

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# WE



# SPEAK

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022



Living a Global Witness Ministry that

## TRANSFORMS, TRANSCENDS AND LIBERATES

**BISHOP STAFFORD J. N. WICKER**  
CLO COMMISSION CHAIR

**MATIKANE A. MAKITI**  
CLO PRESIDENT

**PATRICIA WRIGHT**  
CLO DIRECTOR OF LAY ACTIVITIES

**JAMESHA WILLIAMS**  
CLO YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVE

**DIANNE H. BATTLE**  
CLO DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

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**f** LAYORGANIZATION

*"Living A Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends and Liberates"*

LUKE 4: 18-19

**AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
OF THE CONNECTIONAL  
LAY ORGANIZATION**

*AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH*

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LAY OFFICERS**

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We Speak is a Quarterly Publication of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and is designed as a source of information to the constituency of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

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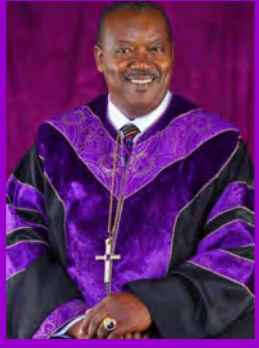
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The Right Reverend Stafford J. N. Wicker, Presiding Prelate  
LAY COMMISSION CHAIR

**“WISHES YOU A BLESSED YEAR WITH SERENITY AND PEACE”**



**Eighth Episcopal District**  
**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
[8thdistrictamechurch@gmail.com](mailto:8thdistrictamechurch@gmail.com)

Greetings, during this season of Epiphany. As we approach the pinnacle of our celebration, that glorious Christmas experience, we pause to acknowledge and give thanks for the blessings of our ministry. Supervisor Constance Belin Wicker and our daughters, Valencia and Lauren, join me in extending love and appreciation to our AME Church family, particularly the laity at all levels of the Connection.

During this time of reflection, anticipation, and preparation, we recognize the unique experiences we have encountered during the past year. Instead of chronicling the plethora of health, cultural, social, and environmental challenges we have faced, we encourage you to join us in celebrating our arrival at this juncture. Indeed, the journey has been a tumultuous one, but we have navigated the storms, both literal and figurative, under the protection of an all-knowing, never-failing God. We have been galvanized and fortified by the individual acts of kindness and the incredible collective support of this unified body of Christ. What an amazing testimony for this holy season!

This past year thrust us into a new reality. Our abrupt awakening into a new normal has forced the world to reach into the human reserves of untapped resources and under-utilized gifts from God. We have experienced and demonstrated a resilient faith, perhaps not evidenced during our lifetimes. I am overjoyed to declare that ***God is still in control!***

As we stand on the beginning of a new year, I invite you to minimize the focus on those things which oppress and depress us. I encourage each of you to join me in embracing new ideas, creating new strategies, and implementing new ministries in our communities. During this season of Epiphany, let us cultivate the Manifestation of Christ. We are reminded in this time to seek a Revelation of spirit that is told in Romans 13:11... *Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.*

We are expecting to witness a new kind of elevating spirits manifested throughout in this new year. Let us continue to soar with steadfast determination, recognizing that the work continues. As Commissioner of the Connectional Lay Organization, I am committed to re-imagining future ministry in our Zion. With your continued support, we can actualize the new CLO theme, *“Living a Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends, and Liberates.”* Let us embrace the vision encapsulated in this theme, as well as the hope and promise that envelops this holy season. ***Press On!***

***Season’s Greetings & Best Wishes ...***

**Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker, CLO Commission Chair**

**P. O. Box 14227 • Jackson, MS 39236 | 5450 Executive Place • Jackson, MS 39206 | 601-366-8240**



**THE CLO PRESIDENT,  
BRO ABEDNEGO MATIKANE MAKITI**

**“WISHES YOU A BLESSED NEW YEAR OF HOPE”**

*“Gratitude is important every day of the year  
and more so at this time of the year”*

To the fellow members of the Connectional Lay Organization - It is with Jesus Joy, that I greet you. May the blessings of Christ be upon you and your families in this new year.

**OFFICERS**

*Lay Commission Chair  
Bishop  
Stafford J.N. Wicker (8)*

*President  
Matikane Abednego Makiti (19)*

*1st Vice President  
Dr. Dorothy L. Henderson Ph.D.  
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*Director of Lay Activities  
Patricia Wright (11)*

*Director of Public  
Relations  
Dianne H. Battle (9)*

*Young Adult  
Representative  
Jamesha Williams (7)*

The new year brings a great opportunity to us as Lay persons to renew our love for God and His son Jesus Christ and start this year with faith and optimism that this year will bring for all of us.

For the past two years, we have not been able to do God’s work in a manner that we had been accustomed to, because of the COVID-19 pandemic that had engulfed and had left in its wake devastating consequences on the economy, social interaction and to the many freedoms that we used to enjoy. However, we have since seen a silver lining in that we were able to rise **“in one voice and in prayer”** to confront the harsh conditions that we were faced with. We also invoke the power of the Holy Spirit to guide our work and guide our path. Just like Moses in Exodus 33:15, we say” If your presence does not go to us, do not send us up from here”

Equally, from the Connectional Lay Organization perspective, the past two years have shown us how blessed we were, because it is in the midst of hardship that the true test of our faith emerges, and we thank God for His abundant Blessings and His Grace upon us.

I continue to use this opportunity and platform to appeal to members of the Connectional Lay Organization to embrace vaccination which according to scientific evidence has proven to greatly reduce the effects of the virus.

As we begin this new year, we find ourselves in a better position than we were in the last two years. I also implore you to spare moments to reach out to the less privileged and extend all acts of kindness and goodwill as espoused by Jesus Christ.

Let us also pray with each other and for each other. As we pray let us lift the leadership of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in prayer as they lead this great Zion into the future. The AME CHURCH and the church universal need our prayers and supplication as we move towards recovery from the pandemic.

On this note, I would like to wish all our members and their families God’s abundant blessings. May we continue to pray for good health, peace and prosperity.

To God be the Glory!!!





## THE CLO-DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS DIANNE H. BATTLE

**“WISHES YOU A HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR”**

**“CONTINUING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE”**

Greetings,

I greet you in this season of everlasting love. The love of Jesus is illuminated throughout the Connectional Lay Organization. Let us share this love one to another as we continue to make a difference in the lives of others.

As we approach the end of the year 2021, and move in the direction of the New Year 2022 with God’s Blessings, our ultimate focus is: “Living A Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends and Liberates” Luke 4:18-19.

As we render our services as CLO Officers across the global connection of the Church’s Lay Organizations, we are seeking ways to witness, transform, transcend and liberate the minds of laity on all levels. To make these changes requires **changing the minds, hearts, and behavior of those in leadership**. Some changes will come quickly. Others will take some time depending on the entrenchment of those in leadership. It is important to be open to change as we move into new ways of accomplishing these variants together.

There is a lot we can gain by working together. There are usually many people with different skills working together. While we revert back and include the vision of President Makiti, the important thing is to create a smooth flow between the CLO Officers and laity on all levels, which will allow all to exchange ideas and utilize each others’ abilities. What’s crucial along the way is not only to keep clear communication and motivate each other, but also give each other space to develop individual skills, and together top-notch work will be developed.

We remain excited about the growth accomplished within the department of the Director of Public Relations and the Public Relations team members with districts 1-20. Together, we have stayed on task producing electronic versions of the We Speak Newsletters Bi/Monthly since its inception, beginning November 2021. We have continued to update the CLO Website with the assistance of district presidents and their public relations persons. (Thank You!)

There has been continued updates as requested by the CLO Historiographer to include monthly blogs on the “In The News Section” of the CLO Website as well as promotional highlights of the CLO Historical Journal sales and previous We Speak Magazines sales. We encourage you to visit the website and make your purchase. [www.ameclay.org](http://www.ameclay.org)

I have incorporated, new innovative ways of improvements to the CLO Website. A new platform will provide an opportunity for magazine online subscriptions, renewal payments, and a CLO Database that will be easily assessed to add, update, and delete subscriptions, among many other features that will prove beneficial as we move forward during the first quarter of 2022. The CLO Website will become more user friendly for members and friends to support, engage and help with the effort in having our “We Speak Magazine” become a periodical of the AME Church. In order to meet this goal, we need 10,000 plus paid subscribers per individual. This payment process will also be introduced working together with the CLO First Vice President, Dr. Dorothy Henderson, and her “Membership Recruitment and Retention” Goal of 20,000 plus. Watch out for the New Birth of CLO media, print media and Website enhancement updates.

**“TOGETHER WE CAN DO THIS”**



## THE CLO-DIRECTOR OF LAY ACTIVITIES PATRICIA H. WRIGHT

**“WISHES YOU A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH  
NEW OPPORTUNITIES”**

**From Your Director of Lay Activities’ Pen...**

### THE CLO THEME

“Living A Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends and Liberates”

**The Scriptural Reference: Luke 4: 18-19** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.

Living A Global Witness Ministry means that we intentionally, on purpose, in an unabashed way, in a public way, in a relational way, desire to bring witness that is different, daring, innovative, engaging and liberating. We serve a church that spans 39 countries, 5 continents, speaks countless languages, is governed by democracy, aristocracy, monarchy amid a plethora of cultures and yet believes in THE SAME GOD.

We are separated by miles, resources, agendas, political interests, and for the past 18 months we can add pandemic to the mix of reasons that we are apart. We have been kept together through the innovation of technology and the willingness to transform to a different way of thinking, worshiping and witnessing. We have had to transcend the usual way of doing things so that all could be privileged to a liberating gospel. We, as the Organized Lay Organization, have had to step up and be demonstrative of the outcomes we are desirous of seeing. In other words, Living A Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends and Liberates is where our mission rests.

Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transforms is real life ministry. Everybody seems to be using the word ‘transformation’ to describe the impact of what they are doing. There is transformational leadership, transformational management, transformational development, transformational business, transformational care, transformational learning, and even transformational marketing!

As we continue to use the term transformation to describe our Christian ministries, we should be clear about what we mean when we use it. The biblical concept of transformation flows from an intensely personal relationship with God. As shared by one Bible scholar, “It is a complete regeneration of our being, thinking, and doing that works itself out in our families and communities.” It is not something that is achieved by external force or theories of social change, but by a work of God in the heart. God transforms from the inside out. As followers of Jesus, we have all experienced the transforming power of God at work in us – that quiet work of the Holy Spirit convicting us of wrongdoing, cleansing our hearts, shaping our character, changing our attitudes, and influencing our actions.

Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transcends goes beyond borders and boundaries. It is the charge and chance for us to extend ourselves beyond our comfort zones to communicate and create avenues that will reach generations, open minds and activate people to engage in a unifying work. Living A Global Witness Ministry that Liberates frees one to be liberal in praise, in service and witness. The gospel is a message of freedom and liberation — the ministry of Jesus was that of liberating captives. The gospel tells us that it is through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that we can courageously go out of our comfort zones to preach and serve others just like Christ did in the synagogues. And so we shall, by Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates.

# Graphic Design

## There is ONLY ONE Logo for the Lay Organization.

With the introduction of new themes, there are graphic designs or artistic renderings created to help visually express or support the theme. Such is the case with our newly approved theme. It **does not** take the place of the Lay Logo. The use of the Lay Logo is always in order with Lay programs. The use of the thematic rendering is also in order, especially when representing the theme. One may use either the official lay logo or the thematic artistic rendering. When using an artistic rendering, it is important to make sure to use the one that reflects the current theme.



The graphic design that supports the theme of Living a Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates displays the Lay Logo with a golden bronze tinted cross and anvil that stand out. The cross, of course represents our faith while the anvil represents the longevity and durability of a church that has weathered many storms yet still maintains its shape and purpose. Undergirding and even enfolding the Lay Logo is the world. We are a global organization with a reach that is inter and intra connected. This design shows the link of the Lay Organization with the entire world. It is illustrative of a ministry that is both pervasive and invasive.

**NOTE:** A png file is attached to this email so that it may be used for programs and presentations.



The CLO President has proposed a Vision plan that is filled with opportunities for us to perform and respond with excellence as our mantra. As an Organized Lay Organization, we serve with the outcome of excellence as our goal. But what is the higher calling... what is the next level to our excellence and unity? I submit, it is to Live a Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates!

We are in sync! Praise the LORD!

# President's Vision and CLO Theme

( Please see below excerpts from President Makiti's Vision)

President's Vision says...	How does the theme relate?
5....the Lay Organization needs to embrace <b>unity and collaboration, diversity, equity</b> and inclusion to achieve personal, collective and professional development of our members in a caring and prayerful manner.	<i>A Living Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates</i> connotes <b>collaboration and diversity</b> as it addresses these areas across the global church. It covers a broader range than does a single focused theme.
5. (2) We need to ensure that we provide <b>support to Episcopal Districts 14- 20</b> , by embarking on programs that allow for diverse voices – because all the voices matter.	Living a Global Witness Ministry is an <b>inclusive</b> approach that requires and demands voices from the <b>WHOLE</b> Connectional Church
5. (4) <b>Stakeholder Engagement</b> --- The relationship between the Clergy and the CLO should be congealed and we will at all times seek the guidance and counsel of the Lay Commission Chair to direct this vision. We will also ensure that the CLO continues to have cordial relationships with other auxiliaries in the church to determine their training needs as well as embark on joint programs and sharing of training resources	With this theme we can ask our selves what are we presenting to the collective humanity? It is global witness that <b>appeals to and crosses the component lines and denominational lines</b> and bridges the clergy and laity gap. It is presenting living a global witness that transforms, transcends and liberates the world by living a life that is pleasing in the sight of the Lord.
5. (7) Unity, peace and collaboration- we need to be more unified and peaceful, whilst shouldering our individual responsibility for <b>building a healthy environment</b> in which God can bring in new members. Therefore, working collaboratively as CLO leaders will be for the betterment of the Lay Organization	Transcendent ministry speaks to go going above and beyond and doing things differently than before. It is a time to <b>utilize the skills of the entire church to provide a witness</b> . Unity and collaboration are attributes that compel us to go farther and beyond our current status.
5.(9)Embracing technology and enhancing the uptake on the utilization of technology as a <b>means of business communication...</b> assist each other in our <b>endeavors to bridge the digital divide</b> amongst Episcopal Districts.	Liberating ministry frees all to be invested, innovative and involved.



## Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates

*A litany (responsive reading) from the pen of CLODOLA P.H. Wright – 11/21*

LEADER: We serve a church which spans 39 countries, 5 continents, speaks countless languages, resides in places governed by democracy, aristocracy, and monarchy amid a plethora of cultures and yet believes in **THE SAME GOD**.

People: We are separated by miles, resources, agendas, political interests and a pandemic. We have been kept **TOGETHER** through the innovation of technology, the willingness to transform to different ways of thinking, worshiping and witnessing and by the Grace of **THAT SAME GOD**.

LEADER: Living A Global Witness Ministry **that Transforms** is real life ministry. Reflective of a personal relationship with God, it is a complete renewal or shift of one's mindset, beliefs and entire way of being and behaving.

People: O LORD, we seek Transformation by the renewing of our minds and hearts so that we may prove what is Your good, acceptable and perfect will.

LEADER: Living A Global Witness Ministry **that Transcends** goes beyond borders and boundaries. It is the charge and chance for us to extend ourselves beyond our comfort zone to communicate and create avenues that will span generations, open minds and activate people to engage in an edifying work.

People: O LORD, our prayer is to execute a Transcendent mission that is unparalleled in commitment to any seen or yet to come.

LEADER: A Global Witness Ministry **that Liberates**, frees one to be liberal in praise, service and witness. In essence, it untethers us from dull traditions that bind our imagination, creativity and innovation, and conversely, loosens our proclivity for boundless greatness.

ALL: O LORD, we yearn for a Liberating gospel spread across the world so that all of humanity will come to know and exemplify Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates.



Living a Global Witness Ministry that  
**TRANSFORMS, TRANSCENDS AND LIBERATES**



**CLOSING**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**MEETING**  
**REGISTRATION**  
**APRIL 7-9**  
**2022**



**EARLY REGISTRATION**  
**JANUARY 26 - MARCH 28**  
**\$195.00**

**LATE REGISTRATION**  
**MARCH 29 - APRIL 4**  
**\$250.00**

**(NON - REFUNDABLE)**

*New Orleans, LA*

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AIRPORT  
HOTEL RATE  
\$139.00 + TAX**

**REGISTRATION \$195**  
**THREE MEALS**  
**LEARNING LAB OPPORTUNITY**  
**ACCESS TO BUSINESS SESSIONS**  
**INCLUDING REPORTS**



**BISHOP STAFFORD J. N. WICKER**  
**CLO COMMISSION CHAIR**



**MATIKANE A. MAKITI**  
**CLO PRESIDENT**



**PATRICIA WRIGHT**  
**CLO DOLA**



**JAMESHA WILLIAMS**  
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**DIANNE H. BATTLE CLO-DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS CLODOPR16@GMAIL.COM**

*"Living A Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends and Liberates" LUKE 4: 18-19*

**NO ON-SITE  
REGISTRATION**

**WEBSITE: AMECLAY.ORG**





**THE CLO FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
DR. DOROTHY HENDERSON, Ph.D.**

**“WISHES YOU A BLESSED YEAR WITH  
JOY AND PEACE”**

**“Membership Recruitment and Retention”**

**Goal 20,000+**



We, the First Vice President Team are working extremely hard to connect with First Vice Presidents on all levels in an effort to recruit Lay members.

As First Vice President of the Connectional Lay Organization, I have had the awesome opportunity of meeting First Vice Presidents from the Episcopal District Level to the Local Level. Thank you, Episcopal District Lay Presidents and First Vice Presidents, for sharing with me your membership Databases, and your creative ideas that you have put into action during your Annual Membership Drives. Listed below you will find a list of Events that have taken place recently:

**Engagement Parties**  
**Sharing Best Practices for Recruiting**  
**Launch Parties**  
**Preparing to recruit**  
**Pep Rallies**  
**Keeping the Momentum Going**  
**Celebrating Success**  
**Membership Recruitment workshops**

## Next CLO First Vice President Meeting January 27, 2022- 7:00PM Eastern Time

### *Up-Coming Events and Action Items:*

- Lay Membership Roundup Day..... Online Membership Applications
- New Member Lay Membership Pin
- Success Stories sharing and Video Clips of Recruitment News
- Awards for Membership Competition Event (Episcopal District to Local Level Awards)
- Membership Recruitment Day of Celebration
- Local Church Lay Day Programs to Include Membership Recruitment.
- Networking Opportunities-sharing Membership Best Practices, PowerPoints, pamphlets, and Brochures.

### Episcopal District Lay Organization Database Received and Progress Report

1 <sup>st</sup>	District	Received
2 <sup>nd</sup>	District	Received
3 <sup>rd</sup>	District	Received
4 <sup>th</sup>	District	Received
5 <sup>th</sup>	District	Received
6 <sup>th</sup>	District	Received
7 <sup>th</sup>	District	Received
8 <sup>th</sup>	District	Received

9 <sup>th</sup>	District	Received
10 <sup>th</sup>	District	Received
11 <sup>th</sup>	District	Received
12 <sup>th</sup>	District	Received
13 <sup>th</sup>	District	Received
14 <sup>th</sup>	District	In Progress
15 <sup>th</sup>	District	In Progress
16 <sup>th</sup>	District	Received

17 <sup>th</sup>	District	In Progress
18 <sup>th</sup>	District	In Progress
19 <sup>th</sup>	District	Received
20 <sup>th</sup>	District	In Progress

**God Bless!**  
**Dr. Dorothy Henderson, Ph.D.**  
**CLO First Vice President**

**Committee Volunteers Needed:  
Select Your Committee and email  
[DorothyLHenderson@att.net](mailto:DorothyLHenderson@att.net)**

**To: Episcopal District Lay First Vice Presidents, Conference Lay Organization First Vice Presidents, Presiding Elder District Lay Organization First Vice President, Local Lay Organization First Vice Presidents.**

1. A work group to assist with the development of a Lay Organization Membership Training Guide/ Manual on Recruitment, Retention and Reclaiming strategy for the organization on all levels of the Lay Organization.
2. A work group to initiate and assist in developing a Motivational Lay Membership Drive Newsletter.
3. A work group to develop an attractive and inviting tool for the CLO website in an effort to Recruit new Lay Members.
4. A work group to establish the best date and time for the Global Lay Membership Recruitment Day of Explosion!!
5. A work group to develop Membership Recruitment Training Workshops for 1st Vice Presidents on all levels and schedule the best date and time for the Global Training.
6. A work group to develop a Survey Form relating Membership Recruitment to include survey questions and timeframe for submitting and returning the form as well as audience the form will be sent and posting the form on the CLO Website.
7. A work group to glean Success Stories and What motivated the individual to join the lay organization.
8. A work group who will collaborate with other component heads in an effort to develop partnerships.





**THE CLO THIRD VICE PRESIDENT  
LOVIE AARON**

**“WISHES YOU A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR”**

**EPISCOPAL THIRD VICE PRESIDENTS**

1st	Robin Baton
2nd	Yvonne Davis
3rd	Eric Bruce
4th	Annie Robinson
5th	Laman Rose
6th	Alfreda Brooks
7th	Alphonse Times
8th	Patricia Campbell
9th	Kenisha Cade
10th	Thelma Kennedy-Malveaux
11th	Johnnie Hill
12th	Dr. Sharon Fletcher
13th	Melinda Robinson
14th	Garfield Mason
15th	Buyiswa Eunice Kereditse
16th	Trevor Lewis
17th	Shone Sippa
18th	Hape Lenepa
19th	Pada Mokodutlo
20th	Evelyn Zawanda

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. – Matthew 5:14-16

**PRAYING FOR A BLESSED NEW YEAR**



## THE CLO-CORRESPONDING SECRETARY CHERYL HAMMOND HOPEWELL

**“WISHES YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR OF HOPE & WELL”**

### THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORTS:

#### Episcopal District Presidents

No elections were held during the last month so there are no new Episcopal District Presidents to report at this time.

#### Elected Officers and Episcopal District Presidents Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following Elected Officers or Episcopal District Presidents who have upcoming birthdays prior to the next edition on March 1:

- Mrs. Edna Watson, Assistant Recording Secretary, – January 4
- Dr. Lenora Brogdon-Wyatt, 3<sup>rd</sup> Episcopal District President – January 7
- Mr. Charlie Nichols, Chaplain – January 8
- Mrs. Dianne H. Battle, Director of Public Relations – February 1
- Mrs. Alfreda Brooks, 6<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District President – February 9
- Mr. Jerry Turner, 4<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District President – February 10
- Dr. Dorothy Henderson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – February 13
- Ms. Jamesha Williams, YAR – February 23

Our next issue is in March 2022, but just in case it's not out by March 1, our Commission Chair, Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker's birthday is March 1.





## CLO - Treasurer Kathy Drayton

**“WISHES YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR OF  
HEALTH & WELLNESS”**



### A DROP IN THE BUCKET

The Connectional Lay Organization introduced its campaign to receive matching funds to assist with the Haiti rebuilding effort during the Winter Executive Board meeting. The goal is to raise \$10,000 in matching funds. We determined that if each of the 550 registrants gave \$20, we would exceed our goal. Several people contributed to the effort. If you didn't have a chance to give, you can do so on the Givelify app by searching for the Connectional Lay Organization or by [clicking here](#) to be directed to the giving site.

To make our fundraising efforts easier, we are exploring a fundraising platform that will allow gifts to be scheduled on a recurring basis. The platform has a host of benefits including tracking gifts for year-end reporting. As a supporter, you can easily find many ways to engage with the CLO, take immediate action, and instantly receive your tax receipt and acknowledgement.

The new platform will provide the opportunity for text-to-give, event registration, volunteer registration, sponsorship, magazine subscription payments, and a mobile app among other features. We want to make it simple for members and friends to support and engage in the ministries of the CLO.

If all goes well, the new platform should be introduced in the first quarter of 2022. We are excited about the possibilities and how it will impact the work that we do. We look forward to your 'drop' as we can all make a difference.

Kathy Drayton, Treasurer  
Connectional Lay Organization



## CLO - HISTORIOGRAPHER WILLIAM AYERS, JR.



**“WISHES YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR OF PROSPERITY”**

### AME Church Facts from a Historical Perspective

#### Connectional Departments and Commissions

The African Methodist Episcopal Church has seven Connectional Departments, nine Connectional Commissions and fourteen General Board Commissions to address the needs of the life of the Church as we answer the call to make a difference. They are:

Connectional Departments - Publications, Global Witness and Ministry, Church Growth and Development, Retirement Services, Research and Scholarship, Christian Education, and Finance and Statistics.

Connectional Commissions - Health, Women in Ministry, Social Action, Christian Debutante-Master (CDMC), Chaplains, Ministry and Recruitment, Financial Management Program, Global Development, and Seminaries, Universities, Colleges and Schools (Higher Learning).

General Board Commissions - Statistics and Finance, Retirement Services, Publications, Social Action, Church Growth and Development, Global Witness and Ministry, Lay Organization, Seminaries, Universities, Colleges and Schools, Christian Education, Women in Ministry, Health, Ministry and Recruitment, Global Development and Economic Development.

#### The AME Church Motto:

At the 2008 General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, an inclusive motto was adopted and now declares: *“God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family”*. The evolution of our motto demonstrates that African Methodists engage in ongoing assessments of our theology and how God speaks to us in changing circumstances. This updated motto was derived from Bishop Daniel Alexander Payne’s original motto *“God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, Man our Brother”* which served as the AME Church motto until the 2008 General Conference. Payne, who was consecrated in 1852, served the AME Church as its 6<sup>th</sup> bishop.

#### The AME Hymnal:

The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church led the way in the publication of the first hymnal specifically designed for use by African American congregations. In 1801, Richard Allen, founder and first consecrated bishop of the AME Church, compiled a hymnal entitled *A Collection of Spiritual Songs and Hymns*, selected from various authors that contained 54 hymns. Typical of hymnals of the era, Allen’s collection was pocket sized and it printed only the text of the hymns.

Allen featured hymns that were widely sung by African American Christians of the day, about a third of which were written by well-known white hymn writers such as Charles Wesley and Isaac Watts. This was in contrast to the tradition of improvised Negro spiritual music that had mostly been passed down orally and anonymously. The AME Hymnal underwent revisions. Notably in 1816, the hymnal was expanded to include 314 hymns and was organized according to the various stages of the Christian experience. The 1898 hymnal included scored notes/music as well as text. The current edition has evolved and includes a liturgy.

Researched and Compiled by Brother William “Bill” Ayers, CLO Historiographer.

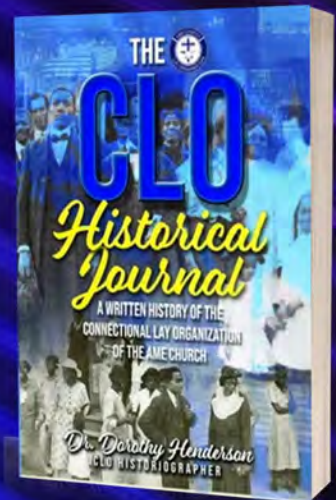
Source - 2016 edition of the *Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church*.



The Connectional Lay Organization of the A.M.E. Church presents:

# THE CLO

## *Historical Journal*



This invaluable historical Lay Journal highlights some of our major struggles and outstanding achievements. This book will also serve as an inspirational resource tool of our shared history and values to the AME Church denomination now and for generations to come.

