



# THE CONNECTION

CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

January 2009

**2009-2013**  
**Quadrennial Theme**  
**“Maximizing**  
**Our Mission by**  
**Managing Our**  
**Ministry**  
**Through:**  
**Education,**  
**Evangelism,**  
**Empowerment**  
**and Expansion”**

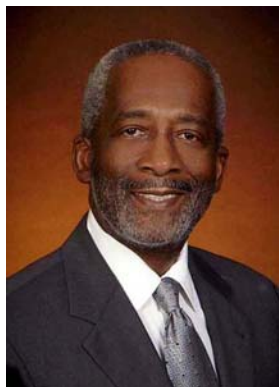
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**Special points of interest:**

- General Conference Legislation
- Lay Council Closing Prayer
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## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



### "Being Christians In A Crisis"

Between today (Dec. 15, 2008), as I write this article, and the time it is first read by anyone in the SOZ/ Connection Newsletter, it is highly likely that members of Zion alone will have increased credit card debt by as much as a billion dollars. It is also highly probable that many members' homes will have gone into foreclosure and jobs will have been lost. Even the doors of some of our churches may have since been closed.

While recent reports about personal and business financial tragedies seem to have reached an all-time high point, most economists will agree that the worse is yet to come.

People at every rung of the economic ladder will see their assets grossly diminished and debt burdens skyrocketed to critical levels while the availability of credit becomes nonexistent. Bankruptcies, foreclosures and defaults on credit obligations will soon be the norm as opposed to uncommon predicaments.

Notwithstanding a divine worldwide miraculous event that will cure corrupted mindsets that focus on and seek after materialistic status symbols, which promote positions of power and superiority over minds and hearts that foster humility towards God's grace and mercy, there is little hope for average people to overcome this devastating crisis. Thank God! Christians are not "average people."

As Christians, we no longer walk in the darkness of greed, lust, selfishness or other ways of the world that destroy people. Instead, we are the salt of the earth and light of the world. We have been trained and equipped for such a time as this to avoid the pitfalls that cause hope to wane and faith to diminish. Our hearts

are set on remaining faithful to our calling and being good stewards of resources that God has provided while always seeking after ways to bring relief to people who are suffering.

Realizing that things will likely get worse before they get better, it remains our task, as Christians, to encourage, support and motivate members of the church and our communities in efforts to make lifestyle adjustments that are necessary for stability and growth. Furthermore, and like never before, I think it is incumbent on us to continually monitor our internal organizational behaviors in order to maintain our Christian integrity. For example, we will be careful not to unwisely over tax the depressed budgets of local churches or its members at the risk of compromising our mission and/or ministries.

Nevertheless, we will not and must not ever forget that we rely on, trust and follow the One who "...took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and broke, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude. And they did eat, and were all filled..."

## GREETINGS ZIONITES:



On behalf of Bishop and Mrs. Warren M. Brown, and the entire Mid Atlantic II Episcopal District we are honored and excited to be your host for the 9<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention of the Connectional Lay Council. Although our area covers seven continents, specifically the Virginia Conference will host you, where the Lay Council President is Mr. Quennon Beatty.

We are making plans to ensure your visit to our area will be a pleasant and memorable one. If you have young children please plan to bring them as we are also making plans for their enjoyment while you are in attendance at the convention. Please visit the website and see the registration form for more information.

Sincerely,

Renee Felton Pullen

Regional Director, Lay Council

Mid Atlantic II Episcopal District

## Important Election and Voting Reminders for Lay Convention

by Stephany Ricks Fields

All offices of the Connectional Lay Council are open for election. Officers to be elected are: President; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Recording Secretary; Financial Secretary; Treasurer, and; Chaplain

Individuals seeking election to an officer position must obtain a Candidate Information Package from the CLC office, which must be completed and returned no later than April 25, 2009. All candidates are required to provide evidence of prior Lay Council involvement at the Local, District and Conference levels along with letters of recommendation from their Pastor, Presiding Elder and Bishop.

Individuals desiring to participate in the voting process at the convention (during the election of officers and/or legislative sessions) must have active membership status with CLC at least 30 days prior to the convention prior (or June 25, 2009). Also, all voting members must be registered with the Convention no later than July 26, 2009.

Please refer to the Connectional Lay Council Constitution and By-Laws for additional information regarding the aforementioned topics.

## EXPLORING FEASIBILITY OF OFFERING ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Persons bringing children ages 3—12, are asked to make that notation on their Registration Form so that adequate arrangements can be made for Children's Activities.

# 9TH QUADRENNIAL LAY CONVENTION

## The Call To The Ninth Quadrennial Convention

The Connectional Lay Council is calling all laity from across this denomination to join us in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Elizabeth River, directly across from the City of Norfolk to Portsmouth, Virginia on July 25–30, 2009. Steering the ship of Zion into Portsmouth is Mr. David A.



Aiken, Sr., President. Mrs. Yvonne A. Tracey, Convention Chairperson along with the Executive Board are planning an innovative and informative program based on the new Quadrennial theme. The 9th Quadrennial Lay Convention theme is *"Maximizing Our Mission by Managing Our Ministry Through: Education, Evangelism, Empowerment and Expansion"* taken from the Bishops Quadrennial address to the 48th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

## The Hosts

The Episcopal hosts Bishop Warren M. Brown and Mrs. Aurelia Brown, along with Ms. Renee Felton Pullen, Regional Director, the Reverend Dr. Edmund Whitley, Sr. host Presiding Elder and the Reverends Joseph E. Lamb, Sr. and Juan Turnes, host pastors along with members of Mid Atlantic II Episcopal are looking forward our arrival.

