

# Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization Newsletter



## SPOTLIGHT



March 11, 2016

Volume 1 Issue 2

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## District Calendar

### March 11-13, 2016 ~ 59th Session

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

### March 9, 2016~ 7th Annual Evening of Elegance

Scholarship & Recognition Reception  
Los Angeles, Hilton Hotel ~ Airport  
5711 West Century Boulevard, LA

### April 13, 2016

Connectional Day of Prayer

### April 21--23, 2016

The Lay Organization of The Desert Mountain Conference will host their  
21st Annual Convention on April 21-23, 2016 at Payne Chapel A.M.E.  
Church, 3625 Marion Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80915.

### June 9-11, 2016

The Lay Organization of the Southern California Conference will host the  
67th Session of their Annual Convention at  
Christ Our Redeemer Church, Irvine, California

### July 5—July 13, 2016

Bicentennial (1816—2016) Celebration of the  
African Methodist Episcopal Church ~ General Conference  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### August 7—August 10, 2017 ~ 35th Session Biennial

Connectional Lay Organization  
Hosted by the 3rd Episcopal District  
Columbus, Ohio

# 5th District Leadership

**Bishop Theodore L. Kirkland**

Presiding Prelate

**Dr. Willie C. Glover**

Connectional Lay President

**Mr. SIMEON P.**

**RHODEN JR.**

President

**Mr. LAMAR ROSE**

1st Vice President

**Ms. PATRICIA SAMUEL**

2nd Vice President

**Ms. BARBARA MOORE**

3rd Vice President

**Ms. NIXIETTA**

**WILLIAMS**

Recording Secretary

**Ms. DIANNA MADDIX**

Assistant Secretary

**Ms. JUDITH BRADLEY**

Corresponding

Secretary

**Ms. FLORETTE**

**HAMPTON**

Treasurer

**Ms. NELDA HILLS**

Financial

Secretary

**Ms. MARGUERITE DAVIS**

Chaplain

**DR. VERDA**

**BRADLEY**

Historiographer

**Mr. FOSTER CHISOLM**

Parliamentarian

**JUDGE PATRICIA MAYBERRY**

Director of

Lay Activities

**Ms. FAYE BROWN**

Director of Public Relations

**Ms. JENE'L SCONIER**

Young Adult

Representative

# President's Corner

## Fifth District

## Conference Presidents



### *California Conference*

*Ms. Marilyn Lovelace-Grant*

### *Desert Mountain Conference*

*Ms. Melba Salter*

### *Missouri Conference*

*Ms. Pamela Williams*

### *Mid-West Conference*

*Mr. Melvin Jenkins*

### *Pacific Northwest Conference*

*Ms. Shawlee Lee*

### *Sothorn California Conference*

*Dr. Dorothy Vails-Weber*



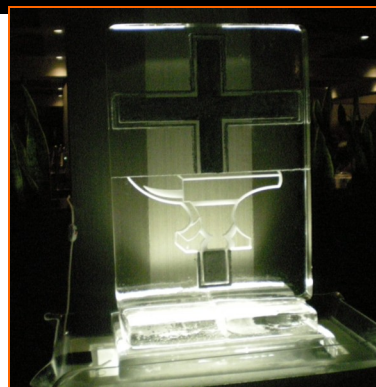
# 5th District Director's of Public Relations (DoPR)



Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization  
of the African Methodist Episcopal Church



## SPOTLIGHT



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

# Deadlines

(PAGE 3)





by

Sharon Burnett  
Midwest Conference,  
Director of Public Relations

## BUSY IN THE FIELDS

The Midwest Conference Lay Organization has been busy in our efforts to fulfill our great commission. At St. Paul –Wichita, KS a joyous time was had by all as we honored our veterans for Veteran's Day. The local CBS affiliate covered and aired the service.

St Mark—Topeka, KS A program was held to remember Rosa Parks and the sacrifices she made 60 years ago by refusing to give up her bus seat on December 1 1955. As we all know—She was an AME!

Our first early morning service for 2016 was January 24, at Ebenezer AMEC, Kansas City, MO. It was at 6 am. The 2015 attendance award was presented. Later that same day at 3 pm, Team Midwest held its Second Annual Commitment Service at Trinity AMEC in Kansas City, KS. Rev. Fran Cary, Presiding Elder of the Kansas City, North District brought the message.

We also have several events upcoming. Many churches are planning programs for Founder's Day in February. Fellowshiping will be done in North the North and South districts.

