

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

**SIXTY FIRST (61<sup>ST</sup>) ANNUAL SESSION**  
**FIFTH DISTRICT LAY CONVENTION**

Hosted by: Hosted by: Desert Mountain Conference



July 20th – July 21st 2018 | Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Glendale, AZ



**Dr. Verda Bradley**

*District Office: Historiographer*





# Desert Mountain Conference History



61st Annual Session



# Desert Mountain History

- **Greetings:**
- <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Eps:4:2-3



# Colorado Annual Conference

- **The Colorado Annual Conference was organized September 24, 1887 in Shorter Chapel Denver, Colorado. Bishop J. M Brown was the presiding prelate. The Conference included the states of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Arizona and New Mexico. Montana was later transferred to the Pacific Northwest.**
- **The name was changed to the Desert Mountain Conference at the 2004 General Conference under the leadership of President L.C. DeMon Carey.**





# 1955 Organization of Laymen Annual Convention

- On July 27-30, 1955, the Fifth District Laymen's Organization of the A.M.E. Church held its First Annual Convention at Campbell Chapel AMEC in Denver, Colorado. R.J. Reynolds was President.
- The 1955 District Convention adopted an objective called "Opposition to the Division of the Fifth District."; the creation of the Department of Lay Activities, the establishment of voting machines use, and the raising of standards for election. They also worked hard at upholding the eight-year law regarding Bishops.

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## Presidents

- **1982---1985**                      **Albert Slack**
- **1986---1990**                      **Thomas Sutton, Sr.**
- **1990---1994**                      **Kenneth Carson**
- **1994---1999**                      **Dr. Mary Boston**
- **2000---2008**                      **L.C. DeMon Carey**
- **2009---2015**                      **Harriette Zeigler**
- **2015- Present**                      **Melba Salter**





# President Melba Salter 2015- Present





I have been a loyal and faithful member of Shorter Community AME Church in Denver, CO for over 35 years. I consider myself to be a Professional Volunteer. My greatest passion in life is working with children. Children are so special, because they are honest, curious and not mean spirited.

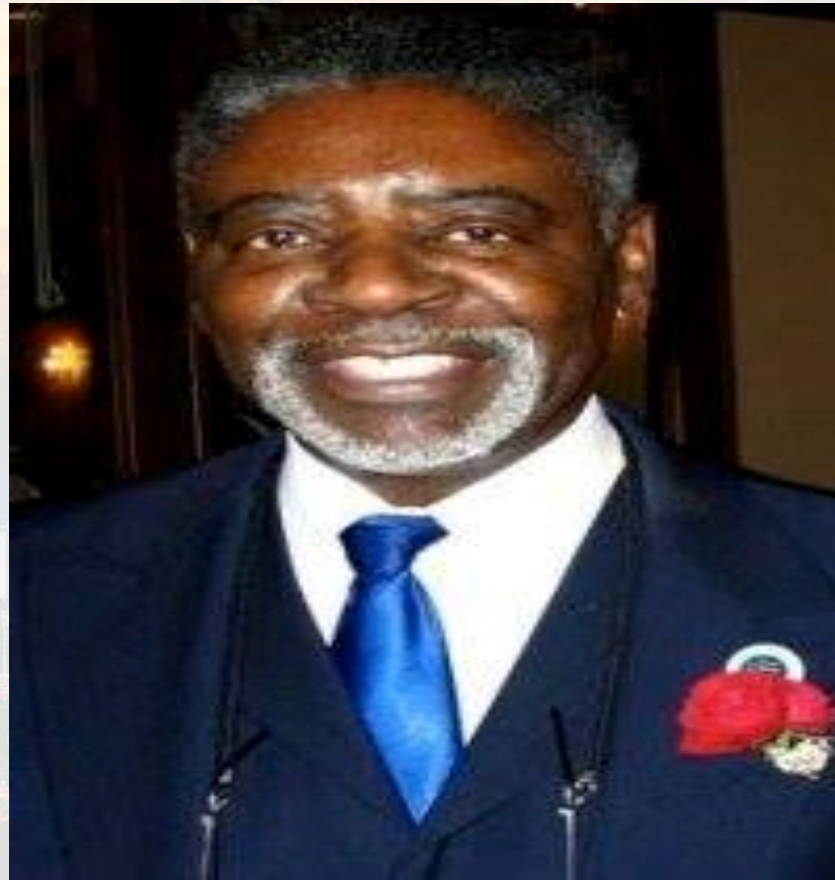
I truly believe in giving and helping others. One of my greatest blessings is my generous heart. I'm very active in the political community. I have worked countless hours on presidential, governors, mayors, senators and house district campaigns.

