

SPOTLIGHT



THE 5TH EPISCOPAL
DISTRICT

LAY ORGANIZATION

MARCH 6, 2018

Founder's Day
Richard Allen's
Birthday Party
February 14, 1760



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



World Day of Prayer : Friday, March 2, 2018.

"The host country for WDP 2018 is Suriname.

World focus is on Genesis 1, the story of Creation, with the world theme "All God's Creation Is Very Good!".



MR. SIMEON
RHODEN, 5TH
EPISCOPAL
DISTRICT,
PRESIDENT
OF THE
ORGANIZED
LAITY.



WELCOME
TO THE
9TH
ANNUAL
EVENING OF
ELEGANCE

Bishop T. Larry
Kirkland and
Mr. Fred Stuart
SCHOLAR-
SHIP AND
AWARDS
BANQUET

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Bishops in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC)

Some Bishops are elected by the people, some are chosen by other Bishops, some are drafted by worldly forces (which God has allowed to operate), but all have been selected by God for his own purposes.

A Bishop in the AME Church, according to John Booker, is not a title, it is an office. “The AME Episcopacy is a non-diocesan hierarchy.” Bishops have been assigned as the Spiritual leaders and Administrators of Districts within the Connectional church, but they are also Bishops of the entire Church. They are administered by the Council of Bishops, directed by the Judicial Council, controlled by the Book of Discipline, and hired and/or fired by the “Episcopal Committee.”

Whereas, the “Episcopal Committee” operates as the Administrative body during the General Conference, this Committee does not or cannot guarantee that the election process for the addition of new Bishops to the Zion, is a true election by the “will of the majority of the people process”. In fact, they have not been able to prevent other Bishops from choosing who they want to become Bishop and implementing plans to make it happen in the past few elections. (Perhaps, also many other years, who can tell?)

Witnessing the election of Bishops who do not have the majority of people’s support, or who are selected by other Bishops as the candidates they (the Bishops) want, by making deals with “Men or Women of God” to support their maneuvers, is not a view of a democratic process, but it happens.

The Democratic process requires procedures that initiate, “rule by law”, not by the aristocracy or oligarchy. The ends do not justify the means, and the enlightened leader cannot rule like a despot who believes they know what is best for the people and still think that they are practicing democracy. Let the people vote and choose for themselves who will be their leaders. Then let God favor them for that service.

Even in our sometimes chaotic election process of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, God has truly anointed some very capable, “Spirit-led”, and “Christ-centered” servants to the Office of Bishop in the Connectional Church. One of these men transitioned onto his reward in January of 2018. The one hundredth consecrated Bishop of the AMEC, Bishop Adams, was this man.

Bishop Adams stood among the giants of our Zion. He was a talented pastor, a gifted orator and a financial wizard according to those who knew him well. The Districts that he served proclaimed that they were blessed with his knowledge, his leadership, and his administrative abilities. Bishop Adams was quoted as saying, (when being criticized by laity about the conditions of our Colleges), everywhere he had been blessed to serve the college’s financial status was always in the black. As a giant among Bishops, his counsel was sought and his advice listened to. He was not a Saint, but his love and commitment to his God and Church made him try to make sure that the legacy of Richard Allen would continue throughout time. The legacy of voting rights and fair elections with both men and women given the right to the ballot box is a testament to Richards Allen’s commitment to the “democratic process”.

A sermon given by Bishop Adams at the time of his retirement in Cincinnati, at the General Conference in 2004, and later transcribed in the first “Anvil”; was a very enlightening warning to other Bishops and all AMEers about sin. Bishop Adams said, that sin was like dust, when it falls it cover everything, you cannot stand by it and think that you are safe, you cannot be quiet and pretend that you did not hear, see, or touch it, it covers all.

These memorable words will last forever. It is the hope of the people that the democratic process that our founders deliberately crafted will continue to be the guide post for our elections and hiring of new Bishops in the future. Women and Men chosen by the people in a democratic process, and thus being favored by God to do a good or Godly work is what we must strive for at the next General Conference.

Three Kings' Day



EPIPHANY

Scriptures: Acts 6:2-8; Ephesians 4:11-14

ACTS 6:2-8 — “They said, “We Apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, Not running a food program....”

Ephesians 4:11-14”Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers Their responsibility is to equip God’s People to do his work and build up the church , the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord...”

REFLECTIONS

The Season of Epiphany—Restoring the Temple Order: A four-day retreat of Christian men and women. Spiritual guidance, Holy Worship and Prayer — a time of renewal. The three wise men brought a gift to the new born baby, Jesus. The gift for a New life, a new beginning, a rebirth through baptism by the Holy Spirit. The gifts that Christ gave to the church are the talents of leadership to spread God’s word. The fruit of the Spirit indwelling within the new “Christ-Centered Christian” will allow for unity among his people as they spread the Gospel. Let people use their gifts for the glory of God. Everyone “Staying in their own lane”; everyone has a job to do. Let the ones whose job is to feed, feed. The ones whose job is to teach, teach!

