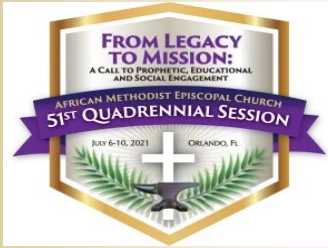


WE SPEAK

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



3th Biennial Lay Convention Lay Newsletter

Volume 2
Issue 1

Director of Public Relations Greeting

Greetings Districts 1-20 Laity on all Levels!

1Corinthians15:57

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” The Lord has spoken!

I extend to you my forever gratitude Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District and Supervisor, the Reverend Sherita Moon Seawright for your endorsement, trust, and confidence in me.

To: My President, Mrs. Bernella Knight Rose, President Emeritus, Mr. James C. Bonner, Jr., my Campaign Manager, Mr. Robert Turner, Sr., and my husband, Mr. Willie J. Battle, thank you.

Thank you, Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, General Officers, Connectional Officers, Episcopal District Lay Presidents, Laity on the District, Conference, and Local levels of the great church we serve.

"Together We Did It!"

Once again, you elected me as Connectional Director of Public Relations, for the Connectional Lay Organization. Thank you for your prayers, financial contributions, and votes which allows me another opportunity to serve. Your votes made a difference, and I promise to work together with the elected Connectional Lay President Mr. Matikane Abednego Makiti, elected CLO officers, the CLO Executive Board Members, and Laity on all levels of African Methodism.

Thank you contributing writers. I am humbled to greet you in this arena of servanthood.

Because of You, I Can,

Dianne H. Battle
CLO-Director of Public Relations

President's Greeting

Greetings,

It is with the joy of Jesus, the Christ, that I greet you on this momentous occasion! It broke my heart that I was not be able to be physically present in Orlando, but I trust God and He had the perfect plan for all of us.

Thank you for your commitment to the Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is through the tireless work of laypersons that a significant portion of the ministry of our Zion is accomplished. The Connectional Lay Organization celebrates your work, and we support you through our ministry and educational programs.

We were joined together in person and virtually as we reported on the wonderful work that had been accomplished through the Connectional Lay Organization as outlined on our agenda! Thanks to all Committee Chairpersons and their committee members. Your work made the Biennial a success.

Welcome Bishop Stafford J. N. Wicker, Lay Commissioner!

A Special thank-you to Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr., former Lay Commissioner, Sister Starr Battle, Second Vice President, Sister Ametta Reaves, DOLA, Sister Doris Bell, Recording Secretary, and Sister Ada Groff, Corresponding Secretary for your service to the CLO.

Thank you, Dear Family!

Matikane "Abe" Makiti



Sister Ann Clemons: 9th Episcopal District Lay Organization

The Senior Bishop, Adam . Richardson, gave an introduction of an outstanding individual of a woman Bishop, Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield.

Bishop Byfield expounded on the LAY Biennial Convention Theme: “GREATER TOGETHER A CALLING TO FULFILL.” Bishop Byfield gave clarity and voice to defining who we are. Her message reminds us that if we are chosen people, then we are also called not to dwell or exist in darkness. We are called to not exercise evil, we are called not to disrupt, or to be deceitful or to issue harm. Our calling is to walk, exist, exhort, and prosper in his marvelous light. When we walk in his wonderful light we begin by doing the work that we have been commissioned to do, Therefore, we work through his grace and guidance.

Let it be known, we are greater together, and we do have a calling we must fulfill.



Bishop Marvin C. Zanders



CLO ELECTION

Bro. George Gorgon: Sixth Episcopal District

The time had come for us to do what we all were looking forward to, election time. We were gathered on two continents. The duly elected delegates of districts one thru thirteen and sixteen were sitting in a cold ballroom at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida while the delegates of districts fourteen, fifteen, seventeen thru twenty joined via Zoom. It was Sunday, July 11, 2021, and shortly before the 5 pm hour. The Second Business session of the 37th Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church had come to order after a short break and the order of the day was for the election of the new officers of the organization. We all just heard the final report of the Credentials Committee. President Matikane “Abe” Makiti was plastered on every screen as he called for the report of the Nomination Committee.