On February 18, 2016, Team Midwest will host its annual Clergy/ Laity Luncheon at Allen Chapel AMEC, Kansas City, MO, starting at 10 am. This activity is being underwritten by individual donations of Team Midwest.

As you can see and as you know—This is how we roll!!





# Connectional Lay Executive Board Meeting

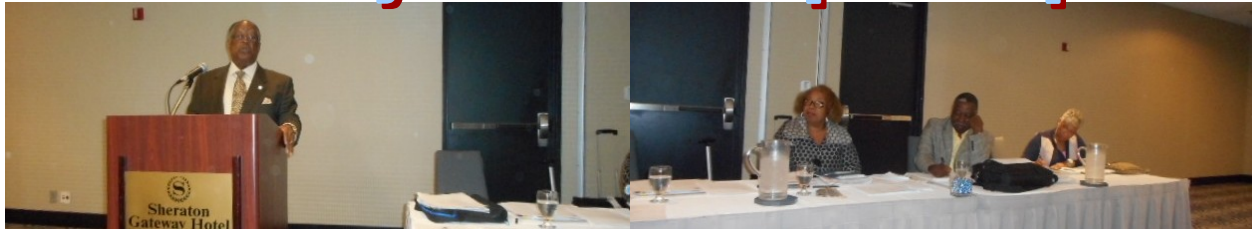
OCTOBER 28—30 2015  
Los Angeles Hilton Hotel  
Los Angeles, California



Hosted by 5th District  
Simeon Rhoden, President  
and  
Conference Presidents

Dr. Willie Glover, CLO President

## Connectional Lay Economic Development Corporation



The Connectional Lay Economic Development Corporation (CLEDC) board met during the Connectional Lay Organization (CLO) Executive Board meeting on Thursday, October 29, 2015. Mr. Tyrone Presley, President presided over the CLEDC meeting. Several people questioned some of the policies of the board and why money was not being loaned out at this time. Mr. Presley announced that a decision concerning the date to begin loaning money would be announced at a later date. Another area of discussion concerned getting information out to CLEDC members. Mr. Presley was looking for new ideas and suggestions for campaign strategies. Dr. Verda Bradley, CEO of the CLEDC was asked, by the President, to organize a committee to work on fund raising ideas.

Members of the Southern California Conference served as host and hostess from October 28—30 2015 along with members of the 5th Episcopal District, and president Simeon Rhoden.

The CLO delegates had access to a day of L.A. shopping, appetizing meals, and beautiful L.A. weather. On Thursday evening at a reception the delegates received gift bags from the SCC. Friday's business session covered the pending legislation to be sent to the General Conference in July. The attendance was small, but the business sessions were well planned and ran very efficiently according to an observer, Ms. Carolyn Hall.



Pictured from left to right—top row:  
Ms. Barbara McCombs, Grant AME Church LA;  
Dr. Dorothy Vails-Weber, Southern California  
Conference President; and Mr. Milton Bridge-  
water, Grant AME Church, LA; bottom row:  
Ms. Gladys Moore, Johnson Chapel, Santa Ana;  
Ms. Marguerite Davis, 5th District Chaplain; and  
Ms. Kathy Green, Price AME Church, LA

Written by: L. Terry, Director of Public Relations SCC



Southern California  
Conference,  
Laura Terry,  
Director of  
Public Relations

# Highlights of SCCLO Activities



*67th Annual Extravaganza*

*And*

*Silent Auction "Go Tell It..."*



**WARD AME CHURCH FAMILY AFFAIR**

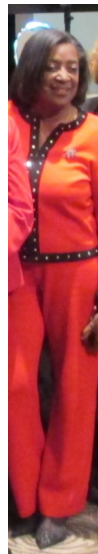
Marguerite Davis , Community Service Award,  
Ward AME, LA; Rev John Cager, Pastor



President's Award to Jerry Craig, Bethel AME LA,  
Rev. Kelvin Calloway Pastor



Ms. Carolyn Hall — Floyd Webster 's Trailblazer Award (above right)  
Ms. Laura Terry — Life Membership  
Both Members of First AME, Pasadena,  
Dr. Rev. Larry Campbell, Pastor