Our Former CLO Historiographer, Dr. Dorothy Henderson of the 12th Episcopal District, lovingly compiled this Journal with the help, input and support of the Episcopal District Historiographers from all AME Church Districts.

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# The Episcopal Districts





## FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CHERYL HAMMOND HOPEWELL - PRESIDENT

“First District Lay Organization Looking Forward to 2022”

Sister Sharon Carmichael – Director of Public Relations

First Episcopal District Lay Organization President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and Director of Lay Activities Thomas Davis are planning our first in-person Mid-Year Meeting since February 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world and changed our way of life forever.

Praise God for how far He has brought us!

We are excitedly anticipating the meeting that will be hosted by the New York Conference Lay Organization and Conference President Bonita O’Neal at the New York LaGuardia Airport Marriott Hotel, **February 25 – 26, 2022**. The Lord has blessed us to be able to travel, dress up a bit, meet and greet each other, fellowship, and worship together in person.

No longer do we take these activities for granted to do at will. They are precious privileges that include following all COVID-19 safety practices. What a difference 2 years has made.

The Mid-Year Meeting will deliver a full program of dynamic training, worship, and fellowship experiences to enrich our bodies, minds, and souls. This is what First District laity have grown to expect and love. It will feature morning “First Fitness” with our energetic President Hopewell (That’s right, exercise!), devotions and bible study, a First-Timers’ Seminar conducted by First District Lay 3rd Vice President Robin Batson, an informative First District Lay Organization business session, 37th Biennial Reports from the conferences’ District Delegates, and four (workshops): “Christian Symbols and Rituals” (Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Jo-An Owings, New York Conference), “Roles and Responsibilities of Local Church Officers” (Rev. Stephen M. Lewis, New York Conference), “Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response” (Rev. Dr. Miriam J. Burnett, Medical Director of AMEC Health Commission), and “Creativity Exercise” (Brother Thomas Davis, First District Lay DOLA).

To top it all off, we will also be blessed with the preached word during our Worship Service by our new Bishop of the First Episcopal District, the Right Reverend Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr.

We are looking forward to a glorious time in the Lord as we journey into our new season!

Finally, we would be remiss not to include this good news that was missed in our last submission. Our President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell has a special affinity for Young Adults, and she strives to acknowledge and support them.

Miss Starsha Frierson of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization was awarded the President’s Young Adult of the Year Award. President Hopewell personally visited Miss Frierson and presented the award with Miss Frierson’s “Pop-Pop” proudly in attendance.

That’s love!



Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell  
President



Mr. Thomas Davis  
Director of Lay Activities

**FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
LAY ORGANIZATION  
MID - YEAR MEETING  
February 25 - 26, 2022  
8:30 A.M. ET**

**LaGuardia Airport Marriott,  
East Elmhurst, NY**

**HOSTED BY THE NY CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION**



**PE Rev. Dr. Jo-An Owings**

**"CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS  
AND RITUALS"**



**Rev. Stephen M. Lewis**

**"ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
OF LOCAL CHURCH OFFICERS"**

**WORKSHOP  
PRESENTERS**



**Rev. Dr. Miriam Burnett**

**"EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
AND DISASTER RESPONSE"**



**Mr. Thomas Davis  
"CREATIVITY EXERCISE"**



**Sister Bonita O'Neal  
HOST PRESIDENT**



**Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr.  
Presiding Prelate, First Episcopal District  
WORSHIP PREACHER**

Meeting Registration: \$40 - ENDS SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2022  
Meeting Registration Link: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/4236856>  
LATE REGISTRATION IS ONLY IN PERSON: \$50

Hotel Reservations: Call 800-882-1043. Use the name "NY Annual Conference"  
OR Use Reservation Link: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1630074856905&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

**HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 3, 2022**



## THIRD EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

### DR. LENORA BROGDON-WYATT, PRESIDENT

Dr. Willie C. Glover

By Linda West, Historiographer

Dr. Willie C. Glover's journey in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) began when he was a little boy in Stewart Chapel AMEC in Macon, Georgia. When he was 6 years old, his family moved to Columbus, Ohio, and he joined the Young People's Department (YPD) at St. Mark AMEC. Following high school, he attended Wilberforce University, where upon graduation, he was drafted into the military. After serving in the military, Dr. Glover began working and assisting in the church again.

While attending an annual conference Dr. Glover noticed that laypersons elected as delegates to the General Conference were mostly members of the Lay Organization. He also recognized that these individuals were very knowledgeable about the history and workings of the AME Church. Dr. Glover knew he needed to know more about this organization, so he attended an Ohio Conference Lay Organization meeting of which Leola Lewis was president.

President Leola helped to organize the lay at St. Mark AMEC in Columbus and Dr. Glover was elected the first Director of Lay Activities (DOLA) of this newly formed auxiliary. He served in this position for 8 years, and he went on to become active in the Third Episcopal Lay Organization.

In 1984, Margaret Fields was elected to the office of Lay President of the Episcopal District Lay Organization; and Dr. Glover was elected as DOLA, an office he again held for 8 years. During his tenure as DOLA, he ensured that all members learned the Lay Benediction and the Lay Hymn. Dr. Glover originated the Ray Davis Scholarship Dinner to introduce Connectional personalities to the district as well as a means to give recognition of contributions to District Laypersons. Later under the leadership of Arthur Brown scholarships were given to young people.

Dr. Glover was later elected as the Third Vice President, and in 2000, he was elected President of the Third Episcopal District Lay. He served in this position for 8 years.

In 2009, Dr. Glover was elected President of the Connectional Lay Organization where he served for 8 years. Some of the points that he emphasized as president were transparency and accountability, the involvement of young people in the Lay, spirituality, teaching, training, and global inclusiveness. During his presidency, he was blessed to travel to each continent and island where the AME Churches are located and made certain the Connectional Lay Organization gave \$50,000 to AME Universities in the USA and Africa. The Connectional Lay also sponsored building a home in Haiti.

When asked what changes he felt are important for the Lay Organization to focus on, Dr. Glover stated the following: "We need better strategies to attract young people into the Lay, transparency and accountability are necessary in all areas of the church, and more spiritual development."

His words of encouragement to lay persons in the AME Church is: "1. Make sure your spiritual life comes first. 2. Be informed and know your church, including history. 3. Support your church and be involved."

*Information contained in this article was obtained by*

*Linda West, Historiographer of the Third Episcopal District, via a personal interview with Dr. Glover.*



## FOURTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT JERRY TURNER, JR. PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Fourth Episcopal District Lay Organization, we thank you for attending the Fall Executive Board Meeting, Officer Training and Rededication Service.

The Training by our Episcopal District Lay Officers was magnificent. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of our Episcopal Lay Leadership. We are also grateful to our out of District guests as innovative presenters and preacher for our weekend:

Reverend Contras Houston Dickens Pastor, Dupage AME Church, Rededication Preacher. Mr. Gabriel Cloud Connectional First Vice President Opening Plenary Session. Energizer Mrs. Darlene Williams-Ravenel, Director of Lay Activities, Seventh Episcopal District.

To our Guests Episcopal Presidents of the 5th, 6th, 7th, 13th and 19th Districts. Guest Episcopal District Lay Membership of the 7th and 19th Episcopal District. Thank you for your attendance and participation in our sessions.

We are also thankful to the Tech Dream team for your hard work through Zoom and technology --- Timothy Cousin --- Jamesha Williams --- Martinique Mix ---Great Job.

We are also thankful to our Most Talented and Creative Director of Lay Activities Michael A. Cousin, Jr., you have taken the training and activities of the Fourth Episcopal District Lay Organization to a higher and great level. We are blessed by your leadership and organization--**WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!**

Finally, I am so blessed and humbled to have the opportunity to serve as the President of the Fabulous, Faithful Fruitful and always in the Forefront Fourth Episcopal District Lay Organization. Thank you Fourth Episcopal District for being a premier ministry in our Zion.

May God Bless and Keep you in Perfect Peace --- We appreciate all you do.

*Jerry Turner, Jr., President  
Fourth Episcopal District Lay Organization  
African Methodist Episcopal Church  
(414)350-2024  
[jrtturnerjerry@gmail.com](mailto:jrtturnerjerry@gmail.com)*







## SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT KEITH E. BRITTON PRESIDENT

God continues to bless the Seventh Episcopal District Lay Organization in amazing ways. As we seek to foster a love and appreciation for God and African Methodism, we find ourselves humbled by the opportunity to serve.

The support for the Lay Organization remains strong amongst the members of the district. We appreciate the transformational leadership of Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr. the Presiding Prelate and Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, our Episcopal Supervisor.

As we returned to in-person Annual Conferences, special COVID protocols were put in place for the safety of all attendees. With the successful safe completion of the conferences, we are pleased to report that the safety measures initiated in the Seventh District were used at the recent General Board Meeting of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. To God be the Glory!

The Lay Organization was front and center during the series of annual conferences. The Lay Witness Services at each conference provided an opportunity to reflect on lay ministry, celebrate accomplishments, and motivate all in attendance. Each Conference Lay Organization received a \$2,000 donation from the Episcopal District Lay for mission initiatives. The conferences love to support each other and traveled across the state to fellowship and worship together.

In November, all roads led to Florence, South Carolina for the Seventh Episcopal District Fall Planning Meeting and Convocation. With the theme "The Best Is Yet to Come," laity and clergy united for engaging sessions and spirit filled worship. Jamesha Williams, Connectional Lay Young Adult Representative, and Keith Britton, Episcopal Lay President facilitated a panel discussion on Ministries/Components working collaboratively and not in silos to accomplish common goals. The panelists encouraged all levels to fully embrace this concept and realize the positive change that will occur in our church.

Also during the Fall Planning Meeting, the SED Lay Organization donated \$75,000 to Allen University for student support and college initiatives. We thank God for providing the resources for us to bless the work of our beloved institution and the students served. We love AU and laity showed up in great numbers for the Allen University Homecoming events, including the parade and football game. Later in November, we partnered with the Sons of Allen to provide meals for Allen University students who did not travel home for the Thanksgiving break.

As we prepare for our upcoming Lay Retreat, our passion for lay ministry is stronger than ever and we look forward to lifting the new Connectional Lay Theme: Living a Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends, and Liberates.





Ms. Jamesha Williams, Connec-tional Lay Young Adult Representative, and Mr. Keith Britton, Episcopal Lay President facilitated a panel discussion on Minis-tries/ Compo-nents working collaboratively and not in si-los to ac-complish common goals. Thank You For Your Attendance!





## NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT BERNELLA KNIGHT ROSE, PRESIDENT



### Ninth Episcopal District Lay Celebrates its Sixty-second Annual Convention Dorothy Sconiers-Bevel, District DOLA

*“The Joy of Worship”* was the theme for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Ninth District’s Annual Lay Convention that was held on Saturday, November 20, 2021, at 10 a.m. Episcopal President Bernella Knight Rose called the Convention to order and the day started with great expectations. Under her leadership, she has stressed the importance of the Laity of the 9<sup>th</sup> District understanding how and why we worship. Throughout the 2021 Conference year, emphasis has been placed on worship in the 9<sup>th</sup> District AMEC. Also, our AMEC Church School books stressed the importance of worship; therefore, it is the goal of the Lay that people understand that worship is an act of religious devotion that is directed to our God. Furthermore, all believers know that worship is an individual act, therefore, when we are in a church (congregation) setting, we do it as a group that is usually directed by the Pastor who is appointed to a church, circuit, or station.

We are taught that all sessions should begin with prayer or devotion. Thanks to Sister Bettye Seals West, 9<sup>th</sup> District’s Chaplin. She provided a powerful devotion that set the tone for the day. Sister West introduced The Reverend Sheryl Shipman, pastor of the Murdock Chapel AMEC located in Pike Road, Alabama. Reverend Shipman started her Meditation by singing, “O Come Let Us Adore Him.” Her subject was “Everybody Ought to Praise the Lord.” The Scripture was taken from Psalm 96: 1-4. She reminded us that David said, “All the earth should sing a new song to the Lord.” God gives us brand new mercies each day. We ought to praise His name which is an expression of our gratitude and respect. Reverend Shipman also reminded us that believers are called to make His name great in all the earth. The “Lord is Great and greatly to be praised.” If the robins can say thank-you, we ought to be able to do it too. She closed the Meditation, emphasizing even in a pandemic, God is still a healer. While there is scarcity of food, recalls of many things, soaring prices, God is still a provider. In the time of trouble, He shall hide us because He is still a deliverer. In the time of injustice, He still justifies. “Everybody Ought to Praise the Lord,” because of His Greatness and Grace.

Sister Cassandra Hughley, the Lay Memorial Chairperson, provided a touching memorial honoring the 2021 deceased Lay Members, Brothers Jerry Pratt, Jimmie Lott, Sr., and Lamar Higgins of the Alabama River Region; Sisters Elmira Shepherd, Rubye Johnson, Nora Thompson and Brother Edward Montgomery, Jr. of the Northwest Conference; Mrs. Sereetta Reed, Mrs. Mattie Jones, and Mr. William Graham of the Northeast Conference.

Greetings were extended to the Convention by The Right Reverend Harry Seawright, Presiding Prelate of the Ninth District; The Reverend Sherita Moon Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor; Sister Dianne Battle, Connectional Director of Public Relations; Brother James Bonner, Ninth District’s President Emeritus; and Brother Jeremy Joseph, Ninth District’s Young Adult Representative. Afterwards, everyone felt that their presence was appreciated and that they were at home.