(page 3)

MISSOURI CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION ZELLARS BUCK, DIRECTOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Missouri Conference Lay Organization hosted its annual Prayer Breakfast on January 13 at St. James AMEC, 4301 St. Ferdinand Ave., in St. Louis. This well-attended event brought lay and clergy together for a free breakfast and prayer for our churches, communities, nation and the world.



*Praying
for
You*

A graphic featuring the text "Praying for You" in a cursive font, surrounded by pink lilies and a hummingbird. The signature "Thompson" is visible at the bottom right of the graphic.

HOLY SMOKES! A TASTING AFFAIR

The Missouri Conference Lay Organization meeting hosted its annual Holy Smokes! A Tasting Affair on Feb. 14 at Ward Chapel AMEC, 11410 Old Halls Ferry Rd., Florissant, Mo. The event pitted church against church in friendly competition in preparing an assortment of menu items across categories. Churches were encouraged to decorate their tables in themes that helped reflect their contest entries. This year's winners were:

- ♦ Meat: St. John AME-Kings-highway
- ♦ Pasta: Tri-Union AME
- ♦ Soup: Rock Chapel AME
- ♦ Salad: Ward Chapel AME
- ♦ Dessert: Christ Our Redeemer AME



Calendar of Events

FIFTH DISTRICT SCHEDULE 2018

March 6-10, 2018

Mid Year Convocation

Renaissance Stapleton Hotel, Quebec Street ,Denver, Colorado

March 7, 2018

Fifth District Lay Organization

Evening of Elegance-\$70-Mid-Year ~ 4-7 p.m.

July 17-21

Fifth District Epiphany Training Institute

Glendale, Arizona - Renaissance Phoenix/Glendale Hotel
& Spa - 9495 W. Coyotes Blvd. 85305

July 20 & 21, 2018

Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization's 61st Annual Session/Convention

Glendale, Arizona - Renaissance Phoenix/Glendale Hotel & Spa

9495 W. Coyotes Blvd., Glendale, Arizona 85305

Guest Speaker, Valerie Bell, CLO President

Registration \$100 dollars (bag/kit items/Awards Ceremony /Breakfast Ticket)

Renaissance Hotel, Glendale, AZ (\$129.00 per night)

Glendale, Arizona ~ Renaissance Phoenix/Glendale Hotel & Spa ~ 9495 W. Coyotes Blvd. 85305



LAY ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULES OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT:

June 1st - 2nd
Seattle, WA

PNW Conference Lay Convention

June 8th – 9th
St. Louis, MO

MO Conference Lay Convention
President Rhoden, Guest Speaker

June 8th – 9th
Topeka, KS

MW Conference Lay Convention
Election Year, VP Moore, Presiding

June 8th – 9th
Los Angeles, CA

SC Conference Lay Convention

June 30th
Oakland, CA

CA Conference Lay Convention
Election Year, VP Mayberry Presiding

June 22nd – 24th
Atlanta, GA

CLO Executive Board Meeting

FIFTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT ANNUAL CONFERENCES & PLANNING MEETING

August 7—11, 2018

Pacific Northwest

August 28—September 1, 2018

Desert Mountain

September 18-23, 2018

Mid-West

September , 2018

California

October 17—21, 2018

Southern California

October 24—28, 2018

Missouri — St Louis

October 29—30, 2018

5th District Planning Meeting

St. Louis, Missouri



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION LAURA TERRY, 5TH DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL LAY EXTRAVAGANZA

And

SILENT AUCTION



On November 5, 2018 the SCCLO celebrated its annual afternoon Extravaganza to honor lay members who have worked to make the organized lay a powerful and effective ministry for training. The highlight of this year's program was the presentation of Life Membership status to several local Lay Presidents: Mr. Willie Wilson, Ms. Gladys Moore, Ms. Gloria Chichester, Mr. Willie Strong, Ms. Marie Strong, Mr. Milton Bridgewater, Ms. Kathy Green, Ms. Eloise Streater, Ms. Bobbye Henderson, Mr. Donald Locke, and Mr. Nemiah Miller. The presenters were Dr. Dorothy Vails-Weber, President SCCLO, and Ms. Jackie DuPont Walker, Director Lay Activities SCCLO.

Life Member, Ms. Carolyn Hall

Photos of

Life Members: Ms. Ernestine English & Ms. Laura Terry



Written by L. Terry

Proof by Carolyn Hall

Photos by Charlotte Floyd

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