Sister Jackie DuPont Walker ,  
Lay Person Award  
Ward AME Church, LA

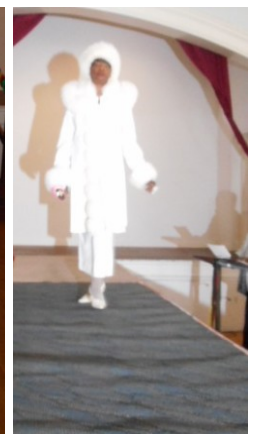
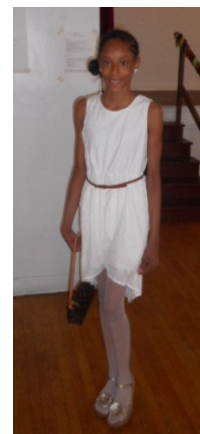
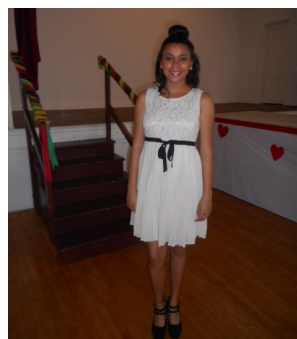
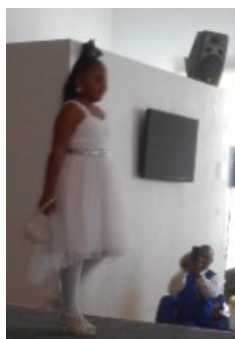
Pastor's of Southern  
California Conference.



Rev. Darryl Walker,  
New Philadelphia  
AME Church, Long  
Beach,  
Pastor of the Year  
Award

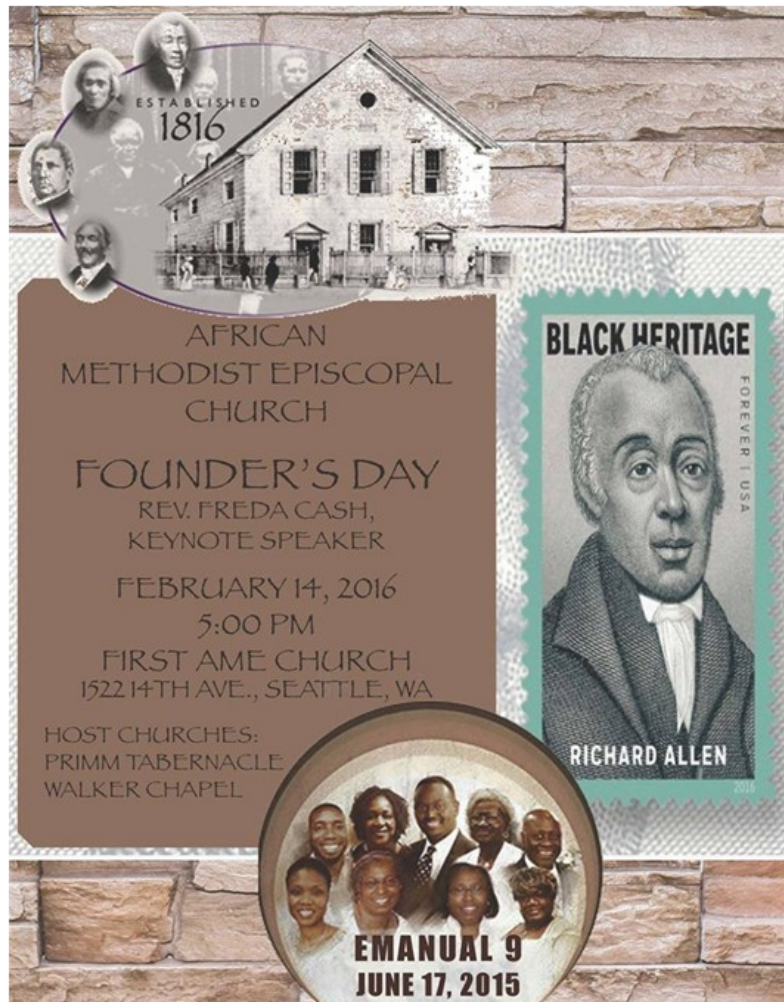
## Lay Spring Fashion Show ~ February 13, 2016

### "Dress To Impress" Ladies In White





# AME Founder's Day Celebration, Sunday, February 14, 2016



Primm Tabernacle AME Church of Seattle, Washington, and Walker Chapel AME Church of Seattle, Washington hosted a joint celebration of the AME Founder's Day for the churches of the Pacific Northwest Conference. The celebration was held at First AME Church of Seattle, Washington. Presiding Elder Spencer F. Barrett acknowledged the presence of AME members from Bethel AME Church of Portland, Oregon, Ebenezer AME Church of Bremerton, Washington, Allen AME Church of Tacoma, Washington, First AME Church of Seattle, Washington and members of Bothe Primm Tabernacle AME Church and Walker Chapel AME Church.