The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, Dr. Felicia Commodore, stepped up to the podium to give the report. The report outlined the work of the committee and most importantly the final ballot for the pending election. All positions were available in this election. Several positions were unopposed this year and they were: First Vice President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Young Adult Representative, Historiographer, and Chaplain. After the recent update of the withdrawal of Amanda Johnson from the race of the Third Vice President, the majority of the opposed contest only had two candidates. The single race with more the two candidates was at the top of the ticket, President. The committee reported there were no candidates for the office of Parliamentarian. Dr. Commodore finished the report with thanks to the Co-chairperson Bro. Michael Brown and others for their support. The report was accepted by the body. We officially have a ballot for the election.

It was now time for the election to begin. The Election Committee was summoned to present their report. Judge Patricia Mayberry, Election Committee Chairperson, came forward to present the report. In the report, she presented the rules and process of the election of the officers of the Connectional Lay Organization. After some questions and clarification, the report of the Election Committee was accepted also. And so it begins. The first item of business was the offices that were unopposed. According to the rules set forth by the Election Committee, these officers would be elected by voice vote. The chairperson proceeded to go down the list of unopposed offices one by one to elect those persons. Those results are as follows:

Office	Newly Elected Officer
First Vice President	Dr. Dorothy Henderson (12)
Treasurer	Kathy Drayton (10)
Financial Secretary	Lyndia Mayo (3)
Recording Secretary	Monique Green (6)
Corresponding Secretary	Cheryl Hammond-Hopewell (1)
Young Adult Representative	Jamesha Williams (7)
Historiographer	William Ayers (2)
Chaplain	Charlie Nichols (11)

After the uncontested races were completed, Bishop Jeffrey Leath offered a prayer for the election of the contested races. “Each contested office was voted on individually. The results of the first ballot of voting are...”

Office	Candidates	# Of Votes
<i>President</i>	Starr Battle, Esq. (2)	179
	M. A. Makiti (19)	218
	Ametta L. Reaves (3)	122
	Simeon Rhoden (5)	426
<i>Second Vice President</i>	Simon Letsoko (19)	563
	Jerry Turner (4)	409
<i>Third Vice President</i>	Lovie Aaron (12)	493
	Janice Stewart (6)	441
<i>Assistant Recording Secretary</i>	Brenda Holland Curry (7)	716
	Melba Salter (5)	227
<i>Director of Lay Activities</i>	Dr. Paulette Coleman (13)	264
	Patricia Wright (11)	697
<i>Director of Public Relations</i>	Dianne Battle (9)	626
	Reneicia Frazier (3)	330

At the end of the first ballot, the Presidency was still up for grabs. All the other races were completed and the winners were declared. During the interim of the first and second ballot, Starr Battle and Ametta Reaves withdrew from the race and supported the incumbent Makiti for the Presidency. “The results of the second ballot for President are...”

Office	Candidates	# Of Votes
<i>President</i>	M. A. Makiti (19)	499
	Simeon Rhoden (5)	459

Chairperson Mayberry announced President Makiti had won the election. The Biennial Session went into recess immediately following the announcement and a prayer by the new Chairperson of the Lay Commission, Bishop Stafford J. N. Wicker.

Newly Elected CLO Officers



To the members of the Connectional Lay Organization:

Thank you for electing me to serve as the International President of the CLO. Together, we made history as you elected a President from African

Soil. I am deeply humbled by your support. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but I am ready and excited to work with each of you. Now is the time for us to be united as an organization in order to continue moving forward. When we work together, we can accomplish much.

A special "Thank You" to every Committee for your collaborative effort in the way you use organizational, and marketing skills to make the 37th Biennial Lay Session a success. To everyone who served in any capacity to uplift God's Agenda through the Lay Organization.

I welcome your suggestions and invite you to contact me at any time.

Again, I thank you!
Makitane Abe Makiti
CLO-President



Greetings, and I remain committed and dedicated to serve God through my service to you laity on all levels.

This determination in me is driven by the surrounding and overwhelming impact you

have shown to me by electing me to be of service in our Zion. Lets look at new ways together to strategically plan to move the Connectional Lay Organization to a new level of excellence.