Ninth District’s DOLA, Sister Dorothy Sconiers-Bevel, introduced the presenters for the day. Brother Jeremy Joseph, Ninth District’s Young Adult Representative, did an outstanding job stressing the importance of the Decalogue. He reminded the 9<sup>th</sup> District Laity of the importance of the Decalogue and we must remember that this is God’s spoken word of the Ten Commandments. Also, he reminded the Laity that one should show reverence during our order of service and that one should not walk or talk during the AMEC Order of Service. Afterwards, he presented the Reverend Robert Lowe’s rendition that featured the First District’s Mass Choir. This rendition brought tears to the eyes of the participating Laity. Reverend Lowe and the Mass Choir did an outstanding job in the recording of the Decalogue.

The Reverend Kevin T. Taylor, Pastor of the Israel AMEC of Albany, New York was superb! He presented the Order of Service by providing the Laity with the topic: *“Bake the Praise” with Chef Rev. Kev.* He used the analogy of “baking a cake” to provide the Laity with a better understanding of the importance of worship in the AMEC. He also used a PowerPoint presentation that focused on the elements of worship from the beginning to the end. During his presentation he provided prizes to individuals who were able to answer questions that were posed. The Laity was moved by the songs he used during his presentation. Reverend Taylor’s presentation imparted pride in the AMEC. Additionally, his presentation should be shared throughout the entire AMEC Connectional because it is informative, causes one to think, and makes one aware of the importance of worship in our Zion. “Bake the Praise” illustrated how mixing the elements of the worship service can conclude with a sermon and Christian Discipleship that makes one say AMEN with pride to our God.

Registered Nurse Tammy Davis presented a workshop on Dementia. She wanted the Laity to realize that God’s temple should be taken care of both spiritually and physically. During her PowerPoint presentation, she provided data for diet, rest, and exercise that one can use to keep the brain active. She reminded the Laity that everyone forgets something; however, this does not mean that one is an Alzheimer patient. She provided several examples of how one can identify if they have dementia. Nurse Davis is also the Ninth District’s Coordinator of Health Ministry.

The Laity were directed to pages in their handout that reminded them of songs found in the AMEC Hymnal that they could sing or hum to give them strength, wisdom, power, and oneness with God. Also, they were to look at the page that emphasized Christian Vitamins that one should take daily: Vitamin C is the Christ Vitamin. Vitamin D is the Devotion Vitamin. Vitamin K is the Kingdom Vitamin. All of the vitamins are Praise Vitamins. Additionally, the Laity was reminded that they should strive to have a better understanding of the COVID Virus. Their handout posed the following questions: (1) Why should I wear a mask? (2) Do I understand the Virus? (3) What medications are available for the virus? (4) What do I know about temperatures?

The Convention concluded with remarks from President Rose, Bishop Harry L. Seawright, and Supervisor, Reverend Sherita Moo Seawright, and concluded with the Lay Benediction.



**Bernella K. Rose**



**Bishop Harry Seawright  
Supervisor Sherita Seawright**



**Dianne H. Battle**



**Rev. Kevin Taylor**



**Tammy Davis, RN**



**Dorothy Sconiers-Bevel**



**Jeremy Joseph**



**Cassandra Hughley**



**Rev. Sheryl Shipman**



**Bettye Seals-West**

“Preserving the Legacy... Investing in the Future”



The Southwest Alabama Conference Lay Organization of the Ninth Episcopal District started a scholarship in honor of

three past conference presidents, Mayor Andrew Hayden, former CLO

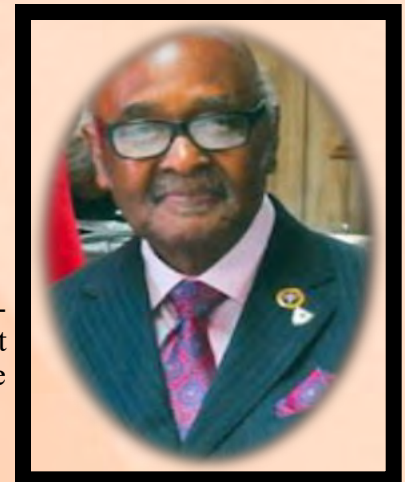
First Vice President Thomas Greene

and Mr. Cleveland Stokes. There was a virtual unveiling on August 5, 2021, where the Reverend Charles Reeves of St. Paul AME Church Mobile, AL preached a powerful message.



*Thomas 'Peter' Greene*

*Mayor Andrew Hayden*



The program had over 100 viewers, and \$3,500 was raised to fund this scholarship. The purpose is to help to assist clergy and laity further their education in Religious studies. The first scholarship was awarded on Lay Night during the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Southwest Alabama Annual Conference on October 21, 2021, to our speaker, Mr. Cameron Robinson, a student at the Vanderbilt Divinity School. We look forward to awarding many more scholarships in the future. To God Be the Glory!

*Cleveland Stokes*

- Terry Jones, Scholarship Chairperson**
- Betty W. Davis, Southwest Conference Lay President**
- Bernella Knight Rose, Ninth District Lay President**
- Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate**





## ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT PATRICIA WRIGHT, PRESIDENT

Eleventh Episcopal District Lay First Vice Presidents  
Learn to Recruit, Reclaim and Retain  
By Robbyn Hopewell, Director of Public Relations

The night was filled with laughter as 133 laymen—presidents, first vice presidents and guests from every level of the organization—gathered via Zoom to discuss their mission for 2022 and receive training from Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization (EEDLO) Officers.

On Nov. 9, officers assembled to hear and share about how to “Recruit, Reclaim and Retain” lay members. The focus was best practices and strategies for bringing people into the organization and keeping them engaged as they grow in Christ. EEDLO Young Adult Representative Ashley Blakely presented recruitment and talked passionately to the officers about recruitment, adding in jokes and asides that raised group morale.

“I talked about relationships and thinking outside the box,” Blakely says. “You can have your meetings in different places and use social media to send reminders about events. I also encouraged them to tap into other organizations for young adult recruitment including the Young People’s Department and Richard Allen Young Adult Council. If we give them a place on committees to bring them into the organization to get involved they are more likely to stay members when they age out of YPD and RAYAC.”

EEDLO First Vice President John Love talked retention with the group, talking about different ways to engage people with events and tasks, and gifts of appreciation. As the membership chair for the district lay organization, he organized this training event for all the first vice presidents to get more comfortable in their roles in leadership. Several of his conference first vice presidents are on their first or second term, so this was the first opportunity for them to get a full training,

“First Vice Presidents are so important because they are needed to step in if the president is unavailable. They need to stay on top of all the activities the organization has going on and be able to keep everything moving forward in the president’s absence,” Love said.

EEDLO Director of Lay Activities Teresa D. White presented reclaiming, a strategy of going out to people who have left the organization and bringing them back into the fold. Love said reclamation is an important part of his three pronged membership strategy.

“What we’ve found is that in order to reclaim a person, you’ve got to find out why they left in the first place,” Love says. “If they were hurt, you’ve got to help them heal. If they were not engaged, you need to find a place for their talents.”

West Coast Conference Lay Organization First Vice President Alicia Cotton says she struggles with the idea of reclaiming members because it is still unclear if that will be a positive for the organization as a whole.

“We had a presentation at our St. Petersburg District Lay Organization Annual Convention by Pastor Dontavious Sanders who said to be careful not to bring back something that God may have severed for a reason,” Cotton said. “So if we are reclaiming people who have left, how does that work?”

Despite her questions, Cotton found the training informative and helpful. A good portion of the strategies suggested have already been implemented by her team in the West Coast Conference. “Overall, I thought it was a great start,” Cotton said.

Guests at the event included Connectional Lay Organization First Vice President Dr. Dorothy Henderson and representatives from the Sixth Episcopal District Lay Organization.

Love, a member of Steward Temple A.M.E. Church in Quincy, Florida, plans to hold another training in 2022.

*Reprint Granted: Compliments of DOPR Dianne H. Battle*



## TWELFTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT NATALIE HORNTON PRESIDENT

### Greetings,

What an honor it is to introduce myself as the newly elected Director of Public Relations for the Twelfth Episcopal District where our leadership is the dynamic duo, Team Mitchell, Bishop Michael L. Mitchell, Presiding Prelate and Supervisor Cordelia Mitchell. The Twelfth is also home to the Connectional Lay 1st Vice President, Dr. Dorothy C. Henderson, and the Connectional Lay 3rd Vice President, Sister Lovie Aaron. We proudly say the laity of the Twelfth District is actively engaged in the work of the AME Church!

### Honoring Our Leader

On the evening of November 12, 2021, we celebrated our immediate past Twelfth Episcopal District Lay President, Dr. Dorothy C. Henderson with an Evening of Excellency in Leadership highlighting her life, work, and various accomplishments to include her becoming the first woman to serve as Episcopal Lay President of the Twelfth District. Her tireless service for the last eight plus years shall prove to have a lasting impact on our organization. Job well done Dr. Henderson!



### 10th Annual Leadership Training Summit

The following day, we began our training summit with the Theme: “Laity Walking Humbly with God to Do Justice and to Love Kindness” Micah 6:8. The Twelfth District Lay prides itself on fully promoting the teamwork approach which involves the collaboration of seasoned and young adult laity a technique proven to work. For example, this year’s summit included increased participation from the young adults. They served as Conference presidents presiding over designated sessions of the meeting as well as serving as breakout facilitators. Topics such as How Do We Deal with Change, Planning A Workshop Program, and Church Leadership were presented. Participant engagement and interaction were key to the overall success of the summit.

### Newly Elected Officers & Lay Queen

At the conclusion of the summit, the election of officers was held. We were honored to have Connectional Lay Organization President, Abe Makiti to preside over the election and declare the results. Although we were sad to see our previous leaders leave, we feel confident in that there are others who have trained and are now transitioning into leadership positions. With open arms and hearts, we welcomed our newly elected president, Sister Natalie Horton and her cabinet of officers listed and shown below. We were also blessed to have a very active and energetic young adult as our new Lay Queen. Congratulations Sister Mikayla Wooten!



Reprint Granted: Courtesy of CLO DOPR Dianne H. Battle



## FIFTEENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT BRO. CHRIS QWANE PRESIDENT

### 15th Episcopal Lay Elected Officers

President: Br. Chris Qwane

First Vice President: Br. Charles Peter

Second Vice President: Br. Pedro Dala

Third Vice President: Mother Kereditse

Recording Secretary: Sister. Martina Abrahams

Assistant Recording Secretary: Sister N. Bonani

Treasurer: Sister N. Mthamo

Financial Secretary: Br. Mgabadeli

Chaplain: Br. A. Van Den Heever

Historiographer: Br. Andile Yada

Parliamentarian: Sister Libertha Mutambo

Director of Lay Activities: Br. Lorato Lekhobo

Director of Public Relations: Sister Elsebe Welcome

Young Adult Representative: Sister Tshepang Mmusi.

Conference Presidents:

Angola: Domingos Dala

Boland: Henry van Rhyn

Cape: Sister Valerie Jordaan

E Cape: Br. Sisilana Lomex

Kalahari: Br. Chabaesele

Namibia: Br. Alex Boois

Queenstown: Br. Memela

**Advisors:**

Sister Fezzy Badusa

Br. Alfred Goliath

Br. Mpame.





## EIGHTEENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT BRO. PHILLIP K. TLHAGE PRESIDENT



### LAY ORGANISATION ELECTED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2.10.2021 TO ~

#	EXECUTIVE POSITION	NAME & SURNAME	CELL OR TELEPHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS	CONFERENCE
1	President	Bro. Phillip K. Tlhage	00267 7172 2921	kpthage@gmail.com	Botswana
2	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Bro. Mophato Monyake	00277 9681 7594	mophatom@gmail.com	Lesotho
3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Bro. Derrick Khumalo	00268 7625 7423	derrickbkhumalo@yahoo.com	Eswatini
4	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Bro. Hape Lenepa	00266 5909 1745	hapelenepa@gmail.com	Lesotho
5	Recording Secretary	Sis. Florence Karakubis	00 267 7237 9945	fpkebaitse@gmail.com	Botswana
6	Assistant Recording Secretary	Sis. Beauty S. Hlope	00268 7618 8977	hlopebsh@gmail.com	Eswatini
7	Corresponding Secretary	Sis. Mary Felile Ramalitse	00266 6333 2082	felyramalitse@gmail.com	N/E Lesotho
8	Treasurer	Sis. Bonang Monyake	00277 6806 1731	monyakebonang@gmail.com	Lesotho
9	Financial Secretary	Bro. Lourenco Moiane	00258 82 320 8680	Lourenco.moiane@gmail.com	Mozambique
10	Chaplain	Bro. Sabelo C. Dlamini	00268 7604 4165	dlamini.sabelo.chris@gmail.com	Eswatini
11	Historiographer				
12	Parliamentarian	Sis. Teboho Lekalakala	00266 5885 2673	tebohol36@gmail.com	Lesotho
13	Director of Lay Activities	Sis. Thandie M. Mpopo	00266 5788 8167	mpopothandie@gmail.com	Lesotho
14	Director of Public Relations	Bro. Andreas Makhunoane	00266 6400 5385	kmakhunoane@gmail.com	N/E Lesotho
15	Young Adult Representative	Bro. Mcolisi Ginindza	00268 7828 9227	mcoginndza@gmail.com	Eswatini

### LAY ORGANISATION CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

1	Conference Lay President	Sis. Nester O. Moruakgomo	00267 7217 8458	ontiretsem966@gmail.com	Botswana
2	Conference Lay President	Bro. Viki Charles Mdluli	00268 7802 8801	vikicharlesmdluli@yahoo.com	Eswatini
3	Conference Lay President	Bro. Mohlakane Mofo	00266 5844 0070	mophatom@gmail.com	Lesotho
4	Conference Lay President	Bro. Patimosse Macamo	00258 84 363 3225 (Call only, No social media)	gomescumbe@hotmail.com (00258 87 860 8702 for Dr Cumbe)	Mozambique
5	Conference Lay President	Bro. Paul Thambo Sehotelesi	00266 5023 9899		N/ E Lesotho

### LAY ORGANISATION CONFERENCE DIRECTORS OF LAY ACTIVITIES (DOLA)

6	Director Of Lay Activities	Sis. Nthabiseng Jankie	00267 74 316 181	Njankie2013@gmail.com	Botswana
7	Director of Lay Activities	Bro. Enock Hlatshwako	00268 7868 6017		Eswatini
8	Director of Lay Activities	Sis. Malengolo Leomile Monyake	00266 5885 2700	lemonyake@gmail.com	Lesotho
9	Director of Lay Activities	None.			Mozambique
10	Director of Lay Activities	Sis. Duduzile C. Motjotji	00266 5986 6345	duducmotjotji@gmail.com	N/E Lesotho

### LAY ORGANISATION CONFERENCE YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVES

11	Young Adult Representative	Sis. Gofaone Kgotlaetsile	00267 7543 5775	Gertrudekgotlaetsile97@gmail.com	Botswana
12	Young Adult Representative	None			Eswatini
13	Young Adult Representative	None			Lesotho
14	Young Adult Representative	None.			Mozambique
15	Young Adult Representative	None.			N/E Lesotho

Immediate Past Lay President, 18 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District	Bro. Edwin Lehasa	00266 5877 7152	elehasa@yahoo.com	Lesotho
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### 18<sup>TH</sup> EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANISATION OVERSEER (Bishop's Appointee)

18 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District Lay Commissioner	Presiding Elder, Rev. Paul M. Mavundla	00268 7636 0627	Prefers WhatsApp only	Eswatini
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**THE LAY BENEDICTION** - May God bless us with the true spirit of Christianity. That we may live together, not as man over man, but as Lay persons working with God. Amen.