My proudest moments were being present at the Mile High Stadium when Barack Hussein Obama accepted the Democrat's nomination for the President of the United States of America and attending his Inauguration on January 20, 2009. It was bitter cold, but the energy and the spirit was so high.





# Conference Lay President from 1986-1990 Mr. Thomas Sutton, Sr.



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**Tom Sutton Tom and family joined the historical Tanner Chapel AMEC in 1980.**

**Tom is a charter member of the Tanner Chapel Lay Organization and served as Lay President for ten (10) years;**

**Tom served as President of the Desert Mountain Conference Lay Organization for four (4) years;**

**Tom served as Chaplain of the Fifth District Lay Organization for (4) years;**

**Tom served as 5th District Lay President for eight (8) years.**

**Tom served as 5th district Lay member on the AMEC General Board for one (1) quadrennial;**

**Tom was appointed as First VP of the Connectional Lay Organization and served for two years;**

**Tom attended AZSU World Ministries Training Institute in Glendale, AZ;**

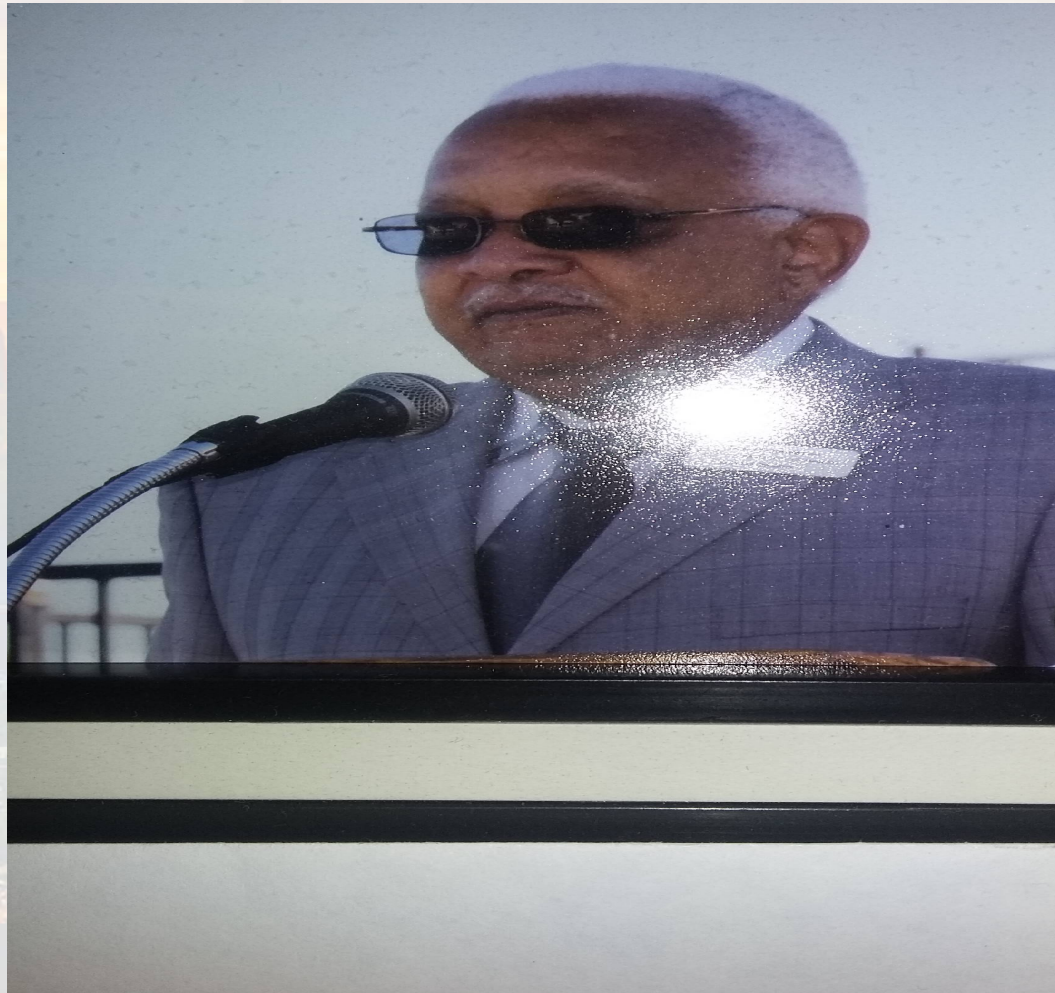
**Tom currently serves as an Evangelist of the Desert Mountain Conference, AMEC.**