The Founder's Day program included Component presentations by the Women In Ministry, Christian Education, and the Women's Missionary Society. The program also featured a Praise dance presentation by the "Angels" of Primm Tabernacle, and Musical Selections by the "Sons of Thunder" with our own Fifth District President, Mr. Simeon Rhoden as one of the soloist.

One of the songs performed by the group "Sons of Thunder" follows.

<https://www.facebook.com/pat.dobbins.39#>

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(ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY Patricia Dobbins)



# ***Washington State Salutes Richard Allen***



On Monday, February 15, 2016, The Washington State Senate congratulated the AME Church and the work of our Founder, Richard Allen. Members of the AME churches of Seattle and Tacoma, Washington were welcomed on the Senate floor to witness the recognition given to the issuance of the Richard Allen Stamp by the U S Postal Service. Members of First AME Church, Seattle, Washington, Allen AME Church, Tacoma, Washington, and Walker Chapel AME Church, Seattle, Washington joined Presiding Elder Spencer F. Barrett, as he journeyed to the Washington State Capitol in Olympia, Washington for the observance.





## **PNWC Lay President in Japan.**

Brother Bobby Brown First Vice President of the PNWC Lay organization has stepped up to fill the shoes of our president, Sister Shawlee Lee as she works on temporary assignment in Japan. Sister Lee is a member of Ebenezer AME church of Bremerton, Washington. Sister Lee is still available by email and phone if anyone needs to reach out to her before her return.

**Bethel AME Portland member, Patricia Dobbins featured as a “Trailblazer in Technology”  
by U S Bank.**  
(Excerpt from the article follows.)

### **Meet Pat Dobbins: A distinguished African American alumni**

#### **In honor of Black History Month, we're featuring African American U.S. Bank alumni.**

Celebrating Black History Month is one way we draw strength from diversity. Besides offering events and activities for employees to participate in, we're also sharing stories from U.S. Bank's past. Meet Pat Dobbins – one of our distinguished African American alumni.



In 1971, Pat started at U.S. Bank in Portland as a computer programmer. In fact, she was one of the first African American computer programmers at the company. She held a variety of positions before retiring in 2010. Read on to learn more about Pat's career, her memories of the Civil Rights Movement and her work to help employees with disabilities.

**Why did you pursue a career with U.S. Bank?**  
After I graduated from college, I was trained in computer programming and worked for IBM. But then I got married. My husband was from Portland, so I moved from New York to Portland. I wasn't sure what was being done with computers in other businesses. In the 1970s, only large companies like banks had computers. A head hunter recruited me to work at U.S. Bank.

**What was one of your favorite things about working for U.S. Bank?**  
I was involved with a project at the bank where we helped teach data processing to people with disabilities. It was called Project H.O.P.E. (Homebound Opportunities for Programming Education). We were mentors to people with disabilities who stayed at home and hadn't been exposed to computers before. One of our students had been paralyzed in a motorcycle accident. We taught him computer programming, and he was one of the great success stories of that project. He ended up working for U.S. Bank until he retired. I was so proud of him. That program made U.S. Bank a leader in working with the handicapped. Being involved with that program was one of the most rewarding parts about working for U.S. Bank. You never know what people with disabilities are capable of doing.

## **“Trailblazer in Technology” continues**

### **What was one of the most challenging parts of your job?**

Getting along with people could be a challenge at times. I’m originally from the south, and I came from an all-black environment. Blacks are a true minority in Oregon. When I came to U.S. Bank, I was one of the first blacks in the computer programming department. I had to try to fit in, and it could be challenging being a minority in a group like that. I really wanted to be accepted.

### **What was one of your biggest career accomplishments?**

Being able to survive [in technology] for so many years. Sometimes my coworkers would call me a dinosaur! I remember working with punch cards and paper tape at the start of my career, and I was doing Web support by the time I left the bank. I grew up with computers.

### **What advice would you offer to current U.S. Bank employees?**

Be serious, involved and committed. Do more than just your job. Volunteer and get involved with the community. People in the community observe you and what you do, and that reflects back on U.S. Bank.

### **What does Black History Month mean to you?**

I was in Birmingham during the time Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was marching. I was in the church choir, and I often sang during the movement meetings. I had to stay back during the marches and demonstrations, but I remember those events. My high school was close to where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s brother lived. When his house was bombed, I remember the windows of my high school shattering. I attended Dr. King’s funeral in Atlanta. I was exposed to so much history. Now I participate in Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations in Portland.

