded "Outstanding Lay Person" of the Connectional Lay Organization



President Rhoden, Ms. Cassandra Marshall, and Judge Mayberry

Biennial 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

The 11th District thanked the Lay for the \$50,000 contribution to Edward Waters College at Black Tie Soirée.

CLEDC Wired \$100,000 on November 2, 2009 to Wilberforce. They were not able to collect on the loan, the board will forgo that donation to help the school get back on solid footing.

Higher Education Committee

Severn college representatives were present. Morris Brown, Wilberforce, Edward Waters University, Paul-Quinn, Allen, Payne

Time and Place, Mary Mootoo, (1st District) Chair, Simeon Rhoden (5th District, Co-Chair)

Meeting dates for upcoming Biennials

2017 - Columbus, Ohio (3rd District) - August 7-10, 2017

2019 – Seattle, WA (5th District) - Dates TBA (Los Angeles, Seattle and Denver were considered.)

2021 – Johannesburg (19th District) - Dates TBA

General Conference

We will have a breakfast. We raised \$50,000 in 2012. The 2016 goal is to raise \$60,000 for high school graduates that apply for CLO scholarship. The above information was compiled by Melba Salter, Desert Mountain Conference Lay President on August 14, 2015.



The photo with President Jenkins, Mary Brown, Vice President, Lamar Rose, and President Simeon Rhoden by the Vendor's Booth at the Biennial. The 5th District sold Bibles and Lay Decorum. Submitted: S. Rhoden



Dr. Jamye Coleman – Williams

(picture from Web page
www.thehistorymakers.com)

"Living Legends Award"



Born on December 15, 1918, in Louisville, Kentucky, to an A.M.E. minister and a religious writer, Williams grew up in Kentucky and earned her B.A. with honors in English from Wilberforce University in 1938.

African Methodist Episcopal Church **FIFTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION**

Bishop T. Larry Kirkland, Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Mary L. Kirkland, Episcopal Supervisor

Dr. Willie Glover, Connectional Lay President

Mr. Simeon Rhoden, District Lay President

Faye Brown, 5th District Director of Public Relations

SPOTLIGHT STAFF:

Duane Smith, Web Page; Walter Mitchell, District Photographer; Karla Patterson, Cal. Conf.;

Blanche Abernathy, Des/Mt. Conf.; Sharon Burnett, Mid. West Conf.; Tamara Zellars, Mis. Conf.;

Patricia Dobbins, PNW Conf.; and Laura Terry, SCC