



THE CONNECTION



RHANDI M. STITH, EDITOR

"MAXIMIZING OUR MISSION BY MANAGING OUR MINISTRY:
THROUGH EXPANSION"

CELEBRATING CONNECTIONAL LAY SUNDAY

Connectional Lay Council Observance Day

Sunday, October 21st, 2012*

"Maximizing Our Mission by Managing Our Ministry Through:
Education, Evangelism, Empowerment, and Expansion" with
emphasis this year on "Expansion"



The third Sunday in October, the anniversary of the denomination, is known as Connectional Lay Sunday when the laity is given special privilege to develop connectional interest. All Pastors are asked to support and encourage efforts by the laity to heighten and promote the Lay Ministry of our denomination.

2012 Lay Sunday Offering Appeal - Please mail your contributions to: Connectional Lay Council Office, Post Office Box 26770, Charlotte, North Carolina 28221 and put on the outside of the envelope "Offering Appeal". All contributions will be published in a future issue of The Connection.

Lay Sunday might be a good time to kick off and/or culminate your membership drive.

*According to Discipline this should be the third Sunday in October. If the third CONNECTIONAL LAY SUNDAY Sunday in October is not available, any Sunday during the month is permissible.

From The Desk Of The General President



Why should I feel discouraged.....

His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;

Laity, we should count this time as our finest hour in and for Zion!

The true sign of a committed and faithful laity is evidenced in our rising to higher heights when it appears that our backs

are against the walls of the many individual and collective challenges at all levels in Zion.

First, let me congratulate all who have helped to push the mission and objectives of the CLC higher heights. For the past three years we have increased memberships; changed from "workshops" to implementing the Lay Academy; elected, as opposed to appointing our local, district and conference officers; showed up in increased numbers to connectional meeting and participated in the drafting of several resolutions for the General Conference. The voices of Zion's Laity are reverberating as they have not done in recent times. More importantly, I sense that we are more conscience of our role as strategic partners with the ordained clergy in fulfilling the mandate to make disciples for Jesus Christ through our ministries. Although, these changes are evident in many areas of Zion, in too many areas we still

have a long ways to go.

Pressing on us now is the opportunity to close out this quadrennial in grand style. Starting with this very moment we must consider ourselves to be in the Pre-Lay Quadrennial Convention wind-down mode. To this end, we need to focus strategically on the following action items:

1. Planning a noteworthy celebration of Connectional Lay Day as we make it a goal to win over somebody to "Come with Us to Christ".
2. Collect and send the Lay Sunday offering to the CLC Central Office post haste.
3. Ensure every viable church in Zion have at least three names on the CLC Membership roll. (Pastor, Trustee and Steward Board Chairs.) It only counts if you send in the portions allocated to the district, conference and connectional levels.
4. Plan to register and attend the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention in Montgomery, AL. July 27 - August 1, 2013.
5. Mentor our youth, young adults; evangelize, encourage and edify our local church families.
6. Develop an informed and loyal body of laity in the local church, district and conference through the dissemination of good information.
7. Extend your hands of support and prayers to all departments in Zion and especially to the Board of Bishops. Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. -Proverbs 3: 5-6

Lay Sunday Offering Appeal 2012-2013 We Care: Expanding and Building Empowering Lay and

Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my territory!"... God granted his request. (NIV)

As the president of the Connectional Lay Council I am happy to announce that the Executive Board recently adopted another area of focus for the Lay Sunday Offerings to align the contributions received with the current theme component expansion from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013. Plusing-up the Giving to Plus-up the Out-Reach through Expansion

It is the vision of the General President with the full support of the CLC Executive Board, to financially aid the efforts of the newly elected Bishops in support of launching their vision for the areas to which they were assigned. We are also sensitive to the mission conferences that continue to wave high the banner of Zion in areas with great potential for growth if just given the financial encouragement as they work through their strategic plans for wining souls for Jesus Christ and providing ministries to people who are not privileged to be located in contiguous areas of Zion.

It is the goal of this president to collect a representative amount of funds to share with the new Bishops that have been assigned to EWA and WWA who will embark on their extended travel in October and November of this year. We would like to complete the other donations at the seat of the Winter Meeting of the Board of Bishops in Houston, TX.

The funds will be allocated to meet the needs of two areas, international and domestic.

We need to give back to the faith communities of Zion with a gesture of tangible love that we pray will inspire and empower the local congregations to move forward.

Therefore, it is important that all churches receive a special offering on Connectional Lay Sunday and with a sense of urgency forward it to the Central Office in Charlotte, PO Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221.

The Financial Goal:

The most we have raised in Lay Sunday Offerings is \$7,000.00. Given the opportunities that lie before us I am challenging the laity to raise \$15,000.00. I know that we can do this! God blessed Jabaz and we must claim our blessings by expanding our outreach for the cause of mission ministries.

Prayerfully pulsing-up you're giving to plus-up our outreach so God can use our sacrifices to perform miracles. With your generous financial support it does not yet appear the difference CLC can make in Eastern West Africa, Western West Africa and Domestic Mission Conferences.