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021



## NINETEENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT NOMTHIMBA KHOZA PRESIDENT



As we wind things down, drawing the curtain on the year 2021 we take the time to reflect on the year that was whilst looking forward to a future full of what is hoped for. This December we wrap up the year by first honouring and glorifying God for raising the Baton for the 19<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District Lay Organization at the connectional level with President Abe Makiti as he was elected the CLO President and CLO 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Brother Simon Letsoko.

History made in the year where the AME Church and the Republic of South Africa are celebrating 150 years of Mme Charlotte Manny Maxeke as the Women of First. As we congratulate Advocate Thabile Ngubeni for been the first young African Women and lay member from district 14-20 to be elected at the judicial council as a Judge of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and Sister Nomthimba Khoza for been elected as the first women President of the 19<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District Lay Organization. Congratulations to the brothers and sisters, a well-deserved round of applause to them for making it through what has been deemed a toughest year with the Covid-19 lockdown that implicated the church. Let's go through our icons profiles and know them better.

As we go into the festive season, remember the battle against the rampant COVID-19 pandemic, now on its fourth wave with the newly discovered Omicron variant, is still raging on. We are all urged to continue to be vigilant over the holiday season. Stick to the use of non-pharmaceutical measures to prevent the spread of the virus. Continue to wear face masks in public, practice social distancing, sanitize and wash hands with soap and water regularly. In addition to these, avoid large and crowded gatherings which could easily be super spreaders of the virus. Most importantly, we are all encouraged to vaccinate as vaccines do save lives!

**Humbly submitted by: Sis Patricia Matonkonyane  
19<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District- Director of Public Relations**



## PROFILE OF MATIKANE ABEDNEGO MAKITI CLO PRESIDENT

### “Leading for Christ, Expanding Lay Ministry!”



Matikane Abednego (“Abe”) Makiti was born on 22 April 1954 at Wolmaranstad, a small village situated next to Klerksdorp (Matlosane) in the Northwest Province, Republic of South Africa.

He is the third (3rd) of the seven (7) children of the late Mr. John and Mrs. Maria Makiti – both devout AME Church members. He was baptised at Mabote Memorial, AME Church in 1954, and is a third (3rd) generation AME. He is currently a member of the SP Maarohanye Chapel in Klerksdorp, Potchefstroom District (Northwest), in the West Annual Conference of the 19th Episcopal District, where he serves as a member of the Steward Board, Sons of Allen and is the Advisor to the local Lay President.

Brother Makiti holds a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree from the University of the North (now the University of Limpopo). He worked as Manager for Old Mutual Insurance from 1985 until 2000. In 2000, he joined Sanlam Insurance, where he worked as the Provincial Business Development Manager for six (6) of the nine (9) provinces of South Africa for three (3) years. In 2003, he joined SA Funeral Homes, and whilst working there; he then activated his business and entrepreneurial interests by founding Makiti Funerals in 2005, where he is still the Executive Director and Owner. He joined AVBOB Funerals in 2007, and in the year 2009, he then joined Doves Funeral Homes as Executive Director.

Brother Makiti has served in the Lay Organization at all levels of the Connectional Church. At the local level, he served as President from 1992-1995. At the Potchefstroom Presiding Elder District level, he served as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Potchefstroom District Lay Organization from 1993-1995. For the West Annual Conference, he served as Director of Lay Activities from 1989-1995. From 1995-2001, he served as Conference President. For the 19th Episcopal District (NEDLO), he served as Director of Lay Activities from 1994-2001 and as President from 2001-2009. During his tenure, the Episcopal District developed the 19th Episcopal District Lay Organization (NEDLO) Strategy, including all policies to enable NEDLO to become an effective and efficient organization. He continues to serve as an Advisor to the Executive Boards at all levels that he served.

Brother Makiti is one of the founding members of the Lay Organization Africa Development Initiative (LOADI). In 2007, Brother Makiti was elected to the Connectional Lay Organization Executive Board in 2007 – 2009 to serve as 2nd Vice President, to replace the late Brother Weldan Schuman. He was elected to serve for two (2) terms from 2009-2013 and 2013-2017. As 2nd Vice President and Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee, he was instrumental in developing the CLO Strategy which was used by the Executive Board to advance its plans and initiatives. In 2015, he presented the CLO Strategy to the Biennial Session and in the 2017 Biennial session, he then presented the CLO Strategy Efficiency Scorecard and handed the CLO Strategy to the successive 2nd Vice Presidents and currently the same Strategy continues to be implemented. In the year 2017, Bro Makiti was elected the 1st Vice President of the CLO. In February 2020, he ascended to the position of President upon the passing of the then incumbent, President Valerie Faith Gary - Bell.

At the Connectional level, Brother Makiti attended the 1995 Biennial and every successive Lay Biennial since 1999. He was elected delegate to the 1996, 2004, 2008, and 2016 sessions of the General Conference and served on the Episcopal Committee for the 2008 General Conference.

Brother Makiti has served in a variety of civic capacities, including being the Vice-Chairperson of the HEIF-ER Commission International, headquartered in Little Rock, in the State of Arkansas. He also was a non-Executive Director for the Mpho & Mphonyana Foundation (Mpho and Mphonyana were the 1st conjoined twins in South Africa). He was an Electoral Officer for the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of South Africa during the historic 1994 democratic elections.

Brother Makiti continues to embody the following values:

- Integrity
- Honesty and Transparency
- Accountability
- Trustworthiness
- Commitment and Dedication
- Respect
- Wisdom
- Courage
- Humility
- Service

He is married to Mmamohapi Cynthia “Beauty” Makiti (nee Tlale) and together are blessed with four (4) adult children; Phemelo, Tshepo, Nthabiseng and Tumelo. They have three (3) grandchildren.

Bro Makiti lives by the following words from Jesus Christ,

**“As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can.”**

### **PROFILE OF BROTHER SIMON R. LETSOKO – 2nd VICE PRESIDENT: CLO**

Simon R. Letsoko was born in the early 1950’s in the township of Daveyton – Benoni east of Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa. He is the 4<sup>th</sup> child in the family of six siblings.

As a young boy growing up in his parents’ modest home in one of the famous streets in Daveyton, Turton Street, he attended both primary and higher primary schools at the nearby Mo-shoeshoe and Boikagetse Primary Schools and thereafter proceeded to Mabuya High School for Junior Secondary studies and completed matric at Bensonvale High School. He then enrolled at Tshiya Teachers College for Teachers’ Diploma. He also enrolled with the University of South Africa (UNISA) where he completed a bachelor of Commerce degree and Honours Bachelor’s degree. He also holds an Advanced Diploma in Banking (CAIB).



Straight after completing his Teachers Training, Mr. Letsoko was employed as a teacher at Davey Junior Secondary School. As an astute student of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Mr. Letsoko excelled in teaching these subjects and produced commendable results. After a short stint as a teacher he joined the banking industry where he worked for Barclays National Bank (now FNB), Standard Bank and African Bank for a career spanning 20 years.

He then joined the Free State Provincial Government in 1996 where he worked until retirement in 2019 at the Departments of Finance and Social Development as a Director. Mr. Letsoko was raised in a home heavily steeped in Christian beliefs and practice. He remains a devout Christian and is always delighted in the Lord and thoroughly enjoys serving in the Church of his great grandparents, grandparents and parents, of the **African Methodist Episcopal Church**.

He is affectionately known by both clergy and lay, is an active, participant member of the AME Church, who because of his diligence, has been on many occasions elected [and sometimes nominated] to represent the church at various levels, and in different structures, whether at district, annual, general conferences, biennial conventions and Boards.

He undertook numerous trips to represent the church in the United States of America [Kentucky, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Arkansas, Florida, Miami, Pennsylvania, Atlanta, New York, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Seattle] and many more.

He also served the local church and the 19<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District in the following roles and responsibilities:

*Church Steward Board*

*Church Trustee Board*

*AME Church Lay Preacher*

*New Members Class Teacher*

*Lay President – Conference (Orangia) and Episcopal District (19th)*

*Sons of Allen*

In 2017 at the 35<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization, Mr. Letsoko was elected to the position of CLO: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, the position he held until the demise of President Valerie Gary Bell in 2020, where after he was elevated to the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, the position he is diligently serving in until the 2021 Biennial Convention.

“SR” is always appreciative of the following persons who moulded him to grow spiritually to be able to hold with integrity and diligence all assigned duties and responsibilities, the following people come to mind, the Revs. E.I.P. Mallela, S.K. Molefe, J.N. Dabula. Brothers: A. Ncwana,

E. Selokane, M.M. Phefadu who patiently inducted me into the Lay Organization.

“**Lastly**, great honour goes to my late parents, **George** and **Miriam Letsoko**, my family, relatives and friends who continued to pray for me as I continued to labour in His vineyard.”

“SR” always finds solace in **Romans 12: 11**, “*Never give up. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord.*” [Holy Bible – Contemporary Version].

### PROFILE OF ADVOCATE THABILE M. NGUBENI – LAY MEMBER OF THE AMEC JUDICIAL COUNCIL



Advocate Thabile M. Ngubeni is a member of the FC James Chapel AMEC of the Bloemfontein Presiding Elder District, Orangia Conference in the 19th Episcopal District and newly elected lay member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Judicial Council. Thabile Ngubeni was born on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1985 in Qwa-Qwa, South Africa and is the first child of Mr. Sello Ngubeni and Pastor Motlaletsona Ngubeni. She is a mother to

Selekane.

Ngubeni was an Attorney and Notary Public of the High Courts of South Africa. For 10 years before she converted to be an advocate (an esquire) of the High Courts of South Africa in 2020. She holds an LLB (law) degree from the University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa), as well as a master's in business administration from Monash University (South Africa). She further holds certificates in 'Being a director' 3-1 from the Institute of Directors South Africa, as well as a certificate in "scenario planning and strategic thinking" from University of Pretoria's Gordon Institute of Business Studies (GIBS).

Advocate Ngubeni was previously employed as Registrar of the Superior Courts, Managing Director, Associate and Manager at Modise Modise Inc as well as Moroka Attorneys, respectively. She is was also employed as a Legal Manager by the South African Revenue Services. Her practice of over 10 years specializes in Constitutional and Administrative Law, as well as Civil Litigation.

Ngubeni is a member of the South African Women Lawyers Association, as well as the National Democratic Lawyers Association.

Within the Zion, Advocate Ngubeni has served as a member of the Episcopal Committee when she was a delegate to the 2012 Quadrennial. She has served as a Steward Board member and a Trustee at her Local circuit.

During her YPD years, Thabile served up to the Episcopal level. Some of the positions she held are of Episcopal President for the Youth component of the Young Peoples Division and later, the Episcopal YPD Financial Secretary.

In RAYAC, she served for over 7 years, at all levels of the Connection holding positions such as 1st Vice President (Orangia Conference), Episcopal Constitution and By-Laws Committee Chairperson for two terms and compiled an Induction booklet. She Further served as Episcopal Parliamentarian for 3 years. At the Connectional level, she is Co-chair of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, serving for a second term.

Thabile is currently the 19th Episcopal District Lay Organization Young Adult Representative (YAR), serving for a second term. In this position, she initiated Youth and Young Adults Summit at the Episcopal Level in the 19th Episcopal District -2016. Subsequently, four of the five Conferences have also hosted their own Youth Summits. Prior to this, she served as Local and Conference YAR, as well as local Parliamentarian. In this capacity, she developed Code of Conduct for Nineteenth Episcopal District Lay Organization (NEDLO). She served as 36th CLO Biennial Convention State of the Church and Nations Committee Co- Chairperson and presented a paper titled "Diversity: Free your mind" in one of the Labs.

At the 2021 General Conference of the AMEC, Ngubeni became the first lay member to be elected to any office by the General Conference of the AMEC. She is now a Judge in this great Zion.

A passionate human rights activist and articulate speaker, Ngubeni selflessly uses her talents for the benefit of the Zion and the community at large. Below is a list of some papers she has presented at various conferences across South Africa and in the USA:

- Diversity Management;
- Domestic Violence and the law
- Gender and the Church
- Consequences of Patriarchy
- Gender-based violence- the law and consequence

- Legislating morality- the importance of protecting women in our communities
- Sexual Harassment -the origin
- Transformational leadership;
- Corporate governance KING IV;
- Collaboration and inclusivity for sustainable growth;
- Policy as an enabler for organizational change;
- The Law and the community – focusing on Persons and Family Law and ancillary legislation, including but not limited to the Law of Delict, Contract Law, Matrimonial Law and Criminal Law in its broad sense.