It is my prayer that working together with you as we explore new adventures, building bridges of connections in districts 1-20. "Let us not get weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Gal. 6:9 This is our Season!

Thank You!
Simon Letsoko
CLO-2nd Vice President



Greetings In the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

TOGETHER LET'S Develop Effective Lay Recruitment Strategies: As your 1st Vice President, I will Develop a Membership Tool Box and a CLO Membership Recruitment

Manual that will be presented Globally, invite the appropriate stake holders to the table, hold Focus Group Meetings and establish a partnership that will lead the Connectional Lay Organization to Outstanding Recruitment results through A Lay Membership Roundup campaign. WithThe Engineer---As Jesus Christ. The Superintendent as God Father Mighty, and the Conductor as Dr. Dorothy C. Henderson. The Destination will be A Train for A Membership Explosion!!

Thank You for stepping on Board the Henderson Train and Voting for Dr. Dorothy Henderson, as the Connectional Lay Organization, 1st Vice President. "To God Be The Glory"

Again, Thank You!
Dr. Dorothy Henderson
CLO-1st Vice President



Glory be to the Father for all the good things he has done. Thanks to God Almighty.

To the 12th District Episcopal President Dr. Dorothy C. Henderson who supported me 100%. The entire 12th Episcopal District who believed in me as

they prayed, supported and voted for me. Thank you for your LOVE and SUPPORT.

Thanks to all 20 Episcopal Districts who has gotten to know me and has worked with me through Evangelism Sunday and Lay Witness Sunday for the past 16 months. I will not leave off the Executive Board who voted me in March 8, 2020. I pledge to continue and work for the glory of God. Onward for greater work ahead.

Thank You!
Lovie Aaron
CLO-3rd Vice President

Newly Elected CLO Officers



Thank you! Thank you! I would like to extend sincere thanks to my family, friends, and the members of the Sixth Episcopal District for your support. A special thank you to my parents, Rev. Dr. Larry Hudson and Barbara Hudson; my husband and children, Casey I, Casey II,

Micah, Kyndall, and Caleb; Sixth Episcopal District Lay Organization President Emeritus, Gloria Byrd; Sixth Episcopal District Lay Organization President, Michael Brown; Atlanta North Georgia Conference Lay Organization President, Jason Ferguson; Atlanta West District President, Sandrial Mason; and members of my local church, St. Mark A.M.E. Church, Atlanta, GA. I would also like to thank the members of the Connectional Lay Organization for trusting me and putting your faith in me.

As we move forward, I pledge to fulfill my duties as recording secretary to the best of my abilities. I will continue to live up to the 37th Biennial Convention theme, "Greater Together: A Calling to Fulfill." It is truly an honor and privilege to serve.

Thank You!
Monique Hudson Green
CLO-Recording Secretary



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!

I remain committed to serve and determined to be of service to our Zion. I am always mindful of the purpose of our organization, as it has become my guiding mantra.

Our purpose is to organize and train the laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Church so that lay persons may maximally utilize their God given abilities and skills to improve and extend the kingdom. It is my prayer that you will join me in this new season, as we continue to grow together in faith and works.

Thank You!
Patricia Wright
CLO-Director of Lay Activities



To the Connectional Lay Organization,

I am ever so grateful for you allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Corresponding Secretary.

I am very excited and looking forward to doing an exemplary job in my duties. As I stated in my acceptance speech, I will always give you a good days work and I am looking forward to working with you and for you.

Thank you to the immediate past Corresponding Secretary Sister Ada Groff for the wonderful job she did and for being so kind to send me a list of what she did and how she did it. I am grateful, honored and humbled.

In His Service,
Cheryl Hammond Hopewell
CLO-Corresponding Secretary



Greetings Laity Globally, from the continents of North America and Africa!

"Together We Did It!"

Let us continue together as we service the laity on all levels. Thank you for your continued support.

I will remain faithful to you and committed to the work assigned to me, the duties and responsibilities of the position of the Director of Public Relations for the Connectional Lay Organization.

I am excited and looking forward to continuing to serve you.

Thank You!
Dianne H. Battle
CLO-Director of Public Relations

The General Conference Election Results



GENERAL OFFICERS

Elected by unanimous ballot cast by
General Secretary as set forth in Rule 24 ©

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

ALTERNATE -CLERGY (4)

330 Cooper, Jeffery B. II

331 Williams, Jimmie III

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

ALTERNATE – LAY(4)

340 Crawford, Monice

TREASURER/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

745 Required

260 Eldridge, Darwin 273

261 Henderson, Marcus 1205

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRY

1st Ballot 759 Required

270 Campbell, William M. 397

271 Cooper, Karla J. 140

272 Green, John 653

273 Sidberry-Thomas, Sheila 102

274 Spencer, Monica 225

2nd Ballot 760 Required

270 Campbell, William M. 716

272 Green, John 803

AME DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES

745 Required

280 Brown, Clinton 34

281 Griffin, Mark 443

282 Miller, James 933

283 Thompson, Taylor 79

CHURCH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

1st Ballot 745 Required

290 Crutcher, Mark 238

291 Hampton, Dennis J. 32

292 Lee, Anthony L 445

293 Mayes, Terence L. Sr. 196

294 Norris, Marcellus 500

295 Worthen, Carlton 95

2nd Ballot 748 Required

291 Hampton, Dennis J. 43

292 Lee, Anthony L 698

294 Norris, Marcellus 754

JUDICIAL COUNCIL Clergy Vacancies (2)

756 Required

310 Augustine, Jonathan C. 1132

311 Golden, James T. 310

312 Green, O. Jerome 1009

313 Hodges, Glenda 317

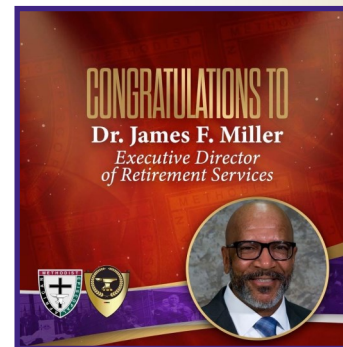
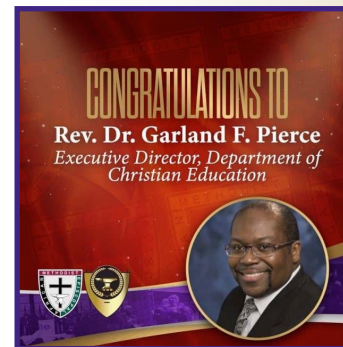
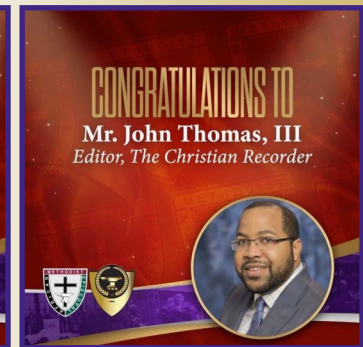
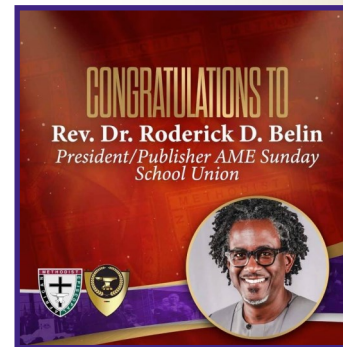
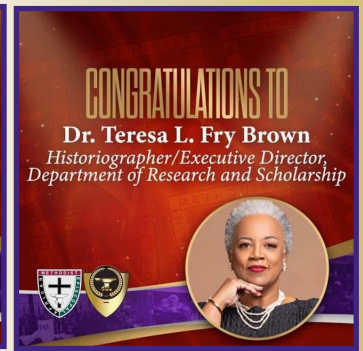
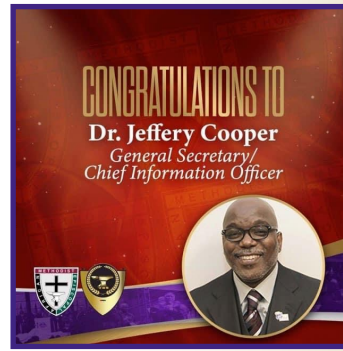
JUDICIAL COUNCIL LAY VACANCY (1)

767 Required

320 Champ, Sandra 403

321 Hyche, Ida 282

322 Ngubeni, Thabile 849

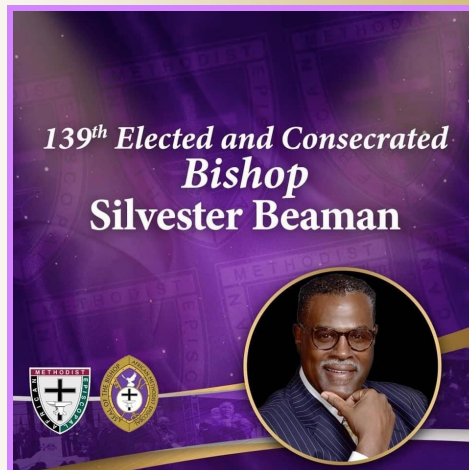




**Bishop's Election Process
Round 1-794 needed**

Beaman, Silvester S. #139 **1014 Votes**
Elected A Bishop of the AME Church

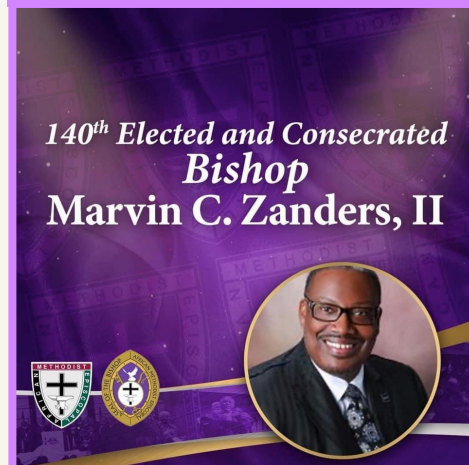
- Bell, Michael - 196 Votes
- Brookins, Francine A. - 603 Votes
- Burger, Willem - 118 Votes
- Byrd, Vernon - 597 Votes
- Chisolm, Barbara - 139 Votes
- Cooper, Katurah York 403 Votes
- Eason, Gregory Vaughn Sr. 307 Votes
- Foster, John 74 Votes



*139th Elected and Consecrated
Bishop
Silvester Beaman*

Zanders, Marvin Clyde II #140 **864 Votes**
Elected A Bishop of the AME Church

- Gaobepe, Dimpho A. 104 Votes
- Marshall, Willie Eugene 128 Votes
- Mccauley, Orlando 111 Votes
- Mugala, Paul M. Sr. 9 Votes
- Pierson, Mark S. 55 Votes
- Ragin Merrick, M. Charmaine 37 Votes
- Richburg, Caesar R. 239 Votes
- Rumph, James Arthur 31 Votes
- Seibo, Samuel D. 168 Votes
- Simms, Moses A. Jr. 133 Votes
- Wilson, Harold 22 Votes
- Wright, Frederick A. 578 Votes

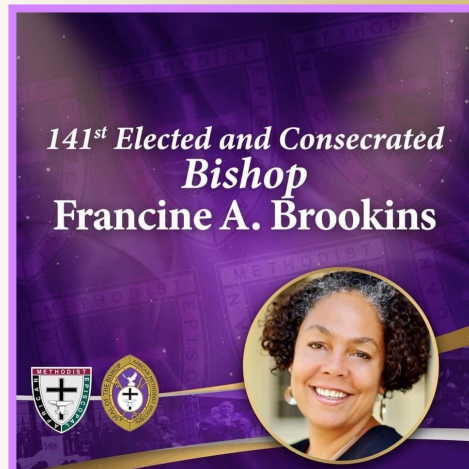


*140th Elected and Consecrated
Bishop
Marvin C. Zanders, II*

**Bishop's Election Process
Round 2-792 Required**

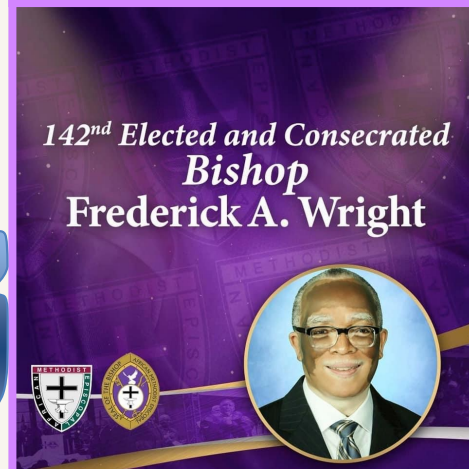
Brookins, Francine A. #141 **937 Votes**
Elected A Bishop of the AME Church

- Burger, Willem 85-Votes
- Byrd, Vernon 718-Votes
- Cooper, Katurah York 265-Votes
- Gaobepe, Dimpho A. 58-Votes
- Mugala, Paul M. Sr. 13-Votes



*141st Elected and Consecrated
Bishop
Francine A. Brookins*

Wright, Frederick A. #142 **839 Votes**
Elected A Bishop of the AME Church



*142nd Elected and Consecrated
Bishop
Frederick A. Wright*

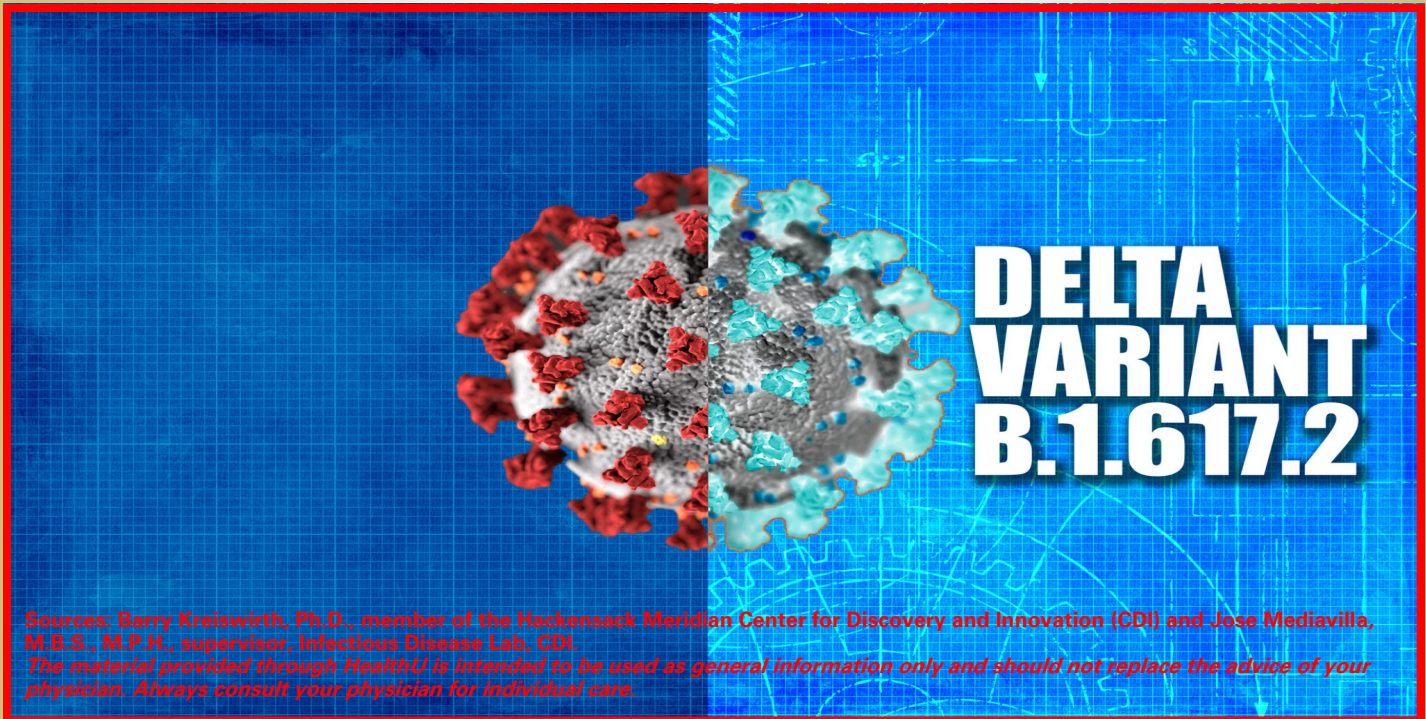
CONGRATULATIONS

District Bishop Retirement

1st	Julius Harrison McAlister, Sr.	2024
2nd	James Levert Davis	2028
3rd	E. Earl McCloud, Jr.	2028
4th	John Franklin White	2024
5th	Clement Willie Fugh	2024
6th	Reginald Thomas Jackson	2028
7th	Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.	2036
8th	Stafford J. N. Wicker	2036
9th	Harry Lee Seawright	2032
10th	Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.	2024
11th	Frank Madison Reid, III	2024
12th	Michael Leon Mitchell	2036
13th	E. Anne Henning Byfield	2024
14th	Paul Jones Mulenga Kawimbe	2036
15th	Silvester S. Beaman	2036
16th	Marvin C. Zanders, II	2040
17th	David Rwhynica Daniels, Jr.	2032
18th	Francine Brookins	2048
19th	Ronnie Elijah Brailsford, Sr.	2032
20th	Frederick A. Wright, Sr.	2032

Ecumenical: Jeffery Nathaniel Leath 2032

Located: Wilfred Jacobus Messiah 2028



THREE IMPORTANT FACTS TO REMEMBER AND SHARE WITH OTHERS:

Doctors and researchers are still learning about the Delta variant, but they know many things so far. Here are three things that everyone should know:

- The Delta variant is more contagious than other SARS-CoV-2 virus strains.** Research has shown that the Delta variant spreads more easily between people, and it appears that people are transmitting the virus to others sooner than people spread the original strain of the novel coronavirus. Additionally, one recent study from China found that people who were presumably unvaccinated and infected with the Delta variant had a viral load within their respiratory systems that was 1,000 times higher than the amount of virus that was present among people who had been infected by the original strain of the virus. The combination of a higher viral load, the ability to spread the virus to others earlier (when people may not realize that they're sick) and the fact that this variant spreads more efficiently makes the Delta variant worrisome. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has classified it as a "variant of concern," which is a term that's used when a virus is more transmissible, causes more severe disease or involves other complications.
- People who are infected with the Delta variant may get sicker.** Recently published research from Scotland has shown that unvaccinated people who are infected with the COVID-19 Delta variant are twice as likely to be hospitalized, due to severity of illness, than people who are infected with the COVID-19 Alpha variant, which had previously been identified as more contagious than the original strain of the virus. More research is needed to determine whether the Delta variant causes more severe illness than other strains, but the presence of a higher viral load may contribute to more symptoms among affected people.
- COVID-19 vaccines offer the best protection against the Delta variant.** The current research suggests that the COVID-19 vaccines that are available within the U.S. adequately protect against the Delta variant, although researchers will continue to study their effectiveness.

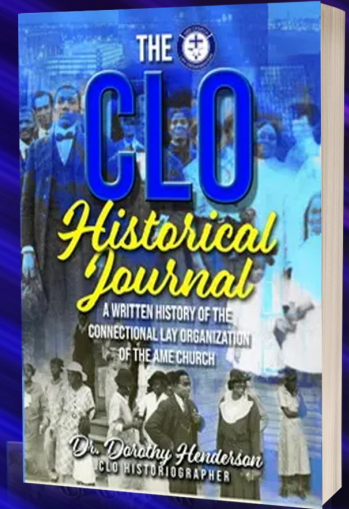
The CDC recommends that people who aren't vaccinated should get the COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves from the risk of illness from COVID-19, including the Delta variant. In the event that someone who is vaccinated gets COVID-19, the vaccines protect against the severity of illness, which helps to prevent hospitalization and death.



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 CLO Historiographer, Dr. Dorothy Henderson, lovingly compiled this Journal with the help, input and support of the Episcopal District Historiographers.

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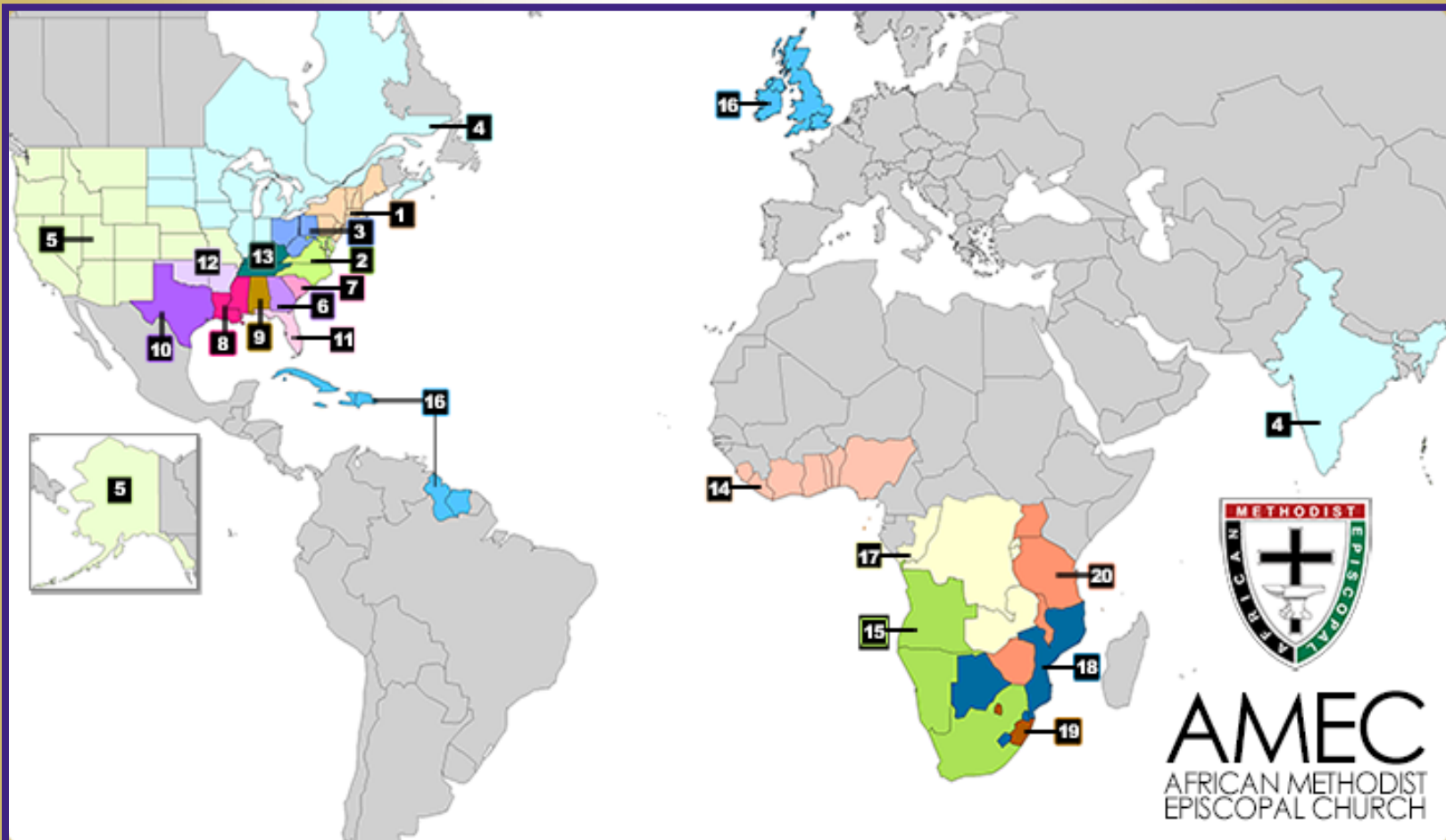
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"LAITY WALKING HUMBLLY WITH GOD, TO DO JUSTICE AND TO LOVE KINDNESS." MICAH 6:8



TOGETHERNESS



AMEC 2021 GENERAL CONFERENCE Together with the CLO-37th BIENNIAL 2021