"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38 (NIV)

UBUNYE... (African)"we are one"

Yvonne A. Tracey,

General President of the Connectional Lay Council

Expansion

by **Yunorma Moore, Secretary, C.L.C. Education Committee**

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.

When we equip people we help them and ourselves. The stronger their faith the better suited they are to handle what they deal with each day. Their prayer life becomes more of a "Have a little talk with Jesus" than a chore. There should be a time when we want to read our bible rather than a time when we have to read our bible. Our interest grows in what is in the Good Book, the inspiring, uplifting, encouraging, strengthening, informative written Word that is inspired by Him. This equipped person becomes a better steward of their money and time. That peace that He gives is received, that joy that no person can take from us unless we let them is now theirs. We, having shared our faith, the people to whom we have witnessed will tell someone else the Good News because it comes easy from the inside and just spills out like spring water. If each one reaches one, just one, 10 would be 20, 50 would be 100. This is growth, Expansion, but there are other forms of Expansion.

To expand our Churches, we must be open to changes in our communities and make concerted efforts to welcome different families regardless of race and culture. Our service is not only to be done in the Church but in the community. Who is in our community, what do they need, how can we be of service? Is this the year our church has a "give away day" instead of a yard sale. Does our community need more baby clothes this year or was it the back to school supplies? Do we live in a senior community where we took one (1) day, just one (1) a month to see if someone needs their grass cut, for free? Matthew 6 1-4. Mark 10: 42-45. Do you think they would remember the service done for them when they gathered at the Senior Center? Maybe, they might enjoy a ride to church some Sunday. Seniors share also, some have quite a few gifts but we will not know if we never "Have a little talk" with them.

Expansion comes in many forms, it is growth in people, it is the branching out of our Church, it is using our gifts, and it is sharing The Word, it is growth in our communities and all for His Kingdom and to the Glory of God. Let us Expand our motto, "Come With Us to Christ".

Component # 4 – Expansion 2012 - 2013 – taken from the CLC Thematic Theme Guide

Points of Emphasis –

Enlarging our perspectives in Kingdom
Building will enhance peoples of Zion
Methodism and raise the bars over the length and breadth of the Church. Expansion in Service, Stewardship, Discipleship, Prayer, Integrity, Dedication, Common Life, Faith, Witnessing and love will manifest the Church as God would have it be.

We will be empowered to plant new Churches and build them to the Glory of God, thus Expanding Zion to the far corners of the world.

Scriptures –

Genesis 12:1-3

I Samuel 2:10

Matthew 5:8

Matthew 6:1-6

Matthew 16:18-019

Mark 10:42-45

John 10:27

John 14:13-14

Acts 1:1-4

Acts 1:8

I Corinthians 12:27

Ephesians 2:8-9

I Timothy 6:17

Choral Selections –

Hymns – “Onward Christian Laity”

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Anthems – “Let Mount Zion Rejoice”

“God Is”

Spirituals – “Guide My Feet, Lord”

“This Little Light of Mine”

Gospels – “I Want to be A Follower”

“Sanctuary”

Contemporary Gospel – “Total Praise”

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The power to make it better.

Call the Connectional Lay Council

Office for further information. 704-599-4630

CONNECTIONAL LAY SUNDAY

(*suggested Orders of Service for Connectional Lay Sunday)

TRADITIONAL ORDER OF THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Procession

Processional Hymn

Call to Worship

Choral Response

Invocation—Almighty God, whose compassions fail not, and whose loving kindness reaches into the world's end; We give You humble thanks for the Light of Your Truth; For making paths in the deep waters and highways; and for planting your Church in all the Earth; Grant, we beseech You to send unto us Your Holy Spirit; that with lively faith we may labor abundantly; To make known to all people Your blessed Gift of Eternal Life through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

Choral Response

Hymn of Worship

Responsive Reading

Leader should request that Responses should come alternately from his/her left and right by the congregants)

Leader: The hour comes and now is when the true worshippers shall worship the Lord in spirit and in truth; for the Lord seeks such to worship Him.

Left Side: We praise You Father, that You have met us along the way with mercy and love and new life in Christ.

Right Side: Through Faith with praise and dedication we offer ourselves.

Left Side: We thank You for our responsible calling, to maintain the faith, to be stewards of life in Your Kingdom.

Right Side: Help us to maintain this faith and to be good stewards of all You have placed in our care.

Left Side: Motivate us to develop our faith and skills and to use them in accord with the teachings of Jesus the Christ.

Right Side: We thank You for the privilege of serving You and Your children

Left Side: Make us determined so to use the gifts and talents given by You, and yes, our bounty – that future generations are not robbed by our irresponsibility.

Right Side: We thank You Father, for this empowerment through faith, also for the families we have.

Left Side: Teach us to be mindful of each other's needs and each other's worth. Being blessed by Your Love, we will exemplify it with our brothers and sisters.