### **What are you up to now?**

In sing in two choirs, and I’m a steward at my church. I still volunteer for my sorority, and we do activities with the Red Cross and the Oregon Food Bank. I’m involved with U.S. Bank Alumni volunteer activities. [\(article and photo submitted by Pat Dobbins, Director of Public Relations, Pacific Northwest Conference\)](#)

## **The Christian Recorder** [\(excerpt from: Let’s “Cut to the Chase” — Its Time— Let’s Do It”](#)

### **“Well, it’s our time”**

The African Methodist Episcopal Church needs to right a wrong that is long overdue.

The AME Church needs to make a posthumous ordination of Jarena Lee.

And the Church needs to go further and issue an apology to women in ministry for inequitable pastoral appointments, failure to prepare congregations for women clergy, failure, across the board to promote women in ministry, but that’s another editorial!

The posthumous ordination of Jarena Lee is a no-brainer and does not take an “Act of Congress” or a vote from the General Conference. Unless I have missed something, there is nothing in *The AMEC Doctrine and Discipline – 2012* that would prohibit the posthumous ordination of Jarena Lee.

I suspect a decision of the Council of Bishops, the President of the Council of Bishops or a “suggestion” of the Senior Bishop could make it happen. It could be done by something as simple as a resolution or a full-fledged ceremony could be held for the posthumous ordination of Jarena Lee. The process does not have to be complicated.

There is no need for an annual conference or laying on of hands, no need for an ordination sermon, unless someone would want to give one. There would be no need for an ordination certificate, but it would be nice to have something that could be placed with the other historical documents at Mother Bethel AME Church. A posthumous certificate of ordination from the General Conference would be nice and a generous gesture. The GC Ordination of the Rev. Jarena Lee could be displayed at Mother Bethel and doing so at the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the denomination might be the appropriate place to do it.

A posthumous action is a ceremony of recognition (Simply, it’s the fair thing to do, makes people feel good because it’s the right thing to do).

“Posthumous” does not require a body / corpse or anyone to stand in for her.

Posthumous promotions and awards happen regularly in the military, academia and in other entities.

During combat or after combat, a soldier is promoted posthumously because, if he or she had lived, they would have been promoted or awarded a special medal(s).

Women were not ordained during Jarena Lee’s lifetime; had they, no doubt, she would have been ordained. Women are ordained today and Jarena Lee was a pioneer for women in ministry. We can’t bring her back in this life, but we can “right the wrong” that she experienced. She lived and preached in a time when women were second-class citizens and could not vote. That was then, this is now!” [\(continue on page 12\)](#)



## How to Help Prevent Heart Attacks — Help Yourself.

1. Let's say it's 7:25 pm and you're going home (alone of course) after an unusually hard day on the job.
2. You're really tired, upset and frustrated.
3. Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to drag out into your arm and up in to your jaw. You are only about five km from the hospital nearest your home.
4. Unfortunately you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far.
5. You have been trained in CPR, but the guy that taught the course did not tell you how to perform it on yourself.



### 6. HOW TO SURVIVE A HEART ATTACK WHEN ALONE?

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack without help, the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.

7. However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest.

A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

## Continue “Cut to the Chase”

In a posthumous ceremony, no laying on of hands is necessary. A posthumous ordination of Jarena Lee could be done anywhere and actually, the General Conference would be an appropriate place to conduct the ceremony. The *Women In Ministry* would be an appropriate group to participate.

### Does a posthumous ordination set precedent?

Yes and no, but I don’t think so, because Jarena Lee is so unusual and she stands in a class by herself. There were other women who desired to preach, but in her situation, Richard Allen who at first denied permission for her to preach, allowed her to preach and she was a member of Mother Bethel AME Church. Her position at Mother Bethel and her relationship with Richard Allen put her in a unique position.

As it relates to precedent, posthumous awards should not be given out frivolously! For example, we wouldn’t want to posthumously consecrate bishops or give posthumous recognition to general officers and other clergy.

The issue is the posthumous ordination of Jarena Lee – Let’s “cut to the chase” – it’s time and let’s do it!

Let’s not worry about why we can’t do it or who gets the credit, let’s put our energy into doing it!

