

SPOTLIGHT



THE 5TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION

JULY 16, 2018

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2



MID-YEAR CONVOCATION 2018



**DENVER,
COLORADO**

**EVENING OF
ELEGANCE
2018**

**SCHOLARSHIP
FUND RAISER**

For

**Fifth Episcopal
District Lay
Organization**

**LAY PRESIDENT SIMEON RHODEN, 5TH
EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**



CANDID PHOTOS OF DINING



MID-YEAR TRAINING SEXUAL HARASSMENT WORKSHOP

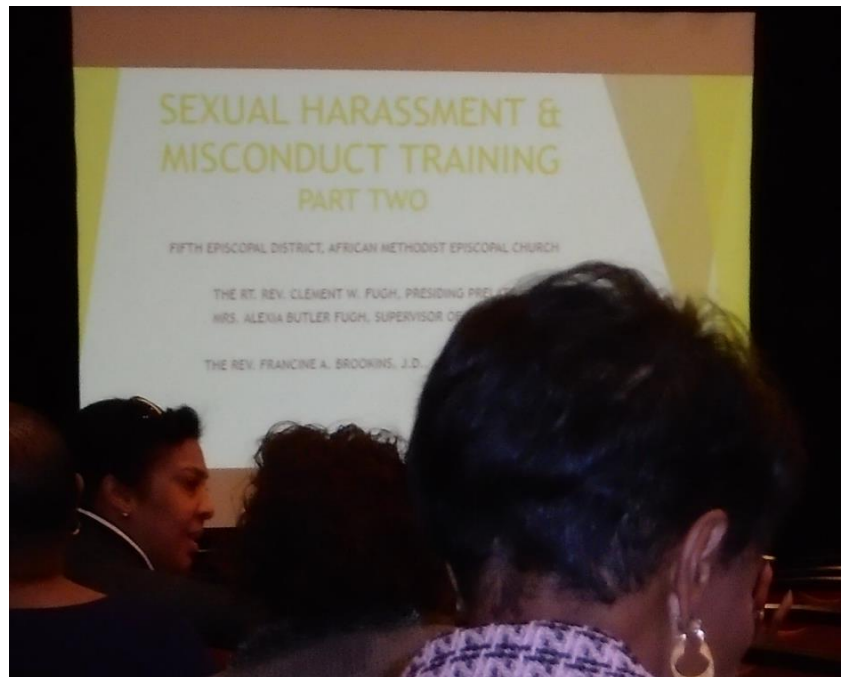
PRESENTER

REV. FRANCINE BROOKINS,
Bethel AME Church, Fontana
Candidate for Bishop 2018

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**"FAME Oakland Celebrate their 2018 Annual Lay Day
- President Valerie Bell Speaker".**



President Simeon Rhoden visits the California Conference to support the Laity of First African Methodist Episcopal Church, Oakland, California and the Connectional Lay President, Ms. Valerie Bell. Others in attendance: Judge Patricia Mayberry, Rev. Harold Mayberry, Marilyn Lovelace, and members of the 5th Episcopal District and California Conference Lay Organizations.

CLEDC Reaches Its Goal!

BY

Dr. Verda Bradley

The Connectional Lay Economic Development Corporation (CLEDC) has reached its goal of raising \$1,000,000.00 (\$1,000,500.00) We want to thank the total membership of CLEDC, the Connectional Lay Organization, and the entire African Methodist Episcopal Church. We have worked long and hard for many years, and now God has blessed us to reach our goal. Thank you again!

The CLEDC has now begun to put in place the framework for how these funds may be utilized and procedures and requirements for accessing them. Notification will come through the Episcopal District CLEDC Director when applications for funds can be made.

The CLEDC Board of Directors will continue to focus on its purpose of providing financial assistance to the Connectional institutions and projects; a financial base for lay ministries, outreach missions, and long-term financial programs for the denomination. For, the CLEDC is a continuation of the legacy of Richard Allen, the founding father, who preached a message of religious freedom, political empowerment, and economic self-determination.

You may help us continue this legacy by becoming a member of CLEDC. Membership applications may be obtained from your Episcopal District CLEDC Director.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF TWO DYNAMIC LAY PEOPLE

The laity has witness the loss of two very special people in our organization and a Bishop of and for the people.

A Lay person who truly love the laity was Mrs. Marguerite Davis. On May 5, 2018 , Marguerite Davis, a Life Member of the Southern California Conference, and the Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization went home to glory. Marguerite Davis was a member of Ward AME Church, Los Angeles, California where she served as the local Lay president for many years. Marguerite always had a word. A word of correctitude, a word of morality, a word of encouragement, and a word to the wise. Marguerite loved the Bible, the Book of Discipline, and working in her church and community.

Community representatives from the Mid-City Council, Los Angeles Police Department, Neighborhood Watch and the Los Angeles School Board Advisory Council came to express their last respects. Everyone talked about her desire to make sure that all was informed about the rules. Bishop Fugh, of the 5th Episcopal District, represented the clergy and informed the congregation that “Yes” she had influence, and “No” she was not going to be forgotten. It was agreed by all that Marguerite had made a difference in many people’s lives.

Her influence touched the lives of people throughout the Connection. Marguerite served in many elected Lay offices of both the Conference and District organizations. The last office she served in on the Episcopal level was as the 5th District Lay Chaplain. Resolutions were read by Dr. Dorothy Vails-Weber, Conference President and by Francine Settles, Corresponding Secretary of the 5th Episcopal District (representing the President, Simeon Rhoden).

In addition, to the loss of Mrs. Davis, Mr. Lee Wheaton, a member of Bethel AME Church, Los Angeles, also transitioned onto glory this year. Mr. Wheaton also had served his church as a local Lay President.

Lee Wheaton served as a conference usher and on board #3 at his local church. He was a Life Member of the Southern California Conference and was a former 3rd Vice President. He was known for always travelling to Lay Days and Usher Days representing his church. Until his health failed, Mr. Wheaton loved to attend both District and Connectional Conventions serving the laity as much as he could. Mr. Wheaton funeral services was held on May 23, 2018. The service was officiated by Rev. Kelvin T. Callaway, Pastor of Bethel AME Church.

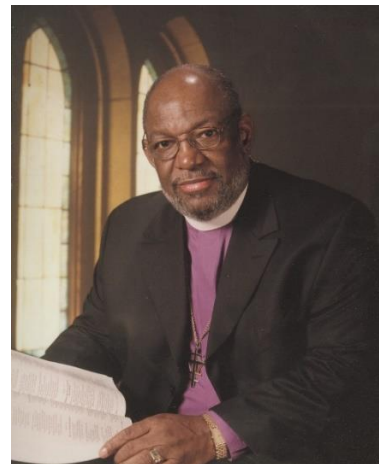
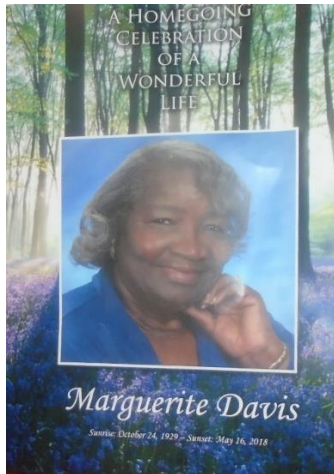
On May 23, 2018 another “Celebration of Life” took place. The Right Reverend Cornal Garnett Henning Sr., 112th Elected and Consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was held at First African Methodist Episcopal Church, Los Angeles. Dr. J. Edgar Boyd, Pastor.

Officiant: Bishop McKinley Young, Senior Bishop, Presiding Bishop 3rd Episcopal District and Eulogist: Bishop Clement W. Fugh, Presiding Bishop, 5th Episcopal District.

A second service for Bishop Henning was held on Tuesday, May 22nd at 6:30 pm a memorial tribute was conducted at Ward African Methodist Church, Los Angeles, Rev. Dr. John Cager, Pastor. Bishop Henning had been the pastor for many years at Ward, and was attending that church when God called him home. Tuesday’s celebration opened with an Alpha Phi Alpha celebration and closed with a traditional “African Libation” celebration to the Elders.

The memories of these great soldiers of the faith, clergy and laity, will long be remembered for their never ending courage to be a soldier in God’s army, and fighting the good fight, in their church families and in the community. Social Action was their cause, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ was their weapons, as they fought daily wearing the armor of God.

Written by Laura Terry
 Edited by Carolyn Hall



REMEMBERING THE EMANUEL NINE



(Picture of the painting titled - "Bible Study", painted by Leroy Campbell given to each of the families of the Emanuel Nine on the 2nd Anniversary)

On page twenty two of the African Methodist Episcopal Church book –*The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016*, there is a resolution called the: “*Tribute To The Emmanuel 9*”.

The Emmanuel 9 Tribute was written to let the church body know that on “June 17th, or the Sunday following June 17th (if this date is not on a Sunday),” we are to set aside a time to have a yearly ceremony to remember... “the nine fallen warriors of the African Methodist Faith”... and the six survivors. Why is this Tribute necessary? The more important question is why not? In this article about the Emanuel Nine and the occasion of the 3rd Anniversary; (an “anniversary of the Mother Emanuel AME Church shooting where nine black parishioners were shot and killed during a bible study in Charleston on June 17, 2015)” is a brief discussion of why we must keep the memory of this incident alive.

We fully understand the “why”, when we look at other cultures. Most groups of people treasure their history, their culture, and/or their religion. As a race of people living in the African Diaspora, we have many ethnicities, but we all share one history. The history of racism and oppression. Like other ethnic and religious groups we cannot let our story go un-noticed. We cannot be an “invisible people” of history, if we want to prevent the events of the past from repeating. We cannot stop acknowledging the murdering of our people as a means of ending this brutal racial practice. We must continue to illuminate the atrocities against our people, just like the Jews, Armenians and other victims of racial hatred.

“Racism Is Still the American Way”

(Jemar Tisby is president of The Witness: A Black Christian Collective where he writes about race, religion, and culture. He is the co-host of the Pass The Mic podcast and a PhD student in History at the University of Mississippi.)

In an article written by **Jemar Tisby**, entitled: “**Reflections on the Anniversary of the Murder of the Emanuel Nine**” Mr. Tisby stated, “The killer left no doubt that this was a hate crime. Just before he began shooting witnesses reported that he said, “I am here to shoot black people.” When someone tried to confront him he said, “You rape our women, and you’re taking over our country.” Why In 2017, did we hear this type of foolishness? This man had not learned his history. He had been poisoned by racial bigotry. Black people’s humanity was invisible to him, he had been blinded by evil. Knowing our story and our struggles might not have prevented him, but telling our story might help others prevent this from happening again. “Never let the world forget what happen that day”, this is the sentiment of the Jewish survivors. We must also have that same type of commitment to telling our story. The AME church has established a time and date to tell this story. Now we must make sure our leaders implement this decree.

By the AME Church writing this decree, honoring the Nine and their survivors with a memorial ceremony or tribute, we let the world know that we cherished them and have not forgotten them. They have become a part of the fabric of the quilt of our historical past. Mr. Tisby also stated in his article: “Racial progress is not a myth, but neither is it a completed project. We have come a long way from race-based chattel slavery. We have come a long way from signs over drinking fountains and riding the back of the bus. We have come a long way from preventing black people from sitting in the pews alongside white people. But let’s not use racial progress as a reason to ignore the ways racism reinvents itself. An anniversary, even as one as somber as the slaying of the Emanuel Nine, grants us the opportunity to re-assess race. Perhaps our memories of a painful past will give us the vision for a future of hope and healing.”

African Methodist Episcopal Laity, what type of ceremony has your church planned? How can the Lay Organization on every level make sure that we include in our local stations a program for teaching our history? We champion the causes for Social Action, but when do we teach at home, church or the community about our past – certainly not on Founder’s Day. In most conferences, Founder’s Day is a clergy activity. Services are held to celebrate the birth of the AME Church and not the Founder, Richard Allen. As we know, February 14 was the birthday of one of our founding fathers and not the founding of the AME Church. But you will find laity and clergy across the connection, celebrating the incorrect history of our Zion. Why remember our past and celebrate it, because if we cannot get it right, no one else will care or even try to present our story.

“We call the Names, as a testament to the witness of the importance of their lives, stated Tisby.” May God’s goodness and mercy continue to fall on their families.

“Rev. Clementa Pickney (41)

Cynthia Hurd (54)

Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton (45)

Tywanza Sanders (26)

Ethel Lance (70)

Susie Jackson (87)

Depayne Middleton Doctor (49)

Rev. Daniel Simmons (74)

Myra Thompson (54)”

And the survivors:

‘Felicia Sanders, Polly Sheppard, Jennifer Pinckney, Rev. Anthony Thompson and two minors’”

(p. 22 Section VII – The Doctrine and Discipline of the AMEC 2016)

Written: by Laura Terry

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“Socks for Souls”

[Excerpt taken from flyer by the, 3rd Vice President, 5th Episcopal District Lay Organization, Barbara Moore]

**“He shifted his weight from foot to foot but it was equally uncomfortable on each. “ Douglas Adams
Re: *A Small Gesture of Love - “Give a Pair of Socks Campaign”***

“This year, once again the 5th District Lay Organization during our 61st Annual Session, July 19th – July 21st, in Glendale, Arizona will partner with our Host Conference, the Desert Mountain Conference, and participate in their Outreach Program through the [Tanner Community Development Corporation \(TCDC\)](#). We will once again give a “pair of socks” to those in need.”

“The TCDC established in 2001 as a response by the community to proactively address the economical, educational, spiritual, health and housing needs of low-income families and the underserved in the Phoenix Metropolitan area; will make the donation to The Human Services Emergency Assistance Program.”

“A simple pair of socks to tired aching feet may give comfort to one of God’s children in need of a gesture of love.” (excerpts from flyer)



THE GOAL THIS YEAR IS 1800 PAIRS OF SOCKS

Pacific Northwest Conference Mr. Bobby Brown



CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

The Pacific Northwest Conference Lay Organization Executive Board

Submitted by

Roxanne Buchanan,

1st VP Pacific Northwest Conference Lay Organization and Luncheon Chair

The Pacific Northwest Conference Lay Organization

On Saturday, April 14, 2018, The Pacific Northwest Conference Lay Organization celebrated our Community Leaders and Outstanding Servants at our Richard Allen Legacy Award Luncheon. The luncheon was held at Emerald Queen Convention Center, Fife, Washington. Everyone enjoyed the spirit of fellowship, great music and the northwest signature buffet!

At this year's luncheon we honored Community Leaders and Outstanding Servants whose commitment to the greater community exemplified the passions and workings of Bishop Richard Allen. In addition, our goal was to raise funds through a "Cake Auction" for funds to be donated to a selected teen homeless shelter or an **(continue)**

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Bobby Brown, President, Roxanne Buchanan, 1st VP, DeLois Day, 2nd VP, Sylvia Payne, Secretary, Rhonda Denet-Weems, Correspondent Secretary, Felecia Corbin, Assistant Secretary, Mamie Robertson, Parliamentarian (not pictured), Fannie Williams, Historiographer, (not pictured), Mary Scott, Financial Secretary, Felecia Caldwell, Treasurer (not pictured), Bill Dickens, Director of Lay Activities, Mae Maddocks, Chaplain, Fay Brown, FAME Lay President, Sandy Nelson, Primm Tabernacle AME Lay President, Helen Irving, Bethel AME Church Portland, Lay President (not pictured).

organization working with homeless teens, which we accomplished. We will be donating \$1,000 to a homeless youth organization! There were 200 laity and pastors throughout the Pacific Northwest to help us celebrate our Founder Richard Allen.

2018 Outstanding Servants

First AME Church, Seattle, Washington – Frances Carr

Allen AME Church Tacoma, Washington – Ann Walker

Bethel AME Church Portland, Oregon – Lee Scurlock

Ebenezer AME Church Bremerton, Washington – Pamela Farrior

Bethel AME Church Everett Washington – Gloria Tendle

Primm Tabernacle AME Church, Seattle, Washington – Viola Rosa'le Williams

Walker Chapel AME Church, Renton, Washington – LuJuana Hooks-Jackson



SCURLOCK



TENDLE



FARRIOR



WILLIAMS



WALKER



CARR

Community Leaders

Victoria Woodard, Mayor of Tacoma

Ian James Warner, Lawyer and Council to City of Seattle Mayor



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE LAY
ORGANIZATION CONVENTION
SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION
JUNE 7 – JUNE 9, 2018**



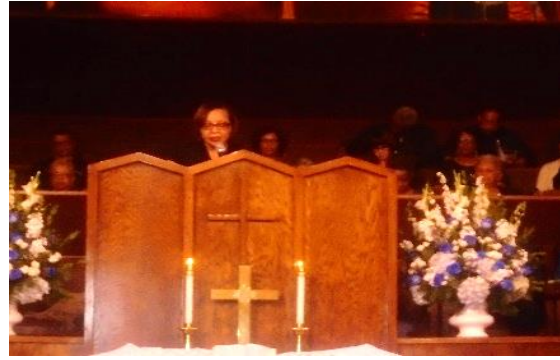
**FIRST A.M.E. CHURCH, LOS ANGELES, PASTOR: REV. J. EDGAR BOYD; LOCAL
PRESIDENT: JACQUELINE BROWN;**

SCCLO PRESIDENT, DR. DOROTHY VAILS-WEBER



The 69th Annual Convention of the Southern California Conference Lay Organization convened June 7-9, 2018, at First A.M.E. Church, 2270 South Harvard Blvd., Los Angeles, California: Bishop Clement W. Fugh, Presiding Prelate – Fifth Episcopal District; Mrs. Alexia Fugh, Episcopal Supervisor; Rev. Allen Williams - Host Presiding Elder, LA North District; Rev. Roosevelt Lindsay – Co-Host Presiding Elder, LA South Las Vegas District; Rev. Edgar Boyd - Host Pastor; Dr. Dorothy Vails-Weber, President - Southern California Conference Lay Organization; Mrs. Jacqueline Dupont-Walker, Director of Lay Activities; Mrs. Jacqueline Brown, Host President; Ms. Linda Smith, Host Director of Lay Activities; Ms. Karen Caffee, Convention Chairperson (excerpt from Lay Resolution written by Carolyn Hall) (continue page 13 and 14)

COMMUNION SERVICE



THE SERMON WAS PREACHED BY FAMEC, LOS ANGELES', PASTOR, REV. E. BOYD, AND FAMEC'S, LOCAL LAY PRESIDENT, MS. JACQUELINE BROWN WAS WORSHIP LEADER. EVANGELIST, GWENDOLYN WILLIAMS PRAYED THE INVOCATION, AND MS. TAMIKA TOWNSEND-JONES VERY ELOQUENTLY READ THE SCRIPTURE.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FIRST TIMERS



RESOLUTION COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON, CAROLYN HALL



TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE
GLADYS MOORE, CHAIRPERSON



LAURA TERRY AND
DARLENE ANDERSON

LAY DELEGATES FROM
FIRST A.M.E. CHURCH,
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

RAYAC—RICHARD ALLEN YOUNG ADULT COUNCIL -- LAY WORKSHOP COMMITTEE REPORT—SHARK TANK



RESOLUTION (Continue from page 11)

WHEREAS, the convention officially opened with devotion led by Chaplain Gwendolyn Williams with President Dorothy Vails-Weber in the Chair. Greetings and welcome were given by Rev. Edgar Boyd, Ms. Jacqueline Brown, and Ms. Karen Caffee. The roll was called. President Vails-Weber stated that life members in good health should attend meetings and conventions; otherwise they should be taken off the list. Four newly inducted life members, who were present during this session, were recognized by President Vails-Weber; and

WHEREAS, marshals were appointed by President Vails-Weber – two from each Presiding Elder’s District – LA North: Mr. William Gee and Mrs. Sydney Williams; LA South/Las Vegas: Mr. Robert Bradford and Mrs. Beatrice Thomas. Reports of the pre-registration and credentials were given: 86 pre-registered; 86 credentials received. The boundary was set to reflect the first seven rows on each side. From 1:52 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. the convention committees met; and

WHEREAS, the first business session reconvened at approximately 3:10 p.m. Three committee reports were given: First, Constitution and By-laws – Judge Patricia Mayberry reported. Some key points referencing delegates were: *Delegates* must have attended one prior convention in the past five years. *Delegates* must write a written report; or not be eligible for a period of two years. *Delegates* must have attended two Executive Board meetings or Lay Council meetings. Living Legends will be on the Conference level: and

WHEREAS, the second report was given by the Budget and Finance Committee, Ms. Linda Smith, reported and the third report was from the Audit Committee – Mrs. Jacqueline Brown, reported; and

WHEREAS, the Services of the Word and Sacrament were led by Rev. Edgar Boyd, host pastor. In his sermon he used an acronym to illustrate how to move mountains in our lives. To move mountains, it takes M - motivation; O – Obedience; V – Vision; E – Endurance. In the absence of the bishop, he became the Chief Celebrant; and

WHEREAS, at 9:00 p.m., the delegation attended a Welcome Reception; and

WHEREAS, the all-day 2018 Lay Institute was held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The day planned by Mrs. Jacqueline Dupont-Walker began with a Devotional Songfest led by Sister Kendra Ross Perkins. This smorgasbord of hymns, songs and prayer was inspirational; and

WHEREAS, the first Plenary Session – “Called to Ministry of Environmental Justice” featured Mrs. Fabian Wesson – South Coast Air Quality Management District, as the presenter. She cited cases of toxic contaminants found in landfills, water, the air, and pipelines covering geographic areas from North Carolina to North Dakota. She admonished us to “Vote Smart”; and

WHEREAS, after a brief overview of the four intensive workshops, the delegation was dismissed to attend the workshop of his/her choice. Titles, descriptions and facilitators are listed in the 2018 Lay Institute Program Booklet; and

WHEREAS, to relax our bodies and souls, we engaged in a twenty-minute aerobic chair exercise session immediately after the Songfest luncheon. From this, we went to the Allen House for the second session to work on ministry ideas related to the intensive workshops.; and

WHEREAS, Plenary II: Shark Tank Session was held in the sanctuary. The highlight of this session was hearing from the three young adults. They presented two ideas for a youth ministry. Four well versed judges selected idea #2 - A Friday Night Activity. These judges were: Ms. Stephanie Wiggins, Deputy CEO – LA Metro, Mr. Casey Harris – an emerging actor/producer, Mrs. Billy Green – Director of Youth – Black Hollywood Education and Resources Center, and Ms. Lena L. Kennedy – LL Kennedy Associates.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the day ended with the viewing of the documentary, “Hole in the Head – A Life Revealed”: by Dr. Wilbert Smith. The documentary is Vertus Hardiman’s story of a horrific experience that affected his life for 80 years. After the viewing, Dr. Smith gave remarks. He stated that he’s trying to get the documentary accepted as a curriculum item in the Pasadena Unified School District. Also, it is being released to the public. An FYI from the chairperson of this resolution – Vertus Hardiman was an active member of the Lay Organization of First A.M.E. Church, Pasadena until his health failed. For years he served as chaplain – leading each devotion with his favorite song, “What A Friend We Have in Jesus”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee extends a heartfelt thanks to Chaplain Gwendolyn Williams for the well-planned devotions: Dr. Dorothy Vails-Weber for a memorable 69th Annual Convention experience; Mrs. Jaqueline Dupont-Walker for planning and executing an unforgettable day of Lay Training; Rev. Edgar Boyd for warmly greeting the delegate and leading us in the Services of Word and Sacrament; Mrs. Jacqueline Brown and the Lay Organization of First A.M.E. Church, Los Angeles for beautifully hosting the 69th Annual Lay Convention of the Southern California Conference Lay Organization.

A copy of this resolution will be given to the president and a copy will be placed in the archives of the Southern California Conference Lay Organization.

Submitted this 9th day of June in the year of our Lord 2018.

Carolyn Hall, Chairperson

Committee Member: Lauren Anderson, Artie Belcher, and Wanda Fritz



MS. PAMUEL WILLIAMS,
PRESIDENT MISSOURI
CONFERENCE



“Missouri Conference Honors the Men of MCLO at Annual Banquet”

Written by Dr. Tamara Zellars Buck, Director of Public Relations

The MCLO Banquet was held at New Northside Banquet Center on Saturday, June 9. Approximately 150 attendees came dressed to impress and were greeted with a Blue Carpet Entry into a room filled with laughter and good fellowship. Our theme was *“A Salute to the Men of the Missouri Conference Lay and Their Service to Us.”*

A variety of men were honored at the event, including Mr. Saul Williams (not in attendance), Mr. Eddie Broomfield and Mr. Thomas Payton, all of whom have been faithful Lay members for 50+ years. We also paid tribute to Mr. Finnos Coleman and Mr. Bill Calmese, who are both fairly new to the MCLO but have stepped up as local presidents. Other honorees were Spoken Word Master Mr. Arvell Roberts, Mr. David Euell, our pancake flipping man when his church hosted, and younger Lay members Sean Braxton and Terence Payton.

We took another opportunity to salute Mr. Lamar Rose, our 5th District 1st VP, for his unwavering support to his MCLO. We also adopted our 5th District President and honored guest Mr. Simeon Rhoden in our salute for his outstanding service to the MCLO.

President Rhoden blessed us with a medley of songs and gave us inspiring words during his keynote address at the banquet. Our own MCLO President Pamela Williams created a beautiful bookmark as a Keepsake Token for all banquet attendees. This was the MCLO's first attempt on this level of an event and we thank everyone for their support.

*LAY BLUE AND WHITE CLASSY
BANQUET*



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER
MR. SIMEON RHODEN**



Mr. Eddie Broomfield



Mr. Lamar Rose, our 5th District 1st VP
And family

CALENDAR



10th QUADRENNIAL WOMEN IN MINISTRY
CONVENTION
MONDAY, AUGUST 6 – FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2018
Re. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, D. Min.



CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATIONAL
(CLO)
36TH BIENNIAL SESSION
BELLEVIEW, WASHINGTON



Spotlight Committee:

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California Conference, DPR, Illustrator	Ms. Barbara Freeman Courtney
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So. Cal. Conference, Proofer	Ms. Carolyn Hall