Right Side: We thank You Father, for our Church families, for the rich gift of our heritage, traditions and culture.

Left Side: We are grateful for those who left a legacy of Worship, Praise and Celebration and for those persons who sacrificially paved the paths we now trod.

Right Side: Grant us the spirit of Christ, in all of our undertakings, to be mindful of the needs of others and to be instruments of peace at home, in our Church and our world.

Left Side: We thank You for the opportunity to be conduits of Your Word through our diversities.

ALL: We humbly accept the privilege to issue our clarion call, "Come With Us to Christ", to erring men, women, boys and girls. Thank You for accepting as Your children. Help us to ever lift high

Gloria Patri

Scripture Lesson

Prayer

Choral Selection

The Apostles' Creed or An Affirmation of Faith (formerly Laity Creed)

Announcements

Ministry of Kindness Offering

Lay Council Theme Hymn

"Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah"

Presentation of Lay Sunday Speaker

Hymn of Mediation

Lay Sunday Message

(The Minister or an A.M.E. Zion Lay Person)

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Altar Prayer and Rededication of Laity (Renewal of Church Membership/Baptism Vows)**

Offerings (Regular and Special Connectional Lay Council Offering)***

Offertory

Recessional Hymn

"Onward Christian Laity"

Recessional

Benediction

* According to Discipline this should be the third Sunday in October

** The entire congregation is asked to join in.

*** Each local Lay Council is asked to take up this special offering and mail it to the Treasurer c/o Connectional Lay Council Office Post Office Box 26770, Charlotte, North Carolina 28221 and put on the outside of the envelope "Offering Appeal".

CONNECTIONAL LAY SUNDAY

(*suggested Orders of Service for Connectional Lay Sunday)

CONTEMPORARY ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude:		
Call to Worship:	(Based on Psalm 26)	Worship Leader
Leader: We love the habitation of God's House!		
People: We Love the place where God's Glory dwells!		
Leader: Let us therefore stand with integrity and walk on level ground!		
All: And let us bless God in this assembly!		
The Doxology:	"Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow"	(Gospel Version)
Opening Hymn:	"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"	No. 82
The Word Read:	Psalm 23 – The Message - NCV	(in unison)
Petitions to the Master:		Lay Council Chaplain
Prayer Chant:	"Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome In This Place"	
The Apostles Creed:		
The Passing of a Blessing:		(Fellowship Time among Members)
Praise Song:	"Let the Church Say Amen!"	
The Offering:		
General Offering & Lay Appeal		Treasurer
Praise Song:		"What A Mighty God We Serve"
Offertory:		"Bless Thou the Gifts"
Worship Songs:		"We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise"
Celebration:		"Lift Up Your Head, O Ye Gates"
The Message:		A Lay Person
The Call to Discipleship:		The Pastor
The Hymn of Discipleship:		"Come Unto Jesus"
Remarks:		Lay Council President:
Observations:		The Pastor
Closing Hymn:		"Go Ye Now In Peace"
The Benediction:		(in unison)

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with
Your most gracious favor,
and further us with Your continual help,
that in all our works,
begun, continued, and ended in You,
we may glorify Your Holy Name, and finally,
by Your mercy, obtain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen and Amen.

LITANY FOR REDEDICATION OF LAITY

READ RESPONSIVELY

Lay Leader: As Laity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, we REDEDICATE OUR SELVES to serve God, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and humanity.

Laity: By deepening our Spiritual Life.

Lay Leader: As Laity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, we REDEDICATE OUR SELVES to disseminate information.

Laity: By gathering and sharing information about our heritage, traditions, and the mission of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Lay Leader: As Laity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, we REDEDICATE OUR SELVES to be true to God and our denomination.

Laity: By cultivating our loyalty to God and The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Lay Leader: As Laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, we REDEDICATE OUR SELVES to expand our denomination.

Laity: We are committed to expanding our denomination through education of ourselves and others; by evangelizing to the unsaved and promoting any other interest of the Kingdom of God.

Lay Leader: Today we REDEDICATE OUR SELVES TO the objectives and purpose of the Connectional Lay Council of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Laity: Today, we REDEDICATE OUR SELVES to be faithful to God, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and to the mission of the Church of Christ universal to make disciples.

Adapted from The Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church by Katherine S. Burrell and Yvonne A. Tracey.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS SHARE CREATIVE WAYS TO CELEBRATE CONNECTIONAL

SANDRA WILLIAMS
PIEDMONT REGIONAL DIRECTOR

1. Lay Council Ministry Fair- held with different booths displaying the work of the Lay Council(educational materials, special projects etc.) serve oreo cookies and lemonade
2. Lay Council birthday party with all the trimmings(cake and ice cream)
3. Ask Church School to let you use the time for The Laity Church School Hour(information piece or an academy.
4. A Night with the Laity - movie cinema(topic of interest) Spaghetti etc. or just popcorn and soda
5. Lay Day parade- in the community floats could depict lay ministry floats and marshal could be the local president if done by a church or conference/district president or all three.
6. Lay jazz night, inside a fellowship hall
7. Jazz under the stars(using a jazz group from within the churches or community.

