

African Methodist Episcopal Church  
**Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization**

October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 5<sup>th</sup> District Planning Meeting

**Simeon Rhoden**

*President, 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay organization*



October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 5<sup>th</sup> District Planning Meeting  
Los Angeles, CA

*Daily Fulfilling the Great Commission*

Bishop T. Larry Kirkland, Presiding Prelate

# Introduction



## *Laitiy Fulfilling the Great Commission*

**October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 5<sup>th</sup> District Planning Meeting**

**TO:** Bishop T. Larry Kirkland, Presiding Prelate; Mrs. Mary Kirkland, Episcopal supervisor; Members of the Judicial Council, General Officers, Connectional Leadership, Fifth Episcopal District Presidents, Presiding Elders, Ministers, Laity, and Visitors among us!

**WE GREET YOU WITH THE JOY OF JESUS CHRIST!**



### **VISION: 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization**

*“To be a Christ-Centered and a Purpose Driven Lay Organization with Influence! The Kind of Influence that Multiplies and Helps Other Laity and Lay Organizations be Successful in Achieving Shared Goals”*



# Overview

## Laity Fulfilling the Great Commission



October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 5<sup>th</sup> District Planning Meeting

Approximately one year ago today, the Lay Organization made a charge to focus more on the basic fundamentals of our Church to adopt constructive change in our discipline affecting the church and strengthen Laity obligations by keeping the following commitments:

- In collaboration with all 6 conferences, the 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization was successful in submitting 9 pieces of legislation to be reviewed at the 2016 General Conference
- In teamwork with our District Director of Lay Activities, each Conference Director of Lay Activities was charged to re-tool and equip new and current members with better knowledge and understanding of the Lay Organization and the AME Church through relevant training and workshops
- In collaboration with the Conference Presidents, maintaining the mission of the overall Lay Organization and keeping the vision of the 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization to help foster leaders and enhance growth
- In keeping the tenets of Jesus Christ, fulfilling the great commission through strengthening and preparing Lay Ministries for Inner and Outer Court Evangelism

Throughout the 15 states of the 5<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, we have not yet accomplished all of our goals. We still face a few challenges. However, our immediate charge is to continue the work while staying true to the mission of the Lay Organization and keeping true to our vision.

*To be a Christ-centered and a purpose driven Lay Organization with influence. The kind of Influence that multiplies and helps other Laity and Lay Organizations be successful in achieving shared goals*

# Accomplished Works



## *Laitly Fulfilling the Great Commission*

### October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 5<sup>th</sup> District Planning Meeting

- Three Conference Elections:
  - Southern California, Missouri, and the Desert Mountain Conferences where Ms. Melba Salter was newly elected...President
- Submitted 9 pieces of legislation to be submitted to the 2016 General Conference
- Supported the work of the Connectional Lay Organization in keeping with the theme: Laitly Fulfilling the Great Commission – The Evidence of Discipleship
- With your support, we raised over \$15K thousand dollars after expenses in scholarships and donations at the 2014 Evening of Elegance and Scholarship Reception and recognized outstanding Educators for their service throughout the 5<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District
- Donated over 800 pairs of socks to the homeless community of Oakland, California
- Over 250 attendees to the 58<sup>th</sup> Lay Convention in Kansas City, MO, where 120 persons registered as Delegates. We closed out that convention with 183 Lay Men and Women standing strong, all bills were paid in full, and the 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization is financially in the Black
  - There, the 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization recognized Rev. Cedric Alexander (Now Presiding Elder) as Outstanding Pastor, Sister Cassandra Marshall as Outstanding Young Adult, and Judge Patricia Mayberry as Outstanding Lay Person
- Donated the LAOS offering totaling \$1,500 dollars to the Cultural Arts Center in Kansas City, MO
- Over 120 attendees to the 34<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization in Charleston, SC, where 65, 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Women and Men were registered Delegates
  - There, the Delegates throughout the Connection made significant impacts in the following manner (Next Slide)

# Accomplished Works



*Loyal Fulfilling the Great Commission*

**October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 5<sup>th</sup> District Planning Meeting**

The Connectional Lay Organization, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church awarded  
**Judge Patricia Mayberry the 2015 Outstanding Lay Person**



African Methodist Episcopal Church  
**Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization**

The Connectional Lay Organization, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church voted to Endorse  
**The Candidacy of Judge Patricia Mayberry  
back to the Seat of the Judicial Council**



# Future Works

*Laitly Fulfilling the Great Commission*



October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 5<sup>th</sup> District Planning Meeting

- Upcoming Connectional Executive Board Meetings
  - October 29<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup> 2015: Fall Meeting, Los Angeles, CA
  - April 16-19, 2016: Location TBD
- March 2016: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening of Elegance & Scholarship Reception
- March 2016: 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Mini Convention
  - Synergy-Mini Convention (All Conferences Host), Los Angeles, CA
- July 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016: Fiftieth General Conference of the AME Church
  - First District: Philadelphia, PA

# Remembering Fred J. Stuart

*Loyal Fulfilling the Great Commission*



**WE REMEMBER THE WORK OF A GREAT LEADER**

The Fifth District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church lost a Giant in African Methodism, Brother Fred James Stuart

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. 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.

Brother 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. Brother Stuart also 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. Brother Stuart concluded his terms in office, he remained faithful to the Lay Organization serving as trusted advisor and confidant to the current President, Brother Simeon Rhoden, and the past two Presidents, Brother Harold Shields and Brother Thomas Sutton. Brother Stuart spoke with holy boldness never faltering or wavering in upholding the cause of righteousness.

## **Brother Fred James Stuart**

Advisor, Connectional Lay Parliamentarian, 5<sup>th</sup>  
District Lay President, SCC Lay President,  
Member of the Episcopal Committee

# Remembering Fred J. Stuart



*Loyal Fulfilling the Great Commission*

**WE REMEMBER THE WORK OF A GREAT LEADER**

The Fifth District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church lost a Giant in African Methodism,  
Brother Fred James Stuart

Brother Stuart was a generous man offering his time, talent and financial contributions to the work of the Lay Organization and the AME Church. In addition, Brother Stuart recognized the importance of education in the development of our future leaders. With this in mind, the 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization collectively donated an additional \$1K to the Fred J. Stuart Scholarship of Achievement.

Brother Fred J. Stuart will be deeply missed, but we rejoice for we know that he is at peace.



**Brother Fred James Stuart**