Her presentations are aimed at empowering individuals so they may be self-sustainable, restoring the family fabric, transformational leadership and mental emancipation. A humble servant of the Lord who lives by the principle of Ubuntu, justice, love, integrity, transparency and accountability. When asked how she manages to do all this, she candidly replies that God has both prepared and positioned her to serve... Her motto in life is borrowed from the Dalai Lama 'our purpose in life is to help others, if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them'.



### **THE WOMEN OF FIRST – 1<sup>ST</sup> FEMALE PRESIDENT OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION NOMTHIMBA KHOZA**

Meet the First Female President of the 19th Episcopal District Lay Organization, the First ever Lay Organization President from the Natal Conference the smallest Conference in the 19th Episcopal District!! History made in the year where the AME Church & RSA are celebrating **150 yrs. of Charlotte Manny Maxeke as the Women of First.**

The third born daughter, in a family of four girls, born & raised in Newcastle a small town of Kwa-Zulu Natal, the Nobel Natal Conference. Raised by a God-fearing women, a life member of the WMS and the greatest grandmother to her two sons. 42 years old rooted in Christ and a born-again child of God. Served at all levels of the AME Church, Local circuit, PE District & Conference. Leadership roles served in to name a few Natal Conference YPD President, RAYAC District Vice President, Natal Conference Lay Organization Director of Lay activities, and President for two terms.

Her focused & result oriented leadership translated into reality when history was made and the Natal Conference Vision 2020 to **“Be better than the Best”** was realized, winning the Best Conference in the 19<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District Lay Organization for the first time ever in 2019. A Service Delivery Manager by profession in one of the major IT companies in RSA. Studied BCom in Supply Chain Management degree and Practical Project Management (PPM). Currently perusing BCom in Information and Technology Management. I love reading books and kindle app has become my latest buddy!!

*Inspired by the leaders who have become their own heroes, woman of courage and yet humbled. She believes in being your own hero!! “Being Your own Hero” is knowing your purpose in life: Purpose is spirit-seeking expression; awareness of it allows us to see our lives more clearly from the inside out. Understanding our values is what gives meaning to your life, it gives us the **direction** of our purpose in life.*

***Ephesians 1:11*** Before we were even born, he gave us our destiny; that we would fulfill the plan of God who always accomplishes every purpose and plan in his heart. ***Therefore, Heroes are those people living with purpose and conviction.*** Always remember victory is a product of struggle!!!

The NEDLO working towards Transforming, Innovating, and Empowering (T.I.E.) the members of the Zion. The task of the UNITE to T.I.E. effort, is the vision that we embrace through 2025. “This work is not for yourself. Kill the spirit of self and do not live above your people but live with them and if you rise, bring someone with you.” Charlotte Manny Maxeke

# CONTRIBUTING WRITERS



**THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR ARTICLES  
WITH US!**





## TENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT DR. RODERICK MOORE, PRESIDENT

### General Board Member, Carl Davis Joins Voting Rights Rally at the White House

Carl Davis, General Board member of Texas was arrested with 200 other social justice activists in a massive White House descended on Washington DC to demand that President Biden and Congress pass the Voting Rights Bill on November 17, 2021.

General board member Carl Davis is a founding member of AME V-Alert and heads a non profit Houston Society for Change that partners with Black Voters Matter, a national organization whose goal is to increase power in marginalized, predominantly Black communities. Effective Voting allows a community to determine its own destiny

**Black Voters Matter** (BVM) joined People for the American Way, the League of Women Voters, the Declaration for American Democracy, and the Democracy Initiative for a protest march and rally in front of the White House to demand federal action on voting rights. The action, which led protesters from Black Lives Matter Plaza to Lafayette Square in Washington D.C., urged President Biden and Senate Democrats to pass much-needed voter protections to combat state-level attacks on voting rights. Advocates demanded the swift passage of federal voting rights legislation, including the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, the Freedom to Vote Act, D.C. statehood and other critical legislation.

Today's action comes as the Senate prepares to vote on — and likely filibuster — the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, a key piece of legislation that would enshrine voter protections into federal law. It follows several recent White House actions to elevate the issue of voting rights, including an [October 19 rally](#) where more than two dozen protesters were arrested while demanding federal voting rights protections. “Today, we’re back at the White House to demand that President Biden use his bully pulpit and urge the Senate to do whatever it takes to protect voting rights,” **said Cliff Albright, co-founder of Black Voters Matter.** “For months, we’ve been calling on our elected officials to pass critical voting rights legislation. But despite their promises to Black voters during last year’s elections and forceful demands from advocates, President Biden, Senate Majority Leader Schumer, and the rest of Senate Democrats have failed to get it done. We need federal action to move the needle on voting rights, and we need it now — even if it means eliminating the Senate filibuster altogether.”

With approximately 800 protestors in attendance, the demonstration is the fifth and largest in a series aimed at spurring the White House to take action to get the Senate to pass both the *Freedom to Vote Act* and the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*. Both pieces of legislation have been blocked in procedural votes.

*Freedom to Vote Act and the  
John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.*



Carl Davis and religious leaders protesting outside the White House.



Carl Davis released after paying fine for protesting at the white House.



Carl Davis and Wanda Mosley Black Voters Matter Field Director..



Carl Davis and Wanda Mosley Black Voters Matter National Field Director being

*Reprint granted, compliments of the DOPR Dianne H. Battle*



## SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT KEITH E. BRITTON, PRESIDENT

### THE HEALTHY CHURCH

Reverend Jarrett Britton Washington, M.Div., MACE

Lately I've been thinking much about the health of the church and the health of those who are a part of the body of believers. Currently, the influenza virus, better known as the flu, is impacting all global communities. Our lived experience teaches us that the flu is a highly contagious respiratory illness that targets our nose, throat, and sometimes our lungs. People with the flu will oftentimes experience fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, headaches, and fatigue to say the least. But what happens when our churches become ill? How do we navigate our ability to be seen as a healthy church in a world full of so much sickness and pain? And ultimately, how do our service relate to our sickness.

In the book of Titus chapter 1 it is written, *For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain* (Titus 1:10-11). The Apostle Paul says early in the text that he had to leave Titus on the island of Crete so Titus could appoint elders in every town to establish the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Many would read the text and ask themselves why would Titus need to be left alone by Paul? And immediately the spirit spoke to me and reminded me that many times when God has a work for you, the work may require just you.

Paul tells Titus when you establish this leadership structure in the church, you must make sure the leadership encourages God's people with sound doctrine. Furthermore, it is the duty of those in leadership to refute the people who are out of order. When our churches become ill or what I consider to have the flu, we come to the knowledge that the church must have a high percentage of weak people. This weakness of sorts is displayed by the idea that what used to be easy to do has now become difficult. The church's body has become weak. The source of energy, sustenance, and power has seemingly dried up. Both literally and spiritually the church's muscles have become weak and the work of ministry has become overwhelming.

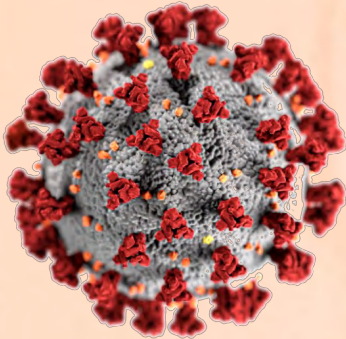
Weak people in the church are the kind of people who can't handle instruction or criticism. In fact, they are the kind of people who know it all and know it better than anyone else. They are weak because you can't say anything around them without them getting offended. They wear their feelings on their sleeves. Every disagreement, every point of tension, and every criticism becomes about them and not about the work of the kingdom. Paul implores Titus to understand weakness is what will kill the church because weak people will spend all of their time talking about the woulda, shoulda, couldas and they will never focus on the service they must provide.

I've discovered that not only is a sick church full of weak people, but sickness in the body of Christ will also bring about deception. Deception in the church takes on many forms. Deception is asking people to be generous in their giving, and your wallet never opens during the offering; deception is proclaiming your hope is in God, but then when times get tough you can't pray to God; deception is acting like your life is better than blessed, and then living below a godly standard. Deception will increase the level of a church's sickness because at the end of the day those who attempt to deceive will never be concerned about serving the least of these.

The Apostle Paul helps us to understand when a church is sick and full of deception it is in fact on its way to destruction. If you have the flu, you can't act like you don't have the flu, because if you do go around other people without the proper personal protective equipment you could in fact infect them with the virus. In the sick church there are people who live for deception.

They love to make other people sick, but acting like they yearn for their healing, but deep down they want to see them sick too. They are what we call Church Terrorist, because their activity is to cause destruction. They will hug you in your presence and laugh behind your back. They will agree with you in public and disagree with you on the gossip line. They will do everything they can do promote themselves, all while forgetting the church and the people of God.

Finally, Paul writes to his mentee Titus, in no uncertain terms that if you are sick in the church to stay home. Our present condition of pandemic has taught us all that viruses transmit through the air. Sometimes the sick person can cough, sneeze, or simply breath through their mouth and transmit the very molecules of the flu (or any other respiratory virus). Without proper protection, the influenza molecules can multiply at a rapid rate and therefore make those around the sick person sicker than the person who transmitted the original sickness. You don't have to touch it or see it, because it can spread through the air, like wild fire.



Unfortunately, too many of the saints of God are getting sick at church and carrying the sickness to their home, places of work, and to friends and family. Households that could be blessed are plagued by sickness, unresolved feelings, hang ups, hurts and pains. Paul implores Titus to seek out the sickness and be healed, protected, and ultimately favored by God. Whatever you have to do today to be healed, do it now. Don't remain in a sick situation, but rather seek the healing you need in every area of your life. At the end of the day, it is only what you do for Christ that will last. Healing can no longer be seen as an "I" thing but must be interpreted as a "we" thing. Our illness can become our wellness when we corporately seek healing and transformation through our service to God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit Our Comforter, and Humankind Our Family.

In appreciation given to Mrs. Dianne H. Battle, the CLO Director of Public Relations for allowing a very special place in the We Speak Magazine for me to share my thoughts and concerns.

**Reverend Jarrett Britton Washington, M.Div., MACE**  
**Pastor, Hopewell African Methodist Episcopal Church, Hemingway, SC**  
[www.HOPEWELLAME.org](http://www.HOPEWELLAME.org)





## FIFTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAMAR D. ROSE, PRESIDENT

### Do Nonprofit – Church Organizations Need Liability? Simeon P. Rhoden, Immediate Past President

Glad you asked, but the answer to the question is more than a simple “yes” or “no.” Case in point, when a group or individual considers purchasing any type of insurance, it’s important to think about the need(s), and the potential for them to cause harm to someone else, either intentionally or unintentionally. As members of the AME Church, I would estimate that 8 out of 10 of you will unfortunately be able to recall an intentional or unintentional situation impacting your organization, society, or the church at some point in time. What did you or the leaders (Lay/Clergy) do about it?

There’s also the matter of whether a nonprofit could afford to pay an expensive claim out of their own funds, as well as covering defense costs to hire an attorney. The reality is that claims against nonprofit – church organizations can and do happen and occurs more often than we might think. Payouts can be high, and claims come with additional risk to the church’s reputation.

So, what should we do about it?

If nothing is done, there can be consequences; and because our society is becoming increasingly litigious, churches and its nonprofit arms can be sued.

While attending the recent 2021 General Board meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, it became very apparent to me that the AME Church could benefit from being reminded of church law regarding bonding and benefit from understanding the difference between a person being bonded vs. a person or organization being insured...and vice versa. According to the 2021 Next Insurance, Inc. article, when we say that you are licensed, bonded and insured, you have the required licensing for your organization, proper insurance, and the organization made payments for additional coverage with a bond.

A bond is like an added level of insurance for the organization’s coverage plan. Depending upon circumstances, it guarantees a payment amount.

Insurance on the other hand offers an option to get general liability coverage but does not always align with being bonded (Next Insurance Inc., 2021). In recent cases regarding the AME Church, the General Board and/or Board of Directors following through with the individual’s responsibility for being bonded, would have offered some protections towards the church and/or nonprofits against losses.

When we do not take the necessary precautions to understand the law as well as church law; and safety measures to secure our assets, all involved run the risks associated with failing to act in accordance with their fiduciary responsibilities...leaving the church and its nonprofit arms open to liability.

There’s no master list of the types of insurance policies that nonprofit – church organizations should purchase or what amounts of coverage they should buy. Instead, nonprofits must rely on the expertise of licensed, experienced insurance experts to help them find the best insurance policies for their needs. Essentially, there are three types of insurance that nonprofits need to be aware of when making their decision: (1) A-side, which covers claims for direct payments to a director for defense costs and liability damages if directors do not have indemnification rights or indemnification is useless due to financial condition of nonprofit; (2) B-side, which reimburses the nonprofit for indemnity payouts to directors and officers; and (3) C-side, which covers the organization itself for wrongful acts.

In the AME Church, we do have some language regarding bonding. Here are a few examples - please take the time to read this on your own:

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In the AME Church, we do have some language regarding bonding. Here are a few examples - please take the time to read this on your own:

*For the Lay Organization* – The role of the Treasurer, language can be found in the Doctrine & Discipline of the AME Church, Article V, Section 1 – H: Duties and Responsibilities. The Treasurer, page 476

*For the Lay Organization's Non-Profit Arm (Connectional Lay Economic Development Council – CLEDC)* – The role of the CLEDC Treasurer, language can be found in the CLEDC's By-Laws (2007 most current copy), Section R: The Treasurer

*For AME Church General Officers* – For officers handling funds, language can be found in the Doctrine & Discipline of the AME Church, under Part XI, Section IV - I: General Officers – Bonding, page 193

We have the responsibility as Clergy and Laity to protect our assets, therefore we must follow through on certifying the action. Following through means safeguarding the churches and nonprofit's assets in every way possible.