KATHERINE BURRELL
MID ATLANTIC II REGIONAL DIRECTOR

1. Worship Service led by the Laity with a Lay Speaker
2. Lay Fellowship Luncheon
3. Lay Recognition Day, to recognize outstanding leadership in the local church, district and conference.
4. Historical presentation of the local church and/or the CLC. Who has the most pictures and willing to share them?
5. Pastor and Lay dialog session, discussing issues concerning Spirituality Stewardship and Service
6. Membership Drive
7. Church Life Sunday, all ministries have a display table to show and tell how/what they do to support the Life of the Church
8. Convocation/Lay Academy to introduce the theme for the coming year.

MARIE H. BAXTER
NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR

1. Regular service with Lay Speaker
2. Lay weekend activities:
 - Friday – Involving Young Adults;
 - Saturday – Recognizing Lay persons and contributions they've made;
 - Sunday – Tea
3. Special Lay Activities using the five objectives – Role playing with dialogue and examples carrying out the theme
4. Special program using the history of the Connectional Lay Council depicting past and present presidents.

STEPHANY FIELDS
SOUTH WEST DELTA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

1. Seven Super Salads Sunday - Lay officers bring their favorite salad to share with the laity in fellowship and prayer for a healthy productive year.
2. Make if Take it Lay Sunday - Make a list of resolutions designed to make your local church prosperous and productive in soul saving this year. Take your list to the altar in joint prayer.
3. Lay Sunday - L-ove A-ll Y-ear Sunday - Choose a local charity or organization that your lay council can support this year. Set aside a Sunday to especially show love to them through fellowship and offerings.
4. Take it Away Lay Sunday - Organize a team in your local church to sponsor a neighborhood cleanup on your church block. Offer a laity index cards to write down the trash in their lives they would like to get rid of and burn it in a symbolic service. Offer a special prayer at the altar.
5. Lay Game Day Sunday - Invite laity to wear their favorite team jersey or lay T-shirt and bring a favorite snack to share with each other as you rally for a renewed spirit to encourage soul saving and success!

DR. W. EDWYN BAIRD
EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

1. Lunch and Learn (training session) following Morning Worship Service.
2. Invite a youth or young adult to be the Lay Day speaker (District or Conference youth Council President or one of the officers/ or a young adult in your district or conference).
3. Each department in the Local Church recognize a lay person for outstanding contributions to the Church during a black and gold Lay Luncheon.
4. Black and Gold Lay Day Retreat, (at the beach or Local Park) and observe Lay Sunday with a message from a Local Church Lay Officer, using the CLC theme component "Expansion".
5. Know Your Church Panel Discussion -Topic: "Expanding the Church through Lay Ministry" (explore the lay persons responsible in growing the church; using the tools set forth in the Lay Council Handbook; or sections of The Book of Discipline).

REGIONAL DIRECTORS SHARE CREATIVE WAYS TO CELEBRATE CONNECTIONAL

GLEND A CANTEEN DAVIS

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

1. Marshall Jones Lay Day Appreciation Dinner - A Tribute Honoring our Senior Laity
2. Unity Prayer Service (local/district/conference wide) Honoring our Lay Members
3. Voter Registration Neighborhood Canvas
4. Calling Post to Membership (to make sure that everyone is registered to vote - including those who are sick and home bound, to encourage early voting)
5. Rally to solicit volunteers to "Take a Member to the Polls" (offer transportation, etc..)
6. Life Member Stoling Ceremony
7. Packing Party for an upcoming Medical Mission trip to Liberia
8. Dial/Lever 2000 Soap Drive (ask members to bring their bar soap to church, to help the lay ministry collect bars of soap to donate to the women incarcerated in state prisons)
9. Pastors/Ministerial Staff host a Cookout/BBQ Appreciation for the Laity
10. Hospital and Nursing Home Visitations (sharing gifts of a cd player and a copy of our CLC Meditation/Hymnody)

LYNDA BYRD

MID WEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR

1. Speaker - Greater Walters Chicago Lay Council has invited Dr. Joyce Ester, President of Kennedy-King College in Chicago to speak on Laity Sunday.
2. Lay Council Members conduct the Sunday service.
3. Special Lay Council Academies on Sunday afternoon
4. Initiate a service project on that day. (If the deadline for Voter Registration has not taken place this would be a perfect opportunity to unite Social Political Action and Laity Sunday.
5. Highlight the work that lay members do in the church. Last year the ministerial staff of Greater Walters congratulated and thanked the laity by presenting them with special laminated cards with the words "A Proud Lay Member of Greater Walters A.M.E. Zion Church." They also gave a special tribute during the service.

ISAIAH PICKNEY

ALABAMA/FLORIDA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

1. Membership Blast. 1st week in October, Poster contest among children and youth encouraging members to join. Give 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place prizes.