(Article taken from Christian Recorder, February 24, 2016 TCR Editorial) online edition

## AME “Female Founders”

Mrs. FLORA ALLEN  
First Wife of  
Rev. Richard Allen  
**Founder & First Lady**



Mrs. Sarah Allen  
**1st AME Missionary**



Mrs. Jarena Lee  
**1st AME  
Female to Minister**



Dr. Kathryn Middleton  
Brown  
**1st Female President  
of the Connectional  
Lay Organization**



Doris Bailey  
**1st Female President  
5th District Lay  
Organization**



Dr. Jamye Coleman –Williams  
**1st Female elected  
General Officer**



Bishop Vashti McKenzie  
**1st Female Bishop**



Bishop Carolyn Tyler-  
Guidry  
**1st Female Presiding  
Elder To become Bishop.**



# "Moving Forward"

By  
Ms. Tamara Zellars Buck,  
Director of Public Relations,  
Missouri Conference



**Missouri Conference Lay Organization**  
**Prayer Breakfast**  
Saturday, January 9, 2016, 9:00 a.m.  
St. James A.M.E. Church  
4301 St. Ferdinand Ave., St. Louis, MO 63113  
*This event is open and free to everyone.*  
Pamela Williams, MCLO President  
Louise Welch, MCLO 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Brenda Simpson, Host Lay President  
Rev. Dr. W.E. Marshall, Host Pastor



The Missouri Conference Lay Organization (MCLO) has not allowed inclement weather to interrupt scheduled events this year. In addition to regular meetings with MCLO officers and local lay presidents, MCLO has sponsored two major events in 2016.

On Jan. 9, we sponsored our annual MCLO Prayer Breakfast at St. James AMEC in St. Louis. Almost 100 lay and clergy from around the conference shared a free breakfast before uniting in prayer for our churches, lay, clergy, nation and world under the theme Pray Without Ceasing, based upon I Thessalonians 5:16-18.

The MCLO also hosted Holy Smoke! A Tasting Affair on Feb. 20 at Wayman AMEC in St. Louis, Mo. Pastors and local lay organizations from around the conference prepared entries in the categories of dessert, entree/meat, pasta, salad, soup and table decoration.





Missouri Conference Lay Organization's

# Holy Smoke!

## A Tasting Affair

Saturday, February 20, 2016  
4:00 p.m.

Wayman A.M.E. Church  
5010 Cabanne Ave., St. Louis, MO 63115

Admission: \$10 adults  
\$7 youth (at the door)

See your Lay President for tickets/information

Come witness and taste mouth-watering dishes prepared by the Pastors and Local Lay Organizations across the Missouri Conference!

Judging Categories:

- Dessert
- Entrée/Meat
- Pasta
- Salad
- Soup
- Table Decoration





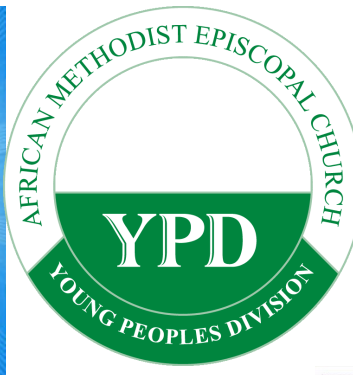
Pamela Williams, MCLO President | Louise Welch, MCLO 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Esther Nichols, Host President | Rev. Clinton Stancil, Host Pastor  
Rev. Darlene Smith, Presiding Elder, St. Louis-Columbia District  
Rev. Edmund E. Lowe, Sr., Presiding Elder, St. Louis-Cape Girardeau District



Respectfully submitted, Tamara Zellars Buck, MCLO  
DofPR



# CHURCH LOGOGRAMS AND SYMBOLS



**SPOTLIGHT**  
NEWSLETTER OF THE 5TH EPISCOPAL  
DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION

Volume 5, Number 2

April, 1997



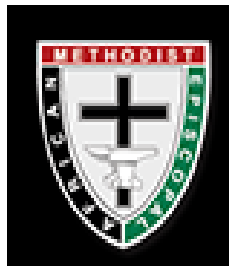
## Did You Know?

AME Symbol —The Anvil goes over the cross and is pointed towards the left.

- **The Cross** - symbolizes the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the power of Salvation, and God's abounding Grace.
- **The Anvil** - represents the enduring spirit of the founding fathers of the AME Church. A converted blacksmith's shop served as the first AME place of worship. The anvil is known as an indestructible object that last through multiple lifetimes.
- **The shape of the emblem** is in the form of a three-pointed shield; the three points being symbolic of the original motto of the A.M.E. Church. "God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, Man our Brother."



*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

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