## A Historic Perspective of the Lay Convention

The Lay Convention is the largest non delegated body in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church with a membership of over 60,000 laity and clergy world wide. The Lay Convention was the brain child of President Emeritus, Dr. Betty V. Stith. She noticed that there were Conventions for the Christian Education Department, Missionary Department and the General Church, but nothing for the laity of Zion to come together and leave equipped for the next quadrennial.



The first Convention was held at the Sheraton Centre, Charlotte, North Carolina, July 14-16, 1977 and the theme was "Come With Us Christ." The Convention Program consisted of the Convention Banquet (now the Dr. Victor J. Tulane Awards Banquet) with the late Bishop George J. Leake III as the speaker, the Challenge Luncheon speaker was the late Bishop William Milton Smith and the Keynote Speaker was the Honorable Rose M. Sanders, Municipal Judge, Selma, Alabama, Bible Study instructor was Dean Yates and School of Laity Workshops—"The Lay Movement in Zion—Understanding It's Mission, Purpose and Program—Sadie Potter, Arthur Brooks and James Hewitt; "Church Polity and Parliamentary Procedure—Lay Persons Responsibility to Know, Albert Stout, D.D. Garrett and M.L. Greene; Come With Us to Christ—The Laity and Evangelism Dr. J. Dallas Jenkins, Dr. Josephine Kyles, Willie L. Aldrich and Jasper McCormick; Zion Church History—Christian Experience from a Black Prospective, Dr. David Bradley, Dorothy Walls, Allie Clark and Dr. Gossie Hudson; Pastor and Lay Persons Together—A Working Team, Dr. Lem Long, Jr., Dr. George L. Blackwell and Reverend William M. White also included was a Bishop's Panel with the following bishops participating: George J. Leake, William Milton Smith, J. Clinton Hoggard, Alfred G. Dunston, Ar-

thur Marshall and William Alexander Hillard.

The Convention National Committee consisted of Dr. C. DuPont Rippy, Chairperson, Dr. Betty V. Stith, Dr. Gossie Hudson, Rosa Alexander, Rosemarie Holmes, Joyce Booker, Jasper McCormick, Sadie Potter, LouJean Lovett and J. W. Greene

## Preview of the Convention Agenda

Resolutions and Bylaws Revisions along with well thought out Lay Academies for Adults and Young Adults are in the planning stages along with a Grand March, Welcome Program, Bible Study, Morning Watch and Plenary Sessions. Retiring officers each having served for eight years are President David A. Aiken, Secretary Mary Matthews, Treasurer Connie B. Williams and Financial Secretary Jerry McCombs. Special Projects will present new items with the Lay Council logo. A limited number of vendors will be on-site.

## Preparing for Legislative Matters

The first draft of the Constitution and Bylaws Revisions is posted on the CLC website [clcamezion.org](http://clcamezion.org). Please take time to download the draft and the first draft comment form. Read the draft and place any changes on the form and following the mailing instructions. The two documents can be found by clicking on the forms tab at the top of the web site home page on the upper right..

## Pre-Convention Activities for Early Arrivals

Two Lay Academies will be offered pre-convention (Saturday, July 25, 2009) one Regional - Mid Atlantic II and one for Young Adults. Also in the planning stages are a Health Fair and free Cultural Event.

## The Convention Hotel

The Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel and Waterfront Conference Center. 23704 Phone 757-673-3000. Hotel Registration: \$ 105.00 plus 13% tax – Event Code: AZNAZNA.

## Registraion

Registration forms can be downloaded at the CLC web site [clcamezion.org](http://clcamezion.org). Early Registration before May 31, 2009 - \$ 195.00; General Registration June 1, 2009 - \$225.00 Registration includes: Convention Bag, Convention Materials, Bishop George J. Leake Prayer Breakfast, Challenge Luncheon, Dr. Victor J. Tulane Awards Banquet and Souvenir Journal. There will be **NO** on-site registration.



## Exploring Feasibility of Offering Activities For Children

Persons bringing children ages 3–12, are asked to make that notation on their Registration Form so that adequate arrangements can be made for Children's Activities.

## Convention Souvenir Journal

Souvenir Journal forms can also be downloaded at the CLC web site [clcamezion.org](http://clcamezion.org). **DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: MAY 1, 2009.** Ad Size and Prices are Front Inside Cover—\$500.00; Back Inside Cover—\$500.00; Back Cover—\$500.00; Gold Border Page—\$250.00; Full Page—\$175.00; Half Page—\$100.00; Quarter Page—\$50.00; Business Card - \$15.00; One Line Entry (20 Words Max) \$10.00. Please add \$10 for each picture.



# 9TH QUADRENNIAL LAY CONVENTION

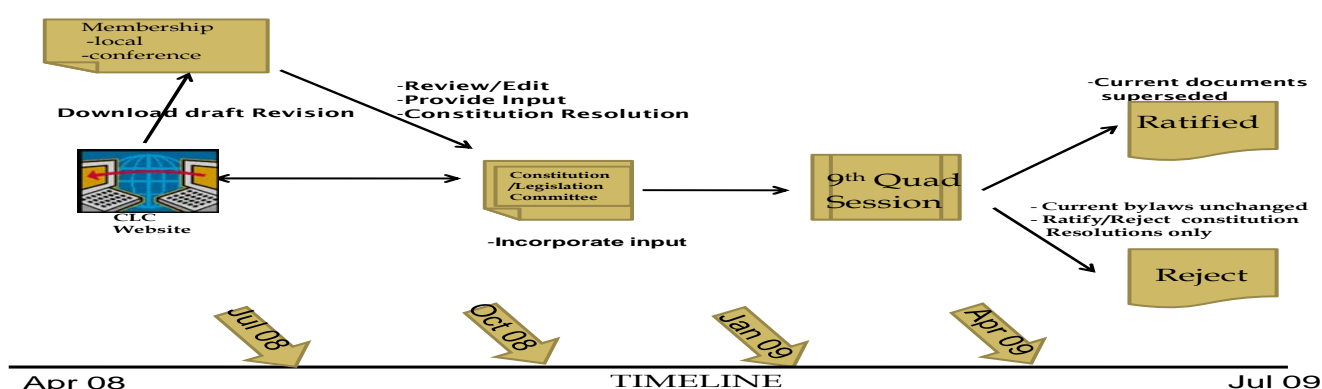
## Ready for CLC Bylaws Revision ?

By Isaiah Flowers, Constitution Revisions/Legislation Committee Chairperson

The bylaws revision work of the Constitution Revision/Legislation Committee is approaching the *final draft revision* of the Connectional Lay Council (CLC) bylaws leading up to the 2009 Quadrennial Convention. The committee will publish its final draft on the CLC website by April 2009 for comments. If you have not downloaded for review the first draft, you still have an opportunity to participate in the process of improving CLC governing statutes, go to [www.clcamezion.org](http://www.clcamezion.org). A goal is to make this revision a model within Zion. It is imperative that we all contribute to this effort to insure that a coordinated document will be presented at the 2009 convention.

Over the past year the committee has solicited input and/or comments across the church, through the Star of Zion, The Connectional, Regional Directors, Convocation and CLC website, to craft a draft revision. The late Bishop George J. Leake, III, challenged the CLC to establish an identity for the laity for the A.M. E. Zion Church. Over the past several quadrennials leadership have done great work in meeting this challenge. He also stated, we must execute a function which has a purpose, meaning, and is designed by us as an organization and is promoted by us down through the ranks as – our thing.” Although CLC presidents have provided remarkable leadership to this end, our governing document has not kept pace. Over the past two quadrennials the general president with his leadership and a viable strategic plan has taken the connectional lay council to a new level. Although the Discipline provides the basic authority the lay council needs to function, our constitution/bylaws are not reflective of the CLC success to date. The members of the 2005 Convention, in New Orleans, LA, recognized this and directed the Constitution Revision/Legislation Committee to draft a revision of the bylaws for actions by the 2009 Convention. The flowchart below provides information on the path the revision must take from draft to adoption/rejection by the 2009 Convention.

### 9th Quadrennial Legislation Process



The committee continues to solicit your support and comments as we fine tune our work in preparation for the convention. The work of the committee along with input from all levels of church will determine the governing document of the connectional lay Council for years to come.

## A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS...THE 9TH QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION AWARDS BANQUET

“Onward Christian laity: Working hard for God, We must tread the same path, that our Saviour trod, We must bear our crosses, But continue on, Knowing at the judgment, We'll receive our crown.” – Charlotte Riggins

This is a question we should not have to ponder...why should the laity who are “Working hard for God” have to wait till judgment day to receive their crown? Let's celebrate them at this moment in time when they can hear our “Thank You” for a charge well done!

This is why one of the highlights of the Ninth Quadrennial Convention will be to honor notable laity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church who have or continue to make significant contributions at all levels of Zion Methodism and likewise in the communities where they reside.

The Quadrennial Dr. Victor J. Tulane Awards Banquet will prove to be an exciting event and full of surprises as we celebrate laity receiving honors for noteworthy accomplishments. We will praise God and rejoice with their family and friends.

This is your opportunity to nominate one or more laypersons from your local church, Presiding Elder District, Annual Conference and/or the Connection that you believe should be recognized for their committed and sacrificial service to humanity. Remember the nomination process for all awards begins at the grass roots level with you.

The laity recognition awards are as follows:

- The Laity Hall of Fame (one per region)
- The Dr. Victor J. Tulane Servant-Leadership Award
- The Dr. Betty V. Stith Trailblazer Award

There are criteria for each award. The criteria are challenging guidelines to assist you in matching up the laypersons that are the best fit for each of the awards. We encourage you to be in prayer as you reflective on the laypersons that you are considering for each of the honors.

The nomination form for each award can be downloaded from the CLC website [www.clcamezion.org](http://www.clcamezion.org) or it can be sent by postal mail or e-mail by contacting the CLC Central Office by calling 704-599-4630 Ex 332.

Let us each become a committee of one and take responsibility to nominate for a well-deserved appreciation a layperson that is “Working hard for God”.

## FAQ\* \*Frequently Asked Questions

### *Better Meetings through Education*

#### [9<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Connectional Lay Council Convention]

By Patricia Lewis, CLC Parliamentarian

(Second of a series)

●The Connectional Lay Council has both a Constitution and Bylaws. What is the difference?

*There really is no difference between the CLC Constitution and Bylaws because the one—the Constitution, which should be the superior document, is not more difficult to change (amend). The **constitution** or the **bylaws**—or both—of a society (CLC) are the documents that contain its own basic rules relating principally to itself.*

*It was formerly common practice to divide the basic rules of an organization into two documents, in order that one of them—the constitution—might be made more difficult to amend than the other, to which the name 'bylaws' was applied. The current Constitution makes no reference whatsoever to the vote required to effect changes to it. On the other hand, the CLC Bylaws provide that "these bylaws may be amended at any Quadrennial Convention by a two-thirds vote. The constitution would generally contain the most essential provisions relating to the first five items: 1) Name of the organization; 2) its Object (Purpose); 3) Members; 4) Officers; and 5) Meetings. In the ordinary case, it is now the recommended practice that all of a society's rules of this kind be combined into a single instrument, usually called the bylaws.*

●How is the voting body of a deliberative assembly (meeting or session such as a conference or convention) determined?

*If an organized society (Connectional Lay Council) has adopted bylaws, look in the Article about "Meetings." The CLC current bylaws that were adopted in 2005 and ratified by the General Conference in 2008, do not provide for determining the voting body of the quadrennial convention; however, the 'draft proposed revision of the bylaws' to be considered at the 2009 CLC convention, do provide under Article VI, Meetings, that "...in the year of the quadrennial convention, all memberships must be paid 30 days prior to the opening date in order to be eligible to vote at the convention. The voting body of the convention shall consist of current members who shall have registered with the convention...A quorum at any convention shall be the majority of the voting members who have registered with the convention...No member shall vote in more than one capacity. There shall be no absentee voting or voting by proxy."*

●How do I make a motion on the floor of the quadrennial convention as a voting member?

*The procedure for handling a main motion is as follows:*

**1. Obtaining and assigning the floor**

*A. A member rises when no one else has the floor and addresses the chair: "Mr. President or Mr. Chairman."*

*B. In a large assembly such as the CLC convention, the member gives his/her name and identification in accordance with the standing rules of the convention..*

*C. The member remains standing and awaits recognition by the chair.*

*D. The chair recognizes the member by announcing his/her name or title.*

**2. The motion is brought before the assembly.**

*A. The member makes the motion: "I move that (or "to")...: and resumes his/her seat if the maker does not wish to speak first in debate.*

*B. Another member, without rising\*, seconds the motion: "I second the motion" or "I second it" or, event, "Second."*

*\*Follow custom or established 'rules' for seconding motions. The name of the 'seconder' should not be included in the minutes of the convention. A second merely implies that the seconder agrees that the motion should come before the meeting and not that he/she necessarily favors the motion.*

*C. The chair states the question (motion): "It is moved and seconded that (or "to")... Are you ready for the question?"\**

*\*The first time the chair asks, "Are you ready for the question?" discussion (or debate) can begin. There is no need to respond to this question by saying "unready" or "ready"—just be at the microphone(s) to speak in debate after being recognized by the chair. If the chair asks the question a second time, it signals that the chair is ready to put the question to a vote—if no member is at a microphone to continue debate.*

Let us understand that much of what we do or say regarding the conduct of our meetings is based on custom or "... because we've always done it that way." Sometimes custom is treated practically as if it were prescribed by a rule of order. However, if such a practice is or becomes in conflict with the current A.M.E. Zion Book of Discipline, parliamentary authority, if adopted, or any written rule of the organization (CLC), and a **Point of Order** citing the conflict is raised at any time, the custom 'falls to the ground.' Objectives of the Connectional Lay Council, in part, are **to disseminate information and expand the denomination through education...** These articles endeavor to expand the parliamentary procedure knowledge of our members so our meetings do become more efficient and effective; and decisions are made based sound doctrine and an informed membership.

The last part of the procedure for handling a motion will be shared in the third and final parliamentary procedure article of this series. If you have a specific question concerning the questions and/or answers in this article, please contact Patricia Lewis, CLC Parliamentarian, by e-mail at [plewis39@alltel.net](mailto:plewis39@alltel.net); or by telephone or fax at (330) 908-3791.

# “FULFILLING THE MISSION OF LAITY THROUGH: PRAISE, WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION” II

BY J. FAIRBANKS LEACH, EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON

Can we talk? About what you ask? Let's try "Praise, Worship and Celebration". Share this occurrence before we chat. My father, somewhere in his 96<sup>th</sup> or 97<sup>th</sup> year, lost his ability to read even a 72 font. This did not lessen his penchant for proclaiming God's Word. He would dictate sermons to me. On one occasion, Daddy said, "Neat", call my pastor, I have a Word from the Lord". Our pastor was gracious to this inveterate gentleman and had said, "Rev. McKay, I won't ask you to preach; you tell me when you have a message and the pulpit is yours". Daddy and the pastor consummated arrangements for Sunday.

Impatiently, with pen and pad in hand, I waited for Daddy's orders, "In bold print write . . . then drop down two lines, place an "A" in uppercase with a period

behind it, etc. Well, when Daddy said, "My subject is, 'You Must Be Born Again'", I was highly disturbed remembering he had used this same subject three months prior to the present date and, three months prior to that date. Well, with my father, you just wouldn't blurt out, "Is this a summer rerun or what?" Armed with rhetorical kid gloves, summoning my most placid voice, and with particular TLC, I reminded Daddy of his previous sermons, only three months apart. His retort cut to the chase and in a raised voice he fired back, "Do you think I'm getting old and senile? I am of the opinion the subject needs further exploration. From all indications, the folk didn't get my point the two previous times!" I ached to ask Daddy if he was being judgmental, but I knew he was probably right. Perhaps now you'll allow me to revisit "Praise, Worship and Celebration".

Some of us think "Praise, Worship and Celebration" in church service is not much different from going to a Music Hall for a concert. Admittedly, there are similarities; we get dressed, travel, assemble with people of a common interest, and sit at relative attention waiting for whatever it is we left home for.

There are several important differences in attending a Concert Hall and a House of Worship. No ticket purchase to go to church, no popcorn and soft drinks are allowed. Most significant is the fact we do not go to Church for entertainment. For some attendees that is the cutting edge. They think the choir, the praise team, and yes, even the preacher is there to "put on church" for their sakes—you know to excite, enthral, shoot up spiritual adrenaline and just plain entertain them. Let me cite another aspect. Our focus should be and must be on God for us to offer up true "Praise, Worship and Celebration". If our trip, in our Jags or on 'Big Yella', is to "Worship, Praise and Celebrate" the Most High King, then our efforts will be productively beneficial, not only to ourselves, but to those with whom we will come in contact. We can witness and genuinely extend the invitation to "Come With Us to Christ".

The writer of *The Covenant Companion*, John Phelan, Jr. wrote, "Worship is not meant to please me, to make me feel good, to meet my criteria, my standards, or my tastes. Worship is for God!" We ought to be energized by and with our "Praise, Worship, and Celebration"; energized ultimately for service to the Most High King and, His people.

The Psalmist wrote, in Psalm 95, an engaging invitation, "Oh Come, let us worship and bow down". He begins with, "Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving". This call to Worship and obedience is to each of "us". Accept the prompting of David as he expresses his heartfelt Praise in Psalm 9:1-3.

We, the ecclesia, the called out body of baptized believers, more particularly, the Laity, know that *when* we have been ushered into a place called Glory, we will, as do the four and twenty Elders, bow at His feet, singing His praises, giving Him thanks, to use modern vernacular, 24/7. Our "Praise, Worship and Celebration" here on earth is a mere prelude to the great praise service when we stand in the presence of the Most High King. May we respectfully suggest that your practice here on earth be genuinely generous. Do you often imagine the awe of being in the presence of the Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace, Mighty God and Savior of the world?

"What A time, What A Time!"

Dennis Fisher offers that when we join with vibrant worshippers in the House of the Lord, we experience an echo of paradise on earth.

## THE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER REPORTERS

The Editor of the Connection is urging the laity across Zion to submit news to be published in The Connection. Each Episcopal Area has a representative whose name is listed below. Please contact them with your news. Thank you.

PIEDMONT—Lele Davis [ipsivade@bellsouth.net](mailto:ipsivade@bellsouth.net)

NORTH EASTERN—Joyce Harrington [Jhat17@aol.com](mailto:Jhat17@aol.com)

EASTERN NC—Frances Jones [watson5565@aol.com](mailto:watson5565@aol.com)

MID ATLANTIC II - Delores Lancaster [Dlancaster674@aol.com](mailto:Dlancaster674@aol.com)

MIDWEST- JoAnn Collins

MID ATLANTIC I—Charlene Nash [charlenenash@sbcglobal.net](mailto:charlenenash@sbcglobal.net)

ALABAMA-FLORIDA - Alesia W. Ross [leestigul@yahoo.com](mailto:leestigul@yahoo.com)

SOUTH ATLANTIC - Christine Trigg [CTRIGG1023@aol.com](mailto:CTRIGG1023@aol.com)

SOUTHWESTERN DELTA—Lena Golden [lenabgolden@aol.com](mailto:lenabgolden@aol.com)

## The Young Adult Initiative-Headed to the Next Level

by Yvonne Baskerville

Members of the Steering Committee for the Young Adult Initiative are pleased and excited to report that, since the official "kick off" at the Convocation in March 2008, considerable progress has been made toward development of a comprehensive ministry for all of Zion's Young Adults. Essentially, the Initiative involves a partnership between the CLC, YACM and YAMS having three major objectives.

The Reverend Dr. Raymon Hunt, Dr. Barbara Shaw and Mr. David A. Aiken have discussed and agreed upon the importance of developing a strategic plan for training, equipping and mobilizing Zion's young adults for ministry to a greater level. Collectively, they've identified a team of individuals who compose a Steering Committee that will bring such a plan to full implementation.

The Steering Committee is composed of Mrs. Yvonne A. Tracey, CLC 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Mrs. Yvonne Baskerville, CLC Young Adult Initiative Chair, Mrs. Dawn Walker, General Coordinator of YAMS, Mr. Jason N. Spigner, Chairperson, Young Adult in Christian Ministries (YACM) and Rev. Lester Agyei McCorn, Pastor of Pennsylvania Ave. A.M.E. Zion Church and Director of Young Adult Ministries (YACM). Rev. Alyce Walker, Pastor of Full Gospel A.M.E. Zion Church and President of Rhema Consulting along with Mr. Timothy Johnson, President of TENJ Consulting are serving as consultants.

Key objectives of the plan are aimed at doing the following: (1) Retain and develop young adult leaders in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; (2) Increase young adult presence and participation in the A. M. E. Zion Church through the CLC, YACM and YAMS, and; (3) Energize young adults interest in

and commitment to Zion.

Presently, the committee is engaged in various outreach and marketing activities that are aimed at garnering "buy in" from the young adult target population. Young adult representatives from all Episcopal Districts have participated in the development of a web based survey in which hundreds of young adults will be asked to respond to questions about their needs, aspirations, and interests. A survey web site ([www.amezyoungadultsurvey.org](http://www.amezyoungadultsurvey.org)) is scheduled to be launched for this purpose on January 5, 2009.

There is also extensive dialogue underway about how to market interest and participation by Young Adults in the initiative and at the CLC Convention which will be held in Portsmouth, VA, July 25-30, 2009. A cohort of young adult representatives is being identified to work closely with Mrs. Yvonne Tracey on program planning for young adults at the Convention, as the plan calls for young adults being fully engaged in the development and implementation of the aforementioned objectives by the time they leave the convention.

If more information is desired about this important initiative, please contact Yvonne Baskerville by e-mail at [eyb1022@yahoo.com](mailto:eyb1022@yahoo.com).

## AT LAST - RESOLUTIONS THAT IMPACT LAY REPORTS

### Resolution #: GC48R-27

#### *Title: Lay Council Reports to Annual and District Conferences*

**WHEREAS**, The General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church directs that there shall be a Lay Council for the purpose of deepening the spiritual life of the Laity (Chapter XI, Par. 649); and

**WHEREAS**, There shall be organized in each Annual Conference a Lay Council (Chapter XI Par. 652); and

**WHEREAS**, There shall be organized in each District Conference a Lay Council (Chapter XI Par. 653).

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:** The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, CHAPTER IV, PAR. 159, "The business of the Annual Conference..." II Reports, Item 5, be amended to read as follows, "Of District Officers of Missionary Societies, Conference and District Officers of Christian Education and of Conference and District Lay Council Presidents"; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT:** The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, CHAPTER V, PAR. 168, Item 5, "Then shall follow reports:", be amended to read, "Reports from the District Lay Council Presidents"; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT:** The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, CHAPTER V., PAR. 162, be amended to reflect that the composition of The District Conference includes District Lay Council Presidents.

Submitted By: Executive Board – CLC

### Resolution #: GC48R-29

#### *Title: Amendment to the Duties of the Lay Delegate*

**WHEREAS**, The Lay Delegate is required to report to the District and Annual Conferences on the Lay activities in the Local Church, thereby strengthening the role of the Laity in the Local Churches; and

**WHEREAS**, The General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church directs that there shall be a Lay Council for the purpose of deepening the spiritual life of the Laity...(Chapter XI, Par. 649); and

**WHEREAS**, "There shall be organized in each local church a Lay Council..." (Chapter XI, Par. 654).

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:** The Book of Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Chapter Six, par. 168 V (3), be amended to read "that from the each lay there shall include in their report the (1) existence or non-existence of an organized and active local Lay Council and (2) on the lay activities in the local church, thereby strengthening the role of the laity in the local churches; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT:** The Book of Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Chapter Five, par. 155, "The rights and privileges of the laity are permanently and effectually secured through...be amended to conclude that "Their privilege shall be restricted to making known to that body (1) the existence or non-existence of an organized and active Lay Council and (2) on the lay activities for strengthening the role of the laity in the various charges from which they are elected."

Submitted By: Executive Board - CLC

## REGIONAL NEWS

**NORTH EASTERN EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**  
**The Right Reverend George E. Battle, Jr.,**  
**Presiding Prelate**

**Mrs. Marie H. Baxter, Regional Director**  
**WESTERN NEW YORK CONFERENCE**  
**BY JOYCE HARRINGTON**

**BUFFALO DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

The Western New York Conference held its Lay Academy on October 18, 2008 at the People's A.M.E. Zion Church, Syracuse, NY. The Rev. Daren C. Jaime was host pastor.

The Academy focus was on our theme: Praise Worship & Celebration. Mrs. Yvonne A. Tracey, 1st Vice President of the Connectional Lay Council conducted the workshop. For many of the lay persons this was their first Academy. The Academy covered the Purpose of the Lay Council, This was given to us in a written exercise that had the participants wanting more information. Other topics dealt with the structure of the lay council, effective lay councils, memberships, equipping the laity for service in Zion and the value of assessment.

Remarks were given by: Rev. Daren C. Jaime, Bro. William Bulow, Conference President, Bro. Carl Lovelady, Chairman of the Board of Lay Activities, Rev. Robert L. Graham, Presiding Elder of the Buffalo District and Rev. Errol Hunt, Presiding Elder, Rochester/Sycause.

Mrs. Yvonne Tracey also gave the Laity message on Sunday October 19, 2008 at the St. Luke A. M. E. Zion Church, Rev. Robert L. Graham Pastor/Presiding Elder of the Buffalo District.

**MID ATLANTIC II EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**

**The Right Reverend Warren M. Brown,**  
**Presiding Prelate**

**Mrs. Renee Felton-Pullen, Regional Director**

**LAY MESSAGE AT CONTEE AME ZION CHURCH**

**LAITY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2008**

**BY DEVIN WALKER, SOCIAL/POLITICAL ACTION CHAIRPERSON**

**LAY COUNCIL – MID-ATLANTIC II REGION**

I come to you today as the Social & Political Action Chairperson of the Lay Council for the Mid-Atlantic II Region. This position was created to keep the Lay Council informed about matters of society that challenge the social wellness, courage and response of Christians. On this day which has been set aside within our denomination to highlight the work and achievements of the Laity within the AME Zion Church, I would like to take a few minutes to introduce to you a positive action campaign in honor of one of the greatest lay members of the AME Zion Church, Paul Robeson.

Born in 1898, Robeson first won national fame as a football superstar at Rutgers University. Then he gained international fame as a concert singer and actor in starring roles on stage and screen. He was the Michael Jackson and Michael Jordan of his day, an international star who was loved throughout the world. And then, suddenly, the spotlight was switched off. This blackout was the result of a boycott of Robeson by the Establishment that was meant both to silence him and to deny him any opportunity of making a living. All doors to stage, screen, concert hall, radio, TV, and recording studio were locked against him.

But what is even worse, during his persecution, the church as a whole sat silently by and in some instances, distanced themselves from him and his convictions. Why? Because he said that he believed in Peace; because he condemned U.S. aggression abroad; because he said that he loved Africa and linked their struggle with our struggle for freedom in the U.S.; and because he expressed his belief in the principles of Scientific Socialism

In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, our forefathers recognized Africa as our home and a place we would eventually return when free. This is why our church became known as the "African" Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 1820. However, for many different reasons, our forefathers realized that going back to Africa had many challenges that made that possibility unrealistic.

Consequently, they slowly began to strive for equality as American citizens, with the idea that they will be able to help Africa when needed. Meantime, however, American Blacks learned from their environment to think less and less of Mother Africa and those living on the continent. They learned little of its history or its present conditions. They began to despise the colored races along with white Americans and to acquiesce in color prejudice.

In the meantime, as they began to obtain certain rights through constant and prolonged protests and struggles, it came at a huge price. In exchange for freedoms in America, we had to join in with American businesses in their exploitation of Africa, Latin America and other regions throughout the world. From approximately 1850 to the early 1900's, many of our leaders of that day had become patriotic Americans, imitating white Americans almost without criticism.

But, people like Robeson, did not change. He spoke out for the poor and oppressed in Africa, Europe and America. He could not be bought or controlled. Therefore, the U.S. State Department labeled him a "Communist" to scare people away from him similar to how most recent political candidates accused their rivals as being "Terrorists" to scare voters away. But, our church history shows that we did not collectively stand up to support Robeson in his time of need.

Of course, Robeson is only one of many examples of how we were silent when we should have displayed a collective voice. Our history shows that the more so-called freedoms we gained in this country, the more silent we became on social/political issues. In short, the Freedom Church has been silent on many social/political issues.

But, we cannot simply look to put this blame on ministers of our great denomination. As a group, the clergy makes up less than 10% of the church; which means that approximately 90% of the church is made up of Laity, people like you and me. We, much too often, place all of the responsibility on our pastors. It is not fair to expect them to also take on these social/political issues. It is our responsibility to work with our clergy, hand in hand, and so we can say in one collective voice, "Move Satan, Get Out of Our Way!" Our clergy needs us and we need them.

## REGIONAL NEWS

Therefore, in honor of Laity Day throughout our denomination, the Social/Political Action Committee has put together a campaign entitled, "The Paul Robeson Break the Silence Campaign!" The objectives of this campaign are:

1. To develop a Paul Robeson Work/Study Group that will study the life and work of Robeson and how he used his faith to impact the world.
2. To develop a social and political action platform that will outline what we would like to see the next President of the United States implement while in office. We will outline what we, as a church, will do to help ourselves, as a part of our post election responsibilities.
3. To increase the active membership of the Lay Council within the Mid-Atlantic II region by 50% in one year by having each lay person fill out a one-page information sheet, identify one social/political issue that they are most passionate about, and pay their \$5 annual dues.

### MID ATLANTIC I EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

**The Right Reverend Louis Hunter, Presiding  
Prelate**

**Mrs. Helene Zacharias, Regional Director**



**John V. Williams** was born on September 13, 1924 in Westwood, New Jersey. He and his family moved to Hackensack at the age of twelve. He completed his education in the Hackensack Public School System. He worked in the shoe industry for many years and Universal MFG Co. in Paterson before accepting a job at the Ford Motor Company in Mahwah, NJ. He was employed there until it's closing in 1989. After his retirement unable to stay sedentary he began a new career working for the Board of Education in Rivervale, NJ progressing to Head Custodian.

John loved the Lord and was a dedicated, faithful member of Williams Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Passaic, NJ, where he worshipped for over twenty-five years. He served as a Steward, a Trustee and with the Men of Varick Ministry. He was also a lifetime Lay Council member of the Jersey City District Council, and a Patron Member of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society. Before joining with Williams Chapel he was a member of Park Ridge A.M.E. Zion Church now called St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church in Westwood, NJ for thirty years, where he served as the Preacher Steward.

He was well known in the North Jersey community as a poet and orator. In October 2008, he was awarded a plaque from the Jersey City District of the A.M.E. Zion Church, honoring him as Poet Laureate. John also received the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Award from the City of Paterson on January 22, 2008, in observance of Black History Month.

John V. Williams age eighty-four of Patterson, NJ, transitioned to eternal life on Saturday, November 1, 2008 at St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic, NJ.

John was predeceased by his parents, Kelly and Dillie Williams; two brothers, Kelly and Alvest Williams; two sisters Rose Beckford and Gladys Bailey.

John is survived by his loving wife of fifty-six years, Beatrice and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. John eulogy was delivered by her pastor, Reverend W.E. Lawson



**Loretta Bradley** was born August 13, 1957 in Ellore, South Carolina.

Loretta was a long time resident of Passaic, New Jersey. Loretta took the Lords' hand at Williams Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Passaic, New Jersey at an early age. She was a **faithful** member where she served on the Usher Board, Mass Choir and Missionary Board. She was a Class Leader, former Trustee and President of the Jersey City Lay Council of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Loretta loved to sing and would minister through song any chance she got. She was a member of many local groups and choirs.

She was a product of the Passaic Public School system, after graduating Passaic High School, she continued her education at William Paterson College where she received her BA in Elementary Education. She returned to the Passaic School system as a teacher, sharing her passion for children at William B. Cruise Memorial School 11, where she taught 4th and 6th grades, Ulysses S. Grant School 7 where she taught 2nd and 1st grade and Thomas Jefferson School 1.

On the Passaic County Educational Association Loretta was 2nd Vice President and served on the Executive Committee as well a Chairperson of Government Relations.

On the Education Association of Passaic (EAP) she was a Delegate At Large for over 20 years and Chairperson of the Family And Schools Together (FAST) Committee, member of the Legislation Committee and Instructional Council Committee.

Loretta was a Delegate to the National Education Association Convention for seventeen years. She served as Chairperson of the Social Welfare Convention Committee, the Political Action Committee and Co-Chair of the County Minority Involvement Committee and member of the State Pension Committee (TEPS)

Loretta was a member of the James Elm Elks in Passaic, NY, Passaic NAACP and a former officer of the Passaic County Democratic Party.

On Saturday, November 1, 2008 at 6:16 p.m. Loretta lost her valiant battle with cancer at Hackensack University Medical Center, Hackensack, New Jersey.

She was welcomed into heaven by her mother and father Ned and Mary Lue Bradley, sisters, Virginia Bradley Matthews and Virginia "Poochie" Sumter also brother Thomas Sumter.

Loretta leaves to celebrate her life: niece, Myisha Sumter; son set by God, Eric Ellen (Hackensack, NJ); spiritual daughter, Minister Jennifer Thompson (Patterson, NJ); spiritual son, Marcel Watts (East Orange, NJ); four sisters, Georgia L. Snowden (Thomas) of Newark, NJ, Ella M. Tilley (Jimmie) of Norwalk, CT, Joan B. Irving (Joseph) of Indianapolis, IN and Shirley Thompson (George) of Columbia, SC; three brothers Henry Sumter (Gloria) of Patterson, NJ, Willie E. Bradley (Tracey) of Passaic, NY and Barry A. Bradley (Dawn) of Royal Palm Beach, FL' brother-in-law Edgar Matthews III; special friend Pernel Watts; sister girls Joyce Ellen, Maureen McGowan and Gloria McKinney; cancer journey partner, Mary Kerr; and a host of Godchildren nieces, nephews, cousins, other family members and friends..

Loretta eulogy was delivered by her pastor, Reverend W.E. Lawson.

**CLC Website**  
**www.clcamezion.org**

Remember to use the Lay Council Closing Prayer

Oh, God, our Father, pour out your steadfast love upon us and keep us in your care, now and forever more. Amen.

Written by Miss Mildred R. Faulkner New York Conference

## CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OFFICE

### ADDRESS

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### HOURS

TUESDAYS—11:00 AM—6:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS—11:00 AM—6:00 PM

704-599-4630 EXT. 332

### **The Way of the Gentiles!**

*A New Book By Devin Walker*

I am honored to share with you my latest book, *The Way of the Gentiles!* My first book, *"An Appeal To The African Church In America: Beware of False Profit\$,"* was published in 2002 by African World Books. The mission of my latest work is to help advance the struggle for freedom and unity among African people worldwide by making my contribution toward the *Social Gospel*, which applies Christian principles toward social problems, including poverty, homelessness, inadequate healthcare, racism, sexism, inferior education and military industrial intelligence police complex activities.

Is it merely an accident that Jesus the Messiah came into the world shortly after Rome, the first worldwide Gentile superpower began to conquer Europe, Asia and Africa? Why did Jesus instruct His disciples to "go not into the way of the Gentiles" but "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel?"

In *The Way of the Gentiles*, I draw from the Holy Bible, historical and geographical documents, religious theory and political ideology to explain the true identity of the Gentiles and the lost sheep of Israel along with biblical prophecy concerning their role in modern events. I provide a missing link between these prophecies and current political-economic events that is needed to understand the Western world's domination over much of the earth.

*The Way of the Gentiles* challenges a commonly accepted but unproven Biblical interpretation about the origin of the Gentiles that has contributed to generations of people developing inferiority complexes. I not only provide specific actions that Christians and non-Christians alike can take to counter "the way of the Gentiles," but also provide hope to a generation that has been neglected and ignored.

Who are the Gentiles and what is their way? You may be surprised by the answer.

For more information and to purchase a book, go to [www.churchappeal.com](http://www.churchappeal.com)