

Connectional Lay Council

of

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

Eighth Quadrennial **Strategic Plan**



Quadrennial Theme

Fulfilling the Mission of Laity Through:

Enlightenment-Leadership-Stewardship-Praise, Worship and Celebration

David A. Aiken, Sr., General President
Bishop Clarence Carr, Chairman
Board of Lay Activities

Table of Contents

	Page
The Foreword.....	1
The Mission Statement.....	2
The Connecting Links & Purpose.....	3
The Initiatives & Goals	
➤ Preparation for Ministry.....	4
➤ Ministries.....	5
➤ Quadrennial Events.....	6
The Quadrennial Events – Dates & Locations.	8

The Foreword

As servants of the Most High God, and disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ that are guided by the Holy Spirit, the vision of the Connectional Lay Council of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is to prepare the lay members of our denomination for a life of service in the Kingdom of God.

We will do this by:

1. Developing ourselves and others as Christian disciples;
2. Helping others to know, worship and follow Christ in spirit and in truth;
3. Collaborating and cooperating across organizational, institutional and denominational boundaries to minister to the masses.

Our motto "Come with us to Christ" is the impetus for implementing ministries that are positive in transforming people's lives spiritually, socially and economically; in promoting fellowship with God and other believers, as well as those who are not saved. We affirm our belief that no one is too old, too young, too rich, too poor, too saved or even too lost to benefit from the ministries offered by the Lay Council.

Membership in the Lay Council is not a prerequisite to benefit from the Lay Council's ministries. However, all laity in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church are strongly encouraged to catch the vision for Christian Leadership, Accountability, Stewardship and Christian Service so that, together, we might usher in the Kingdom of God through the A. M. E. Zion Church.

The Eighth Quadrennial Strategic Plan is aimed at fulfilling our organizational mission as mandated by our denomination and may be shared with all Christians whose mission it is to bring souls to Christ. Our labors must always be Christ-centered and performed respectfully in cooperation with church leaders on every level. We must always recognize and work closely with our partners in ministry in order to achieve results that are holistic in nature.

While the initiatives and goals that are set forth in this plan are especially directional for the Connectional Lay Council' Executive Board, results will be fruitless without acceptance and active participation by Lay Council leaders at all levels. This plan must not, however, be viewed on any level as a deterrent from implementation of new or continuation of existing programs that encompass our basic objectives.

Unified efforts, full commitment and dedicated performance on the part of every Elected Officer, Regional Director, and Committee Chairperson who serve on the Executive Board of the Connectional Lay Council are required and expected in order that the objectives of this Eighth Quadrennial Strategic Plan are met.

The Mission Statement

The mission of the Connectional Lay Council of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is to prepare and equip laity for life discipleship in the Kingdom of God by maintaining effective ministries that evangelize, encourage and edify laity.

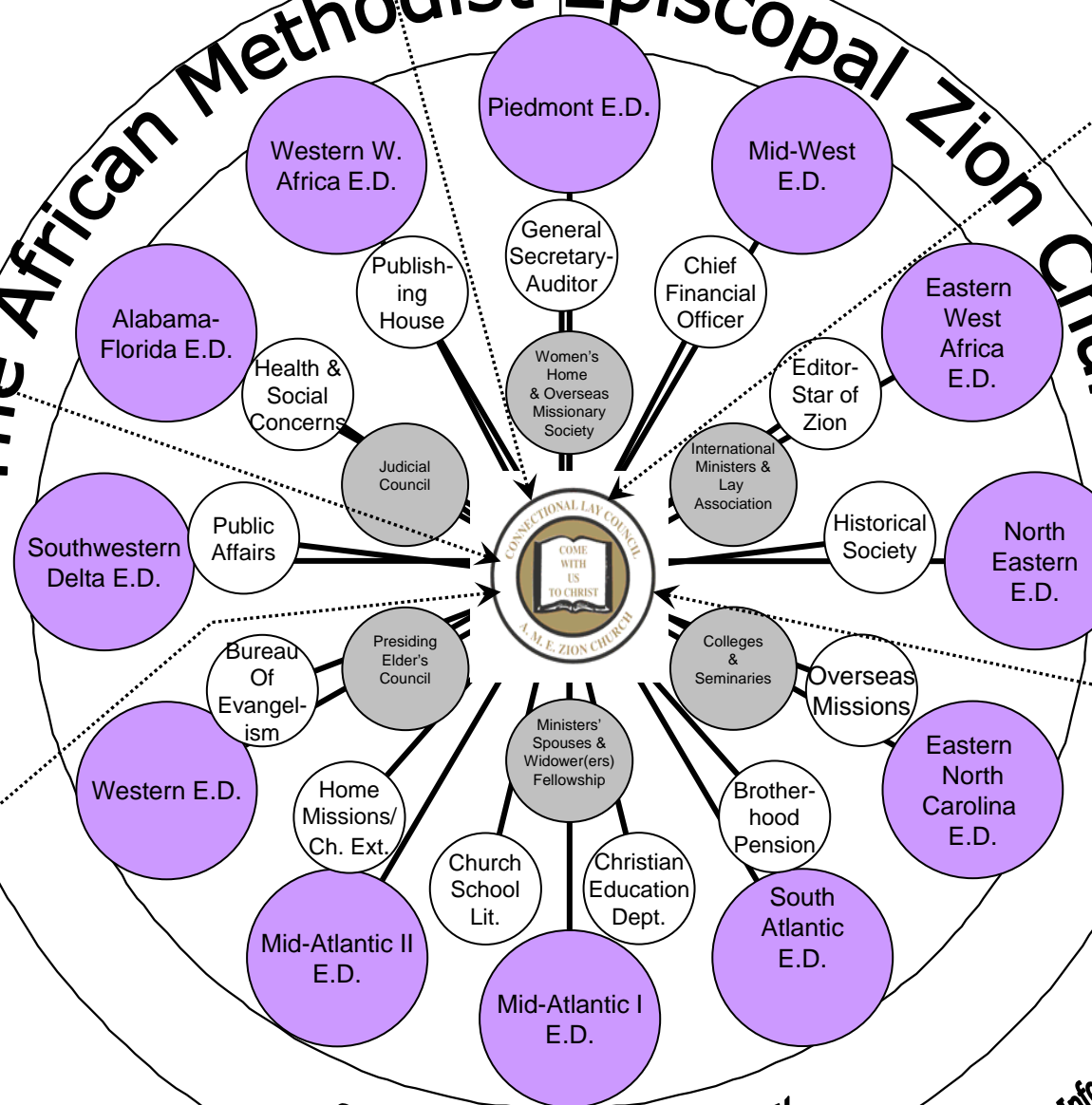
THE CONNECTING LINKS & PURPOSE

Deepen the Spiritual Life of Laity

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

*Promote
Any Other Interest
of the
Kingdom
of God*

*Cultivate
Loyalty
Denominational*



*Expand the Denomination
Through
Education and Evangelism*

Disseminate Information

Connectional Council

PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY				
INITIATIVES	GOALS	LINK TO CLC OBJECTIVES	MEASUREMENTS/ TARGETS	CHAMPION(S)
Compile and publish Lay Council history	Building greater awareness about the History of the Connectional Lay Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deepen the spiritual life of the laity •Disseminate information •Cultivate denominational loyalty •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Draft completion date - July 2008. •Distribution date – July 2009. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •History Committee – Rosa Alexander, Chair
Conduct annual Regional, Conference, District and Local Lay Academies	Increased awareness about value and rewards of establishing and maintaining effective Lay Ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deepen the spiritual life of the laity •Disseminate information •Cultivate denominational loyalty •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Minimum of one Lay Academy per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Regional Directors •Education Committee - J. Fairbanks Leach, Chair •Yvonne Tracey, 1st VP
Develop, secure and distribute Lay Council pamphlets and branded paraphernalia that delineate Lay Council's purpose and image.	Stimulate greater interest in and connectedness to the organization's existence, purpose and mission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deepen the spiritual life of the laity •Disseminate information •Cultivate denominational loyalty •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Availability of materials and products at various Connectional, Regional, Conference and District meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Education Committee – J. Fairbanks Leach, Chair •Special Projects Committee – Loretta Goff, Chair •Yvonne Tracey, 1st VP
Partner with Department of Evangelism to develop and distribute education tools that teach and train the laity for Evangelistic ministries - having a special focus on local church officers	Equip, edify and encourage laity for active participation in evangelistic ministry at the local church level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deepen the spiritual life of the laity •Disseminate information •Cultivate denominational loyalty •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deign and development of tool completed by June 30, 2006 •Mass distribution start date Sept. 1, 2006 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Education Committee - J. Fairbanks Leach, Chair •Yvonne Tracey, 1st VP
Fashion a partnership model for sustaining interconnected and continuing ministries with other departments, especially the W.H.O.M.S., Christian Education Dept. and Dept. of Evangelism. (4)	A more cohesive use of resources, gifts and talents for carrying out the church's mission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deepen the spiritual life of the laity •Disseminate information •Cultivate denominational loyalty •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Conduct 1t strategic planning meeting by Sept. 2006 •Organize combined Connectional venture with respective departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •David A. Aiken, Sr., •Yvonne Tracey, 1st VP

MINISTRIES

INITIATIVES	GOALS	LINK TO CLC OBJECTIVES	MEASUREMENTS/ TARGETS	CHAMPION(S)
Grow Bishop George E. Leake, III Scholarship Fund	Provide continuous financial support for A.M.E. Zion students who are attending Hood Theological Seminary and committed to entering into the ordained ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Disseminate information •Cultivate denominational loyalty •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	•\$40,000 in new funds raised by July 2009	•Bishop George Leake, III Scholarship Committee -
Formulate and implement approved proposal for philanthropic commitment associated with becoming a Life Member in the CLC.	Enhanced intrinsic value of becoming a Life Member in the CLC by endorsing and identifying with specific philanthropic projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Disseminate information •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	•Proposal due June 30, 2006	•Membership Committee – Jessie M. Riddick, 2 nd VP, Chair
Devise and implement operational matrix that edifies, encourages and recruits youth and young adults for ministry through the Lay Council.	Development of youth and young adults for advancement into the CLC ministry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deepen the spiritual life of the laity •Disseminate information •Cultivate denominational loyalty •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Executive Board approved written plan by July 2006 •5000 Young Adult members by July 2009 	•Young Adult Committee – Yvonne Baskerville, Chair
Advertise and Promote events that Inform people about Lay Ministries, Health and Social Concerns	Regularly and consistently keep members and public informed about health and social concerns, Lay Council events, services and initiatives that equip and edify laity for service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deepen the spiritual life of the laity •Disseminate information •Cultivate denominational loyalty •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bi-monthly publication of “Connection” newsletter. •Submission of monthly articles about lay ministries to Star of Zion for publication in Laity Speaks column. •Frequency, accuracy, and current relevance of all newsletter, articles and Website content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Communications Committee – Rhandi Stith, Chair and Editor of Laity Speaks Column •Convocation Committee – Yvonne Baskerville, Chair •Social and Political Concerns Chair – Queen DeGraphenreid, Chair Yvonne Tracey, 1st VP

QUADRENNIAL EVENTS

INITIATIVES	GOALS	LINK TO CLC OBJECTIVES	MEASUREMENTS/ TARGETS	CHAMPION(S)
Prepare and oversee execution of program for Quadrennial Evangelistic Retreat	Equip, edify and encourage laity for active participation in evangelistic ministry at the local church level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deepen the spiritual life of the laity •Disseminate information •Cultivate denominational loyalty •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	Minimum of 200 registered attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Yvonne Tracey, 1st VP •Communications Committee – Rhandi Stith, Chair and Editor of Laity Speaks Column
Prepare and oversee execution of program for Eighth Quadrennial Convocation	Convene an assembly of laity and clergy primarily for purposes of providing enlightenment forums for discussing General Conference procedures and legislative issues, meeting & evaluating candidates for the Episcopacy and General Officer positions, and exploring relevant religious and social concerns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Disseminate information •Cultivate denominational loyalty •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	Minimum of 500 registered attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Convocation Committee – Yvonne Baskerville, Chair •Communications Committee – Rhandi Stith, Chair and Editor of Laity Speaks Column
Prepare and oversee execution of program for Eighth Quadrennial Convention	Convene a convention that advances the CLC's operational effectiveness, stimulates constituent interest and participation, edifies members and otherwise promote goals for lay ministry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deepen the spiritual life of the laity •Disseminate information •Cultivate denominational loyalty •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	Minimum of 1000 registered attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Yvonne Tracey, 1st VP •Communications Committee – Rhandi Stith, Chair and Editor of Laity Speaks Column

OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

INITIATIVES	GOALS	LINK TO CLC OBJECTIVES	MEASUREMENTS/ TARGETS	CHAMPION(S)
Oversee campaign to organize more local Lay Councils	Established Lay Councils in every local church throughout the USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deepen the spiritual life of the laity •Disseminate information •Cultivate denominational loyalty •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percentage of churches in each Episcopal District having established Lay Councils: <p>Benchmark of 75% by July 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Regional Directors •Membership Committee – Jessie M. Riddick, Chair
Draft and publicize resolution for revision of CLC By-Laws to be acted upon at the Eighth Quadrennial Convention	Provide greater clarity and interpretation in governing statutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Disseminate information •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Outline draft due July 2006 •1st completed draft due July 2007 •Final draft due July 2008 •Publicize by August 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Constitution Revision/Legislation Committee – Isaiah Flowers, Chair
Develop revenue plan for presentation to and approval for implementation by the CLC Executive Board	Maintain adequate position of solvency to cover operating expenses and fulfill philanthropic ambitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Disseminate information •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	Minimum ratio standards: Current = 2.1x Income/Expenses = 1.5x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Finance Committee – Trubbie Leeper, Chair •Budget Committee – Joyce Reid, Chair
Extensively distribute Connectional Lay Council Handbook & Study Guide	Educate members about structure, history, operations and ministry objectives of the Connectional Lay Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deepen the spiritual life of the laity •Disseminate information •Cultivate denominational loyalty •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	•Regional sales results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Regional Directors •Special Projects Committee – Loretta Goff, Chair •Yvonne Tracey, 1st VP
Increase operating revenue from inventory sales of Lay Council products and materials.	Enhanced fiscal support for operational and ministry objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Disseminate information •Cultivate denominational loyalty •Expand the denomination through education and evangelism •Promote any other interest of the kingdom of God 	•Minimum of \$10,000 generated annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Special Projects Committee – Loretta Goff, Chair •Regional Directors •Yvonne Tracey, 1st VP

The Quadrennial Events

- Lay Council Evangelistic Retreat
 - *Dates:*
 - *Location:*
- Lay Council Convocation
 - *Dates:*
 - *Location:*
- Lay Council Convention
 - *Dates:*
 - *Location:*