2. Lay Academy with emphasis on the Laity Trivia in the form of TV Game Shows:

1. Jeopardy
2. Are you Smarter Than a 5th Grader
3. Essay Contest - Maximizing Our Mission by Managing Our Ministry- Expansion Award Prizes
4. Oratorical contest among Adult members of the District, based on biographical information of past and present Lay Council Presidents.
5. Display in prominent area of the church Lay Council resource materials and Special Projects articles available for purchase.

RYNETTE NIXON

WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR

1. Recognition of: Oldest CLC Member, Youngest CLC Member, Longest Standing CLC Member, Newest CLC Member, Newest CLC Life Member, Oldest CLC Life Member
2. Have a Stoling Ceremony
3. Have The Children, Youth, & Young Adults involved in the worship service
4. Have a fund raiser 'Soul Food' luncheon

SAMPSON COLEMAN

WESTERN WEST

AFRICA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

- A) We have proposed to our Conference Presidents to launch the celebration the Sunday preceding the day.
- B.) The celebration program will start from Friday afternoon with a roundtable discussion (topic yet to be decided)
- C) Saturday is devoted for communal service (with option to clean up church premises, hospital, schools, parsonage or any public place)
- D) There will be donations to our hospitals and other institutions
- E.) Sunday will mark the official celebration with fund raiser.

THE CHAPLAIN'S VISIT WITH FORMER CLC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER TED SHAW

It was a sunny day on Thursday by Charles Montgomery, CLC Chaplain
 Tennessee with the temperature around 100 degrees. I ar-



rived at the Graceland Nursing Home at 1:00 p.m. where I met with Mrs. Job Ann Smith who is a member of Warner Temple A.M.E. Zion Church and the caretaker for the Shows. After exchanging greetings we headed to Room 800 in the facility. I had read about Ted Shaw and was excited that I would finally get the opportunity to meet him. After arriving at Room 800 and going inside, Ted Shaw and his lovely wife Margaret Shaw were sitting in wheel chairs next to each other. Mrs. Smith introduced me to the Shaws and I don't know who was more excited, Ted or myself. We talked about



the just concluded General Conference. To my amazement Ted was very informed on the activities and many results from the Conference. It was my intention for the visit to five to ten minutes. I had planned to take a few pictures, pray and share some encouraging words. To get right to the point, I spent the next one hour and thirty minutes with Ted Shaw as we reflected on the Lay Council from the very beginning to the present. It was like being in a college lecture. I was the student and Mr. Shaw was the professor. For a person of 92 years his mind was clear and memory was just as clear. When I left the facility I could have started writing a book with the knowledge I gained from the visit. I will now share some of this knowledge and information with you.

Mr. Theodore Essex Shaw was born on November 20, 1920 in Pope, Mississippi. He graduated from high school in Batesville, Mississippi and Hampton Institute. The Shaws have one son, Raymond and Ted had a sister, Christine Majied who was also a resident at Graceland Nursing Home before going home to be with the Lord.

He lived in Chicago, Illinois for 29 years where he worked

While in Chicago Ted became a member of Greater Walters A.M.E. Zion Church in the 1940's and was a faithful member for many years. While at Greater Waters he was on the Steward Board for about a year and served as chairman of the Trustee Board for 12 years.

At Greater Waters Ted chaired the committee that wrote the first history of the church for its centennial in 1975. The committee would work late into the night and he never allowed anyone to leave until the task for that evening was complete. He left a legacy with that work that continues to build on at the church. As President of the Chicago District Lay Council he served as the director of the district's annual Black American History seminar. He was the idea man for



the seminar topics and its director. Ted was a genius in this area and brought to the table his love for the history of the African American and his desire to keep that history alive. Ted was a true leader. The work that he was able to get out of the presenters was phenomenal. One might say "it can't be done" but Ted would respond with "Let's just get the job done."

Ted served the Connectional Lay Council for more than 40 years. He served on the Executive Board for many years. For over 10 years Ted was the writer for Laity Speaks which was in the Star of Zion. He had many more accomplishments. He was one of the original inductees into the Connectional Lay Council's Hall of Fame. Ted served as the first Michigan Conference Lay Council President. He also served on the Legislation, By-laws and Convention planning committees. Being one of the founders of the Chicago District Lay Council he continued his work with the Chicago District Lay Council until he moved to Memphis. He traveled to all Lay Council conventions and conferences until his health prohibited him from doing so. In later years Lynda Byrd who is the current Midwest Regional Director traveled with him.

I also learned that Ted Shaw was the nephew of a Bishop. Ted Shaw is truly a dedicated lay person who has made his mark in the Lay Council. I also want to thank Lynda Byrd and Joann Smith for their contribution provided for this article.