In conclusion, bonding protects the church and nonprofit arms against exposure to financial losses due to dishonesty, forgery, alteration, theft, disappearance, or destruction; and those who are accountable are legally classified as any elected officer, committee chairperson (whether elected or appointed), or any member of the organization acting as a volunteer. We've worked hard to raise these funds, let's be prepared for the unthinkable – yes, even in God's church and non-profit organizations.

Simeon P. Rhoden, Past President

Fifth Episcopal District Lay Organization

*Acknowledgements to Sister Dianne H. Battle, Director of Public Relations, for this opportunity to share with all of you; and I look forward to writing many more articles that will forge the Laity forward.*



## AME V-ALERT JACQUELYN DUPONT-WALKER



### MODULE #3

AME V-ALERT is grounded in our faith family's Calling to be present for the good of the people and ensuring the viability of the communities where we live, work, play and pray. Let us tell you one little known story of making a difference in the spirit of the church of Allen, that spanned the globe, broke barriers of discrimination, and sparked a "ministry of activism". And in the 150<sup>th</sup> birth year, YOU and I are called to "pause" & stay woke! Here goes.....



### CHARLOTTE MAKGOMO MANNYA MAXEKE & DR MARSHALL MAXEKE

Charlotte Makgomo (née Mannya) Maxeke (7 April 1871 – 16 October 1939) was a South African religious leader, social and political activist. She was the first Black South African woman to graduate with a university degree (Bachelor of Science) from Wilberforce University Ohio in 1903. She was also the first black African woman to graduate from any American university. She is an international gem.

#### FROM THE BEGINNING

Born in Ft. Beaufort, Eastern Cape, she was the daughter of John Kgope Mannya, the son of headman Modidima Mannya from Batlokwa people, under Chief Mamafa Ramokgopa and Anna Mancu, a Xhosa woman from Fort Beaufort. Mannya's father was a roads foreman and Presbyterian lay preacher, and her mother a teacher. Mannya's family history is inspiring. Her grandfather served as a key adviser to the King of the Basutos. Soon after her birth, Mannya's family moved to Fort Beaufort, where her father had gained opportunity for employment at a road construction company.

At age 8, she began her primary school classes at a missionary school where she excelled in Dutch and English, mathematics and music. She spent long hours tutoring her less skilled classmates, often with great success. Her teacher/tutor, Reverend Wauchope credited Mannya with much of his teaching success particularly with regard to languages. Charlotte moved to Port Elizabeth to study at the Edward Memorial School under Headmaster Paul Xiniwe. Charlotte excelled and completed her secondary school education in record time, achieving the highest possible grades. Mannya's musical prowess was visible at a young age and described as "the voice of an angel in heaven." In 1885, after the discovery of diamonds, Charlotte moved to Kimberley with her family.

#### GLOBETROTTING

After arriving in Kimberley in 1885, Charlotte began teaching fundamentals of indigenous languages to expatriates and basic English to African "boss-boys." Then Charlotte and her sister Katie joined the African Jubilee Choir in 1891. Her talent attracted the attention of Mr. K. V. Bam, a local choir master who was organizing an African choir to tour Europe. Charlotte's rousing success after her first solo performance in Kimberley Town Hall immediately resulted in her appointment to the Europe-bound choir operation, which was taken over from Bam by a European. The Charlotte Maxeke's life story was highlighted in the AME Christian Recorder in 10/2021, during a 150th celebration panel including Bishop Ronald Brailsford, and in Wikipedia. These sources are referenced extensively in this article. Mannya's date of birth is in dispute, with possible dates ranging from 1871, 1872 to 1874.

The Minister of Home Affairs of South Africa, Naledor, took special interest in this detail of Charlotte Maxeke's life, however, no records were found. The date in 1871 is also often accepted as it does not conflict with the age of her younger sister Katie who was born in 1873.

The group left Kimberley in early 1896 and sang to “standing room only” audiences which added to their prestige in major cities of Europe and command royal performances, including one at Queen Victoria's 1897 Jubilee at London’s Royal Albert Hall. According to the African Feminist Forum, she was one of two women treated like novelties, which made them uncomfortable. At the conclusion of the European tour, the choir toured North America.. The choir managed to sell out venues in Canada and the United States.

During the choir's tour of the United States, the group was abandoned by their escort in Cleveland. *Bishop Daniel A. Payne, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) in Ohio, a former missionary in the Cape, organized the churchgoers to provide for the abandoned troupe's continued stay in America.* Although the choir wished to attend Howard University, they were made to settle for a church scholarship to Wilberforce University, the AME Church University in Xenia, Ohio. Charlotte Mannya accepted the offer. At the university, she was taught under Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, a major Pan—Africanist.

It was at Wilberforce that Mannya met her future husband, Dr. Marshall Maxeke, a Xhosa born on 1 November 1874 at Middelrift. The couple lost a child prior to their marriage, and did not have any children thereafter. The couple married in 1903.

### **POLITICAL LIFE & ACTIVISM**

Charlotte became politically active after joining the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in which she played a part in bringing to South Africa. While in the AME Church, Maxeke was heavily involved in teaching and preaching the Gospel and advocating education for Africans of South Africa. The church later elected her Episcopal District President in the Women's Missionary Society in So Africa.

Shortly after her return to South Africa in 1902, Maxeke began her involvement in anti-colonial politics. She, along with two other individuals from Transvaal, was one of a few women present at an early South African Native National Congress meeting. She participated in the formal launch of the South African Native National Congress in Bloemfontein in 1912. Maxeke also became active in movements against “pass laws” through her political activities.

Many of Maxeke's concerns were related to social issues as well as ones that concerned the Church. Charlotte wrote about the political as well as social issues that women face in isiXhosa. In the writing piece "Umteteli wa Banti" she wrote about these specific issues.

Due to her activity in anti-pass laws demonstrations, Maxeke was led to founding the Bantu Women’s League (BWL) which later became part of the African National Congress Women’s League, in 1918. The BWL under Maxeke was a grassroots movement that served as a manner of taking up grievances from a largely poor and rural base. Maxeke's BWL also demanded better working conditions for women farm workers, however these were largely ignored by the white authorities. Furthermore, Maxeke led a delegation to the then South African Prime Minister, Louis Botha, to discuss the issue of passes for women. These discussions resulted in a protest against passes for women the following year. Maxeke and an army of 700 women marched to the Bloemfontein City Council, where they burned their passes. She addressed an organization for the voting rights of women called Women's Reform Club in Pretoria and further joined the council of Europeans and Bantu's. Maxeke participated with protests related to low wages at Witwatersrand and eventually joined the Industrial and Commercial Workers Union in 1920. Maxeke’s leadership skills led her to be call by the South African Ministry of Education to testify before several government commissions in Johannesburg on matters concerning African education— a first for any African of any gender. She continued to be involved in many multi-racial groups fighting against the Apartheid System and for women's rights.



Maxeke's husband, Marshall Maxeke, passed away in 1928, at the age of 54. The same year Maxeke set up an employment agency for Africans in Johannesburg and also would begin service as a juvenile parole officer. Maxeke remained somewhat active in South African politics until her death, serving as a leader of the ANC in the 1930s. Maxeke was also instrumental in the foundation of the National Council of African Women, which served as a way of protecting the welfare of Africans within South Africa. Maxeke died in 1939 in Johannesburg at the age of 68.

**LEGACY**

Maxeke's name has been given to the former "Johannesburg General Hospital " which is now known as the "Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital."

The South African Navy submarine SAS Charlotte Maxeke is named after her. Maxeke is often honored as the "Mother of Black Freedom in South Africa." There is an ANC nursery school named after Charlotte Maxeke.

A statue of her stands in Pretoria's Garden of Remembrance, in South Africa. It was dedicated at an event at the 2015 International Women's Day - Kliptown's Walter Sisulu Square,

The Gauteng Infrastructure Development MEC plans to convert Maxeke's home into a museum and interpretation center. German engineers referred to 3 South African submarines as "heroine class". These submarines were named after three powerful South African women – one which is the S102 (named after Charlotte Maxeke).

The ANC also hosts an annual Charlotte Maxeke Memorial Lecture. Beatrice Street in Durban was changed to Charlotte Maxeke Street in her honor. Maitland Street in Bloemfontein was re-named Charlotte Maxeke Street in honor of her contribution to South Africa.

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

How will the AME Church honor Charlotte Maxeke?

At such a time as this, when we are launching AMEV-Alert outside continental USA, it seems entirely appropriate to name the first division in honor of the life and work of Charlotte Maxeke. Let me hear from you. Cast your vote at *(insert CLO Facebook page and AME V-ALERT Facebook address)*.

AME V—ALERT should have a “naming” for key activists/ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Which 10 names? (check only 10 names, including one nomination from you)

- \_\_\_ Charlotte Maxeke
- \_\_\_ Rosa Parks
- \_\_\_ Richard Harvey Cain
- \_\_\_ A Philip Randolph
- \_\_\_ King Solomon Dupont
- \_\_\_ James Clyburn
- \_\_\_ Sandra Bland
- \_\_\_ Tom Bradley
- \_\_\_ Biddy Mason
- \_\_\_ Madam C J Walker
- \_\_\_ Vernon Jordan
- \_\_\_ Daisy Bates
- \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_





Sandra Bland

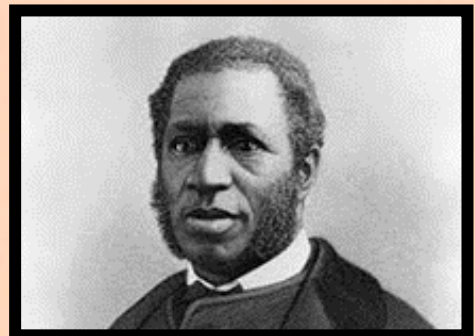
Rosa Parks   King Solomon Dupont   Tom Bradley   Vernon Jordan



BIDDY Mason   A Phillip Randolph   Daisy Bates   James Clyburn

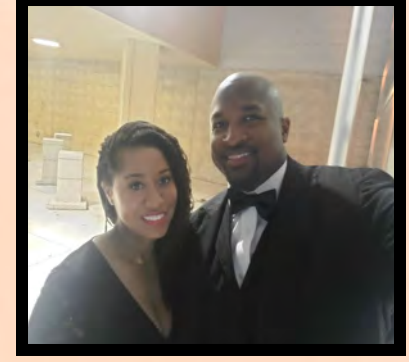


Madam C J Walker   Madam C J Walker   Richard Harvey Cain





**Reverend Dr. Robert Richard  
Allen Turner Academic Dean,  
Jackson Theological Seminary  
Pastor, Empowerment Temple  
A.M.E. Baltimore, Maryland**



I am from Tuskegee Alabama, pictured with my father Mr. Robert L. Turner and my wife. I was born in John Andrew hospital on the

campus of Tuskegee University where from 1932-1972 the United States government observed the effects of syphilis on 399 black men without their consent and when the penicillin was available in 1942, they refused to give it to them. The Tuskegee Syphilis Study, it shows what people would do if there were no consequences for their horrific behavior, similar to Tulsa. Also, in Tuskegee Booker T. Washington started a school and was a leader of the black community who encouraged them to help themselves. Mr. Washington later came to Tulsa's Greenwood District and named the area "Negro Wall Street." Booker T. Washington hired George Washington Carver who was a famous inventor discovering over 300 inventions from peanuts. Rosa Parks civil rights icon is also from Tuskegee, along with civil rights attorney Fred Gray who represented Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and other Civil Rights leaders.

I first learned about the tragic events of the Tulsa Race Massacre from university of Alabama School of Law Professor Al Brophy who was an attorney in the reparation's lawsuit back in 2002 with Professor Charles Ogletree in Harvard. Because He knew even as a law student, I was passionate about reparations. When I was contemplating leaving law school for seminary training Professor Brophy told me that I could help advance the cause of reparations as a lawyer. Never in a million years would I think that I would be able advance the cause of reparation as a pastor in Tulsa.

The events of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre from May 31-June 1 37 square blocks were destroyed, over 20 churches destroyed, over 300 people killed 10,000 people made homeless, bodies dumped in mass graves, 1,256 homes, 600 businesses destroyed in less than 18 hours, this racist white mob took out an entire community. This was not done in pre-statehood Oklahoma, this was in "civilized" society, where we had a functioning police, sheriff, district attorney, and municipal office, and what they did not do is criminal and what the Sheriff's department did was criminal, deputizing members of the racist white mob, The fire department's dereliction of duty by not putting out one fire, the police did not make one arrest of the white perpetrators, so God led me to take a stand. And I did, I stood outside of Tulsa city hall each week for 3 years calling on this city to recognize what she did as a massacre because when I first went to Tulsa in 2017 it was commonly referred to as a riot. While outside city hall I called on Tulsa and state to repent. True repentance is more than saying I am sorry. We have had several ceremonies where people say "I am sorry" or give their apologies. An apology is not repentance. Repentance is when you truly turn from what you are apologizing about. Frankly, I am sick and tired of hearing apologies and not seeing people do as the Bible says, "acts meet of repentance" I have grown frustrated with people. In Tulsa we have not seen true repentance. We have seen a lot of apologies, the police department has apologized, mayors have apologized but not have done repentance. The police department has yet to do an investigation. The city of Tulsa's legal stance is the same as it was in 1921, that they are not culpable. Saying "It's not our fault." Now as I have pressed and will continue to, we were recently informed by a retired judge at one of our mass graves public oversight excavation committee meetings that you cannot criminally charge a city, nor the government. You can try but you simply can't put the city of Tulsa in jail, but you can look at ways for them to be convicted conspirators and have fines levied against them. Never mind the fact that the city of Tulsa was complicit at best a co-conspirator at worst in the worst race massacre in American history.

Let us just entertain the fact of what the retired judge stated that you cannot charge a city with a crime. Then a so-called nation of laws cannot charge criminals if those criminals are that nation, state city or the government. Well, what do we do with the United Nations, they charge governments all the time. In fact,

let us just entertain the fact of what the retired judge stated that you cannot charge a city with a crime. Then a so-called nation of laws cannot charge criminals if those criminals are that nation, state city or the government. Well, what do we do with the United Nations, they charge governments all the time. In fact, America constantly goes into other nations pursuing arresting and killing other leaders. I am not saying that I agree with all the previous actions of the leader of this foreign country, Iraq because I do not but we went into a nation and killed their sovereignly elected leader, whether we agree with their form of democracy or not, and we killed their leader, Saddam Hussein and his sons.

What if Germany had said in 1865 that America because you had 16 presidents who presided over slavery or France saying Alabama you had 50 governors elected during Jim Crow, they could have said “you all are dictators, you lead a state where a sizable percentage of your population could not vote!”

So, this whole notion that government cannot do wrong criminally is only something that we apply to America, but we don't do that to other nations.

It has been stated that the statute of limitation has passed. I learned of this argument as I was looking for a lawyer to represent us because Vernon still had standing. Let us just say that the statute of limitation has passed.

1921 Race Riot commission that had 9 people on it and was not some ultra-liberal commission. 6 of them were appointed by Governor Keating. Mayor Savage appointed 3 individuals, these 9 produced these 5 recommendations. 1. Direct payments to the survivors, 2. In the absence of the survivor's direct payment to descendants 3. Scholarship for the children of the survivors 4. Business Incubator of Greenwood. 5. A memorial where the remains will be interned. Now nearly 20 years after that report zero of those recommendations have been done. The commission was paid for by the state legislature, and when they originally submitted their report, Governor Keating said that he supported it, but after receiving pressure he changed course once he began receiving criticism from the press The legislature has yet to do anything about it. The same for the courts. We have reports like some of the businesses such as Sinclair Oil who according to the commission report their airplanes were allowed to be used to drop bombs on Greenwood. To this day I have and will never spend a penny of my money with them.

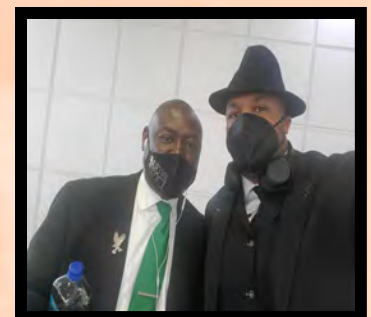
Sinclair is significant because this is the first time America was attacked by aerial assault and sadly the planes were owned by American businesses that as of today, have not had to answer to anyone. 911 was not our first time being attacked by air, Pearl Harbor was not either, it was right here in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Tulsa is notorious! Tulsa did what Robert E. Lee, Stalin, and Putin could not do. Hitler wished he could have been that bold! Disgustingly every day we allow that goes by without rectifying it we put a stain on our constitution and America looks like a hypocrite to the rest of the world. Because after 911 we went to Afghanistan, killed Osama Bin Laden and his sons. After Pearl Harbor we went to Japan and dropped the atomic bomb at Hiroshima where you can still feel the radioactivity and today the Japanese government is still forbidden from having a standing military because the last time, they did they used it to drop bombs on American soil, but for the first-time airplanes were used to terrorize Americans, not one person even goes to jail?! Not one white person ever even gets arrested?! I

t shows you that America does not mind terrorism, if it is done by white people! Likewise, it shows that America is willing to go after Arabs, and Japanese, but America is yet willing to go after white people for terrorizing black people!

I am a lifelong member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, I was deeply moved when I learned what happened at Mother Emanuel in Charleston, South Carolina is one of our churches where Dylan Roof goes into a Bible Study, kills a colleague of mine in ministry, Rev. Clementa Pinckney, when the police finally apprehends Dylan Roof, yes they actually got him without shooting him! Imagine that for starters, but when they capture him they stop to take him to Burger King before taking him to jail! The A.M.E. Church is strategically placed in each historic community in America be it Brown Chapel in Selma in Alabama, Mother

Emmanuel in Charleston, Mother Bethel in Philadelphia, St. Paul in Montgomery, Pearl Street in Jackson, MS, Vernon in Tulsa, St. Stephen in Wilmington NC virtually everywhere in America of importance for black people we have a historic church still being a witness for the Lord. As a result we the members should carry this prophetic mantle in calling the nation to atone for her original sin of racism. Reparations should be the priority agenda for community and our church. It is something that several other oppressed community in this nation has received except for black people.

All americans are typically people who love law and order. Anybody democrat, republican, Jew, Christian, Muslim, young or old ought to be offended by the gross miscarriage of justice that took place in Tulsa, Oklahoma and similar communities across the nation. Every day that goes on and we have yet to have an investigation is a day in which we spit on our constitution. Recently while I was at Vernon we had the US Attorney General Merrick Garland come in his first public appearance since he was sworn in. It was my honor to meet and give him a tour of the church and Greenwood. Because of individuals like him, Senator Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Beto O'Rourke, Mayor Mike Bloomberg, Rep. James Clyburn President Joe Biden and other great public officials I have been able to meet in the past year I have great faith that America's best days are ahead. I would not be doing what I do if I didn't. First, I have faith in God and secondly, I do not subscribe to the belief that some of even my close comrades do that America is broken, I just believe America is not finished! I believe our constitution is what we make it! It's a living document, and we must bring life to it! We have to finish the job! We have not finished reconstruction after the civil war, we have not finished the last leg of the civil right movement we are not broken just not finished! It is incumbent on every generation to make us that more of a perfect union, our parents did their job, the great generation did their job, the mantle has been passed to us, the baton is ours! We determine if America is a hypocrite or not, we determine if the constitution is a lie, we determine if we are a country of law and order or recklessness and racism, what will you decide America will be today in your lifetime. Reparations should not just be given for Tulsa but to all of us who are descended from slaves, suffered Jim Crow and racism from this beautiful yet oppressive country. May God bless you and God bless America through you and your prophetic witness. Glory Hallelujah. His truth is marching on.





Growth, Development and Evangelism

# acclimate

redefining evangelism in a virtual world

**JANUARY  
24-26  
2022**

**AME Church Growth & Development  
Annual Church Growth Seminar**

Turner Chapel AME Church Marietta, GA  
Rev. Dr. Marcellus A. Norris, Executive Director

**SAVE THE DATE**

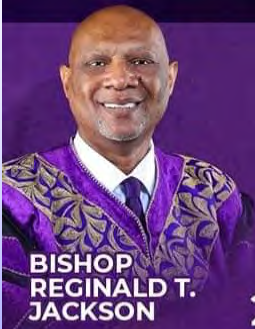


TURNER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## 128TH FOUNDERS' OBSERVANCE



PROPHETIC PROBLEM SOLVERS | FEB.7-8, 2022



### 2022 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME HONOREES



Presiding Elder  
Spencer Francis  
Barrett



Rev. Dr.  
Donna Calix



Rev. Dr.  
Portia Cavitt



Chaplain Rev.  
Dr. Mark Cisco



Rev. Lester  
Foster



Rev. Marcus  
Green



Rev. Henry  
Green



Chaplain Alice  
Henderson



Chaplain  
Grace R. Hollis



Rev. Ferrun  
Johnson



Rev. Dr.  
Chievene Jones



Chaplain Dianne  
Lewis



Presiding Elder  
Willie Marshall



Rev. Orlando  
McCauley



Rev. Reginald  
McCrae



Rev. Ronald  
Miller



Rev. Michelle  
Rizer-Poole



Rev. Elijah  
Shafah



Presiding Elder  
Bertram Smith



Reverend  
Barry H. Spencer



Dr. Robert  
Turner



Rev. LaVern  
Witherspoon



Rev. Dr. Vonshurii  
Wrighten

## COLORS FOR THE AME CHRISTIAN YEAR

In the Christian year of our church, we recognize two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. Between each cycle follows an ordinary time of growth symbolized by the color green in the Seasons After the Epiphany and After Pentecost. Therefore, there is a sequence of seasons using purple, white, and green in that order twice each year.

**PURPLE** is a color of both penitence and royalty used during the preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent. Alternative colors of royal blue or violet may also be used during Advent.

**WHITE** and **GOLD** are joyous and festive colors used during the Christmas and Easter seasons (except on the Day of Pentecost) and in other seasons on festive days such as Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration, Trinity, All Saints, and Christ the King. White may also be used at weddings. At services of Holy Communion white linens on top of the Lord's Table are the tradition of the AME Church, and are used on the first Sunday, regardless of the Holy Season that is celebrated. Therefore, even if the first Sunday of the month is the first Sunday of Advent, the color used in the pulpit remains white.

**GREEN** is a color of growth used in the Seasons After the Epiphany and After Pentecost, except when special days call for white or red.

**RED** is a color of fire, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. It is used on the Day of Pentecost and at other times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. Red is also the color of blood - the blood of Christ and the blood of martyrs. Because of its intensity, red is most effective when used occasionally rather than continuously for a whole season. It is appropriate for evangelistic services, for ordinations and consecration, for church anniversaries and homecomings, Founder's Day, and for civil observances such as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving. It may be used during Holy Week, beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday, to symbolize the blood of Christ.

**BLACK** is a color of death used on Good Friday and Holy Saturday and for funerals. Gray is its alternative.

Although the use of these colors is based on broad ecumenical tradition, other colors have been and are being used in Christian churches. Creativity and use of alternates with colors bring new meaning to the worship experience. Examples include African prints or variations, pink during the third week of Advent and black on Good Friday.

It is always a good policy when in doubt, to seek guidance from a presiding elder, senior pastor, Christian education director, or other person designated by the pastor. These persons will be helpful in providing information on appropriate colors for preparing the sanctuary.

# 2022 LITURGICAL COLOR CALENDAR

Additional information about the colors is listed on the back of this card.

## JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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23 <sup>60</sup>	24 <sup>61</sup>	25	26	27	28	29

## FEBRUARY

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27	28					

## MARCH

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## APRIL

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## MAY

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## JUNE

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## JULY

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24 <sup>61</sup>	25	26	27	28	29	30

## AUGUST

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28	29	30	31			

## SEPTEMBER

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## OCTOBER

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <sup>60</sup>	24 <sup>61</sup>	25	26	27	28	29

## NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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**YOUNG ADULTS**

*You're  
Invited!*

**TO BECOME ACTIVE**

**MEMBERS**

**OF THE CLO**



**Guidelines: Submitting Articles to “We Speak”**  
**Mrs. Dianne H. Battle, CLO-Director of Public Relations**  
**Brother Matikane Abednego Makiti, CLO-President**  
**Connectional Lay Organization**  
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**Website: [ameclay.org](http://ameclay.org)**

The Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is commissioned to teach, train, and empower its members for Lay Ministry, Global Leadership, and service following the tenets of Jesus Christ.

We Speak:

The process for submitting articles for inclusion in We Speak:

Articles should include the name of the author, date of event, and identification of district, conference, or local levels.

Articles must be two months (current) related to events of the AMEC. The “Episcopal District Director of Public Relations” is your Clergy articles will be sent to the Connectional Director of Public Relations for print. Articles MUST adhere to submission deadline date. Failure to adhere to guidelines may result in articles not being printed.

Articles must not be duplicated from previous Lay submission or any other component of the AME Church.

Articles will be subject to edits. The Director of Public Relations reserves the right to determine the layout and placement of articles within the magazine.

Articles must be no more than one page in length. A Microsoft Word compatible document (ONLY) single spaced, font style “Times New Roman,” 12-point font size. The format to submit photos is in a JPEG, TIF, or PNG file. Photos must be credited to the photographer with approval from pictured person to publish his or her photo. Printed Photos or Hard copies is not acceptable.

Photos must not be embedded in the article. Photos must come with article as a separate attachment and identified if its your choice.

Electronic Versions of We Speak Publication and Due Dates.

Publication Months 2022: January 2022, March 2022, May 2022, July 2022, September 2022, and November 2022.

Publications Deadline: All articles are due on or before the 20th of the prior month of the publication month.

Upload Articles and photos via drop box: Click link below

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sfh36kpw5ukyp2w/AACHuV6fn5NWsjMIXSIDlxmla?dl=0>

Share questions and concerns to: [clodopr16@gmail.com](mailto:clodopr16@gmail.com), Dianne H. Battle, Connectional Lay Organization, Director of Public Relations.

**N95 MASKS ARE AVAILABLE  
ON EBAY AND AMAZON NOW!  
TOGETHER WE CAN  
DEFEAT COVID-19**



# CORONA VIRUS

## AWARENESS

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from cold to serious illnesses such as SARS and MERS.

### COMMON SIGNS

Common signs of infection include fever, cough and shortness of breath.

### PRECAUTIONS

Common measures to protect yourself are frequent hand wash, avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands and avoid close contact with sick people.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday updated its guidance on masks for the general public, now saying that people "may choose" to wear N95 and KN95 masks because they offer the best protection against Covid-19.
- But the agency stopped short of saying that people should opt for certain masks instead of others, saying that the "CDC continues to recommend that you wear the most protective mask you can that fits well and that you will wear consistently."
- Full coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Previously, the CDC did not recommend that the general population wear N95 masks or KN95s, a similar type of mask made in China, fearing that a run on those higher-quality masks would impact the supply in health care settings. The CDC now says shortages are no longer a concern.
- "When worn consistently and properly," the agency wrote on its website, N95 respirators approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, or NIOSH, "provide the highest level of protection from particles, including the virus that causes Covid-19."



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