**Tom and Evelyn currently reside in Tempe, AZ**





# President L.C. DeMon Carey 2000-2008



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## President Carey

- DeMon has been an active member of the LAY at historic TANNER Chapel, since 1983. (35yrs)
- He became active in the Colorado/Desert-Mountain Lay Organization in 1984. (34 Yrs) Served as President for (8) Yrs. Also served in Many other Officer Positions over those 34 years.
- Delegate the Biennial Convention in 1987 (Tulsa, OK), and the regular Sessions there after.
- Active at the 5th District Level of the Lay, many Committees over the years, presently serving as Co-Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Also a Life Member/Living Legend at 5th District Level.
- Presently Serving as President of the 5th District EDF Fund.
- Active and Enjoying Life as an AME at all Levels.
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# President Harriette Zeigler 2009-2015



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# The Oldest Churches in the Conference

- My eternal gratitude to President, Melba Salter for her assistance.

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# Tanner Chapel

- **Historic Tanner Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church is the oldest African American Church in the State of Arizona.**
- **It was established during the pioneer days when Charles Ward, N. D. Valentine, Laura Valentine and Sister Bell met with the Reverend H. H. Hawkins proposing the establishment of a Christian mission to foster “family life.” Courthouse records show that in 1886, property was owned by an African Methodist Episcopal Mission.**
- **The African Methodist Episcopal Mission was named Tanner Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in honor of Bishop Benjamin T. Tanner.**



## Shorter

- **Shorter Community AME Church, organized in July 1868, by Bishop Thomas M.D. Ward, was the first African-American Church established in Colorado. The Church has grown from a log cabin erected in lots at the corner of 19th and Holladay Streets (now Market Street) to its current locations, “Freedom Crossroads”, Martin Luther King Boulevard and Richard Allen Court.**
- **Historically, the Shorter family has always built its house of worship and never has occupied a previously owned building.**
- **In 1880, to honor the presiding Bishop, James A. Shorter, St. John AME Church was renamed Shorter Chapel.**





# Trinity

- **Trinity was organized during the 1880's by the Reverend T. Saunders. In 1907, after years of holding church meetings in private homes, the congregation of the Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church fundraised and purchased the land property where the Trinity A.M.E. still stands today.**
- **In addition to providing religious services, the Trinity A.M.E. played a critical role in the development of community for African Americans in Salt Lake City between 1890 and 1910.**
- **This congregation has served as a focus of Black religious, social, and cultural activity in Utah from territorial days to the present.**

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# Campbell

- According to Sister Fannie Allen, Campbell's history began on 5 August 1886 when a group of Christian believers met in the home of Brother and Sister McGuire at 995 Delaney Street in West Denver; there the West Side Mission was formed. Campbell's first pastor, the Reverend James Thomas Smith, worked and labored diligently with the membership which soon purchased a house at 33rd and Larimer Streets.
- Bishop Thomas H. D. Ward assigned Rev. John Turner as the Pastor; Reverend Dr. Paul Hubbard was the Presiding Elder at that time. It was under Turner's administration that the Paul Quinn Mission was renamed Campbell Chapel AME Church.





# Grant Chapel

- **Grant Chapel** African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church was the first black church in New Mexico and was **organized during the state's territorial period. Although New Mexico Territory had a few slaves before the Civil War, African Americans began arriving in the region in significant numbers after the conflict.**
- **By the 1870s several Buffalo Soldier units were stationed in the Territory. By the 1880s they were joined by coal miners, ranch hands, and settlers who had established a foothold around Albuquerque.**

**In July 1905 the name of the church was changed to Grant Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in honor of Bishop Alexander Grant, a former Florida slave who escaped and joined the Union Army and then returned to Florida after the Civil War to preach and teach.**



# Activities of the Historiographer

- Prepared a report for the Connectional Lay Historiographer, Dr. Dorothy Henderson.
- Researched information on Oldest AME Churches
- Attended all 5<sup>th</sup> District Meetings
- Attended the Planning Meeting in Denver
- Attended the CLO Executive Board Meeting in Atlanta
- Telephone Conference with past and present historiographers.





## Planned Activities

- Confer with the CLO Historiographer regarding the types of data
- Confer with Deborah Bowman Lee to create a “Did You Know” segment
- Research the other Conferences to record their history.
  
- Budget \$150



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**Questions**