Contact information for Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Shaw is:
 Graceland Nursing Home
 1250 Farrow Road - Room 800
 Memphis, Tennessee. 38116
 Phone number is (901) 332-7290

SPREAD OUT! THINK BIG!

by J. Fairbanks, Education Committee Chair

Hallelujah! We've just entered into a brand new Quadrennial and I've been doing some 'wool gathering' about several things regarding the Church of my choice and in particular, the Lay Council. Of course, when one 'wool gathers', one does not have to be sequential. Having said that, let me share some of the things paramount in my mind. You and I, for some three plus years, have been blessed to Maximize Our Mission by Managing Our Ministry Through: Education, Evangelism, and Empowerment and, now we are privileged to put our focus on Expansion.

In 2009 we began the marvelous theme journey with great enthusiasm and interest. It is my sincere hope that each of us Maximized our best efforts to exhaust the topics of Education, Evangelism and Empowerment. I believe in our just trying to do so we may have made a small indentation into the hearts and minds of our constituents. I know we did not succeed as these topics are inexhaustible. However, just trying should have fitted us as humble architects and generous purveyors in Kingdom building.

You and I made a serious entreaty for Empowerment from the Most High King and then with His blessings raised high the clarion call, "Come with us to Christ"! We made an earnest effort to Evangelize men, women, boys and girls who yet trod the primrose path. If indeed we did this, we epitomized the old Gospel song, "I'm On the Battlefield for My Lord". Once the call was answered, you and I surely used every available means to Educate and equip those whose lives we were privileged to touch. We then plied our craft as leaders to enlighten those who were new as well as those already in the fold. If we did this, we found ourselves blessed beyond measure.

Tempus 'has fugited' and the hour is upon us and we are now implementing our final 2008-2012 quadrennial component, Expansion. My bing defines Expansion as the process of enlargement: process of increasing something in size, extent, scope, number . . . let me call our attention to Isaiah 54:2 where it is written, "Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings: Do not spare your cords, and strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left, and your descendants will inherit the nations, and make the desolate cities inhabited". What a Word! Eugene Peterson in the Message interprets this passage with, "Spread out! Think Big!"

Briefly, let's wrap our thoughts around "Spread Out! Think Big!" as we look at Expansion. Should we begin by enlarging our Prayer life? "... men ought always to pray, ..." Read Luke 18:1. Consider these essential parts of prayer: Adoration, Confession, Supplication, Intercession, and Thanksgiving. Can we expand these parts seriatim for self-improvement so that we might better serve God's people? The Expansion of our study of God's Word will benefit us and all God's children. In our Study Guide we refer to the Bible as our GPS, God's Positioning System. Remember II Timothy 2:15? "Study to show yourself approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Note from The NKJV Joshua 1:8 . . . This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. God's Commission to Joshua continues . . . For then you will make your way prosperous, and then

you will have success. Will following this commission today expand our efforts in Kingdom building? I believe I hear a resounding, "Yes!"

Think of Expansion in the presentation of our bodies as a living sacrifice that Paul talks about in Romans 12:1? What Kingdom building benefits will be had if we exercise a broader measure of patience, increase our being more kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, and if we enhance our rejoicing in hope? Paul admonishes us to not be lazy; be fervent in spirit; serving the Lord. When we extend the scope of these conditions, we can, with firm resolution, say, "Come with us to Christ".

Consider I Thess. 5:17 that encourages rejoicing and praying. "Spread out! Think Big!" Eugene Peterson's translation . . . "Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens." What if we erase the self-imposed gloom and smile from ear to ear with sincere joy in Jesus the Christ? One of my Bible Study students shared with us, just last week, that by necessity she had to enlarge the place of her tent and stretch the curtains that hung at the windows allowing her to better view her God and that she spared not the cord and was forced to strengthen her stakes. She suffered with a problem of such magnitude that it brought her intense sorrow that she, like Susan Wesley, prayed over it so much that calluses' formed on her knees. What if you and I expand our prayer life before trouble comes so that we might already be in tune for the storms as well as blessings of blue skies from the Most High King? What if the cross is so heavy and painful that it buckles our knees? Being on them is a good place to be while expanding our relationship with God. Oftentimes He suffers our circumstances to pinch so as to get our full attention. My father lived by this philosophy, "When the sun is shining and the skies are blue, make regular and fervent prayer deposits in the Bank of Heaven. When the days are dark and dreary and trouble tosses you around like a buoy, and your are next door to being comatose, make fervent prayer deposits". I'm reminded of a First Sunday in 1946, when my father was smitten by Peritonitis while administering Holy Communion. By dusk he lay on a virtual death bed fighting for his life. He later stood in that same pulpit and testified how he felt God had reached into his 'prayer bank account' and crossed out illness and put in favor for his wellness. Our Expanded prayer life will benefit not only ourselves, but those with whom we live, work and worship.

Would you agree that our Church would be more productive with an Expansion of our Christian integrity? What if we live mindful of this maxim, "Christians don't do anything that is mediocre"? It is so necessary that we move into a mode of Expansion across the board. We cannot afford to abdicate our place with the Son of God and give in to mediocrity in Kingdom building. James Varick, our founding father, could not spell abdication. Believe it or not, Moses was meek but he was not weak. Mathew quotes Jesus, "Look on me for I am meek and lowly in heart". I just heard this: "Meekness means power under control". Yes, I am suggesting we ought to enlarge the area of our meekness and let the power of God direct and strengthen and Empower our lives. Should we do this, our perseverance, our dedication,

See *Spread Out*.pg 16

VOTING INFORMATION

by Queen DeGraffenreid, Social Political Action Committee Chair



HOW WE MUST VOTE Voting Is A Life-Time Commitment

10 Ways To Ensure That All Members Are Registered To Vote

1. Provide each eligible new member with a voter registration form upon joining the church.
2. Re- register members when there is a change of physical address.
3. Re-register members when there is a name change, i.e., marriage, divorce or legally name change.
4. Register young members when they become eighteen (18) years old. High school graduation is a good time to reach this group.
5. Register members as they become naturalized citizens of the United States. Our churches are becoming more diverse.
6. Ensure that older, home bound and assisted living residents' voter registrations are current. Voting methods available to them, such as curbside and early voting, may vary from state to state.
7. As members temporarily relocated for college, military duties, employment or other advantages, provide them with absentee voting information with ballot receipt dates for absentee voting.
8. Designate a Political Action/Voter Empowerment Team (or committee) to promote voter empowerment and awareness on an on-going basis.
9. Members should be informed of the specific benefits and gains that have been achieved as a result of voter participation.
(Example: See #10 below)
- 10 Members should be reminded of the sacrifices made by our ancestors for the right to vote, and of the strides that we have achieved as a result of voter participation. These achievements include over 10,000 Black elected officials, and 6,000 Hispanic elected officials since the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

IMPORTANT VOTING Stats and Facts

- 132,645,594 persons voted in the 2008 Presidential Election. 90,732,693 persons voted in the 2010 Mid-term Election. This is nearly 42 million fewer, or 20.5% lower than the 2008 Election.
- In 2010, six of 10 eligible voters did not go to the poll for the mid-term election.
- In 2012, 220 million Americans are eligible to vote.
- 25 million young people and new citizens will be eligible to vote now.
- In 2008, close to 5 million voting age American could not vote due to felon disenfranchisement laws in 35 states.
- Some 34 states introduced legislation that would require voters to show photo identification in order to vote. More than 21 million citizens, 11% of all Americans, do not possess a government-issued photo ID. Abide by the current laws for the state you are voting in.
- At least 12 states introduced legislation that would require a birth certificate or passport as proof of citizenship to register

or vote. Most current state laws only require proving residency by presenting a utility bill or bank statement. Abide by current state laws.

- At least 13 states have introduced bills that would end Election Day and same-day voter registration.
- At least 9 states introduced bills to reduce early voting periods and 4 tried to reduce absentee voting opportunities, measures that would seriously impact the right of seniors and armed service personnel

Loss Vote Summary – 2008 Mid-Term Election

Voter Registration Issues	3 million (+)
Disenfranchised Ex-Offender	1 million
Voting Machines/Ballot Design	3-500,000
Long lines & Poll Procedures	250,000 (+)
Voter Registration Issues	3 million (+)
Disenfranchised Ex-Offender	1 million
Voting Machines/Ballot Design	3-500,000
Long lines & Poll Procedures	250,000 (+)

TOTAL "Loss"Votes Over 8 million

Source: www.NonProfitVOTE.com, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

VOTING INFORMATION

by Queen DeGraffenreid, Social Political Action Committee Chair

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DAY -
NOVEMBER 6, 2012

MAXIMIZING OUR POLITICAL POWER:

Power Concedes Nothing Without A Demand. It Never Did and It Never Will – Frederick Douglass

WHY We Must Vote - Let's Hear It From The Leaders and Legends!!

- "The right to vote is the basic right without which all other are meaningless. . . I have the privilege and solemn duty of enforcing this law." Eric Holder, US Attorney General
- There is no Negro (Black) problem. There is no southern problem. There is no northern problem. There is only an American problem. . . about this there can and should be no argument. Every American citizen must have the right to vote. President Lyndon B. Johnson (1965)
- "We live in a world which respects power above all things. Power, intellectually directed, can lead to more freedom. . . It has always been my first concern that this power should be place on the side of human justice." Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune (1955)
- "We must do more than register, and more than vote; we shall have to create leaders who embodies virtues we respect, who have moral and ethical principles that we can applaud. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- If American women would increase their voting turnout by 10 percent, I think we would see an end to all the budget cuts in programs that benefit women and children. Coretta Scott King, Civil Rights Activist
- Our children, our jobless men, our deprived, rejected, and starving fellow citizens must come first. For this reason, I intend to vote 'NO' on every money bill that comes to the floor of this House that provides any funds for the Department of Defense. The Honorable Shirley Chisholm, Congresswoman
- If you don't vote, you are irrelevant to the process... Only by engaging, engaging, engaging and engaging, can you make things happen. Rev. Jesse Jackson
- As Negro [Black] voting power increased, Congress got an improved sense of hearing. Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, Intellect and Activist
- The real servant of the people, then, will give more attention to those to be served than to the use that somebody may want to make of the right of citizens of the United States to vote to serve them. Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Historian
- The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridge by the United States or any state. . . on account of race, color or previous conditions of servitude.

15th Amendment – United States Constitution

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention
July 27-August 1, 2013
Montgomery, Alabama

SAVE THE DATE!

Embassy Suites Montgomery
Hotel & Convention Center
300 Tallapoosa Street • Montgomery, Alabama

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa
at the Convention Center
201 Tallapoosa Street • Montgomery, Alabama

HEALTH NOTES FROM COZZIE

by Cozzie Watkins

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a vector-borne disease. The virus is not spread person-to-person by casual contact, but via mosquito bites. The potential spread through organ transplants or blood products has not received adequate research and data to make a definitive determination. Illness can range from mild fevers which are rarely lethal. The evasive neurologic disease can present as meningitis, polio-like paralysis, and brain infection (encephalitis). The states with greater than 100 cases should take special precautions to prevent standing water and other conditions that support the reproduction of the mosquito.

The disease is thought to have originated in Africa. The first detected in the United States was in New York City in 1999. The more than 70 percent of cases reported in the United States this year have been from Texas, South Dakota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Michigan per the CDC. West Nile outbreaks tend to be unpredictable and hard to track. Nearly three times the reported cases and deaths from WNV has already been reported nationally this year. Hot temperatures, rainfall amounts, and

ecological factors such as the bird and mosquito populations have to align just right to trigger an outbreak like the one this year. Research on the long term affects of the virus is in progress.

Human disease cases reported to CDC

State	Neuroinvasive disease cases	Non-neuroinvasive disease cases	Total cases*	Deaths	Presumptive viremic blood
Texas	526	531	1057	46	58
Louisiana	88	59	147	10	27
South Dakota	47	97	144	2	31
Mississippi	70	72	142	4	7
Michigan	99	37	136	6	29
Oklahoma	78	51	129	8	33
Ohio	44	26	70	2	12
Minnesota	24	28	52	1	23
Nebraska	12	34	46	1	16
New York	20	9	29	3	9
Maryland	13	12	25	2	10
Wisconsin	11	8	19	2	3
North Carolina	4	0	4	2	1
Totals	1,405	1,231	2,636	118	385

Suggestion for protecting yourself from exposure:

Aerate ornamental pools and water gardens or stock with fish and use a circulating filter system (the fish will eat the larvae)

Avoid areas of high mosquito activity

Clean rain gutters to allow water to flow freely

Avoid unnecessary outdoor activities at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active

Turn over wading pools, wheelbarrows, wagons and carts when not in use. Flush water from bottom of plant holders twice a week

Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and hats when concerned about mosquito exposure

Turn garbage can lids upside down and make sure trash receptacles are empty of water

Replace water in birdbaths at least twice a week

Use an EPA-registered insect repellent according to package directions

Fix dripping faucets

Remove old tires or drill drainage holes in tires used as playground equipment

Part 2 Next Month Q & A about the West Nile Virus. Send in your questions to the Newsletter.

Resources: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&controlCaseCount12_detailed.htm

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE THROUGH “FRESH EYES”

A first time delegates view of the General Conference.

by Cesar Alvarez



“The only thing that is constant is change.” Heraclitus

Every moment of every day, we encounter an anomaly that sends us into the unknown. This anomaly should cause us to change the way we operate. It should cause us to move vicariously through the avenues of life. If you have not unmasked this anomaly, I will shed a little light on the situation. This anomaly, which constantly oc-

curs in our lives, is change and in July the A.M.E. Zion Church did just that, WE EXPERIENCED CHANGED!

Before we stepped foot on the grounds of the Charlotte Convention Center, we knew that this General Conference was going to change the face of Zion forever. We were retiring 3 of our Episcopal Leaders and looking for 3 more to fill the void. For the first time in twenty years Eastern West Africa would experience new leadership. We would elect 4 new General Officers, something we had not done in this generation, to lead our departments onward and upward. We would create and pass legislation to change the state of the church. Yes, we knew change was coming.

Thinking about all of this made me feel a little apprehensive. I was not sure if new leadership would be able to help the current state of the church. I was not sure which legisla-

tion would help and which would hinder our progress. I was not sure which candidate, although I had one in mind, was best fit for the Episcopacy. To be completely honest, I was not sure if I, a first time delegate, could make a difference. I was not sure if my voice would be heard.

Nevertheless, we debated, stated our opinions, heard from lawyers, ate and ate again. It was through this process that I realized that we need to face this change head on. I remembered what Paul wrote to the church of Ephesus saying, “Now unto him who is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all you could ever ask or imagine.” I remembered the words of Albert Einstein saying, “In the middle of difficulty lies great opportunity.” I would hear the voice of God assure me that all was going to be okay. I started to relax when the Board of Bishops presented a united front that outlined a plan to tackle this change. I was able to calm my nerves when I heard the sermons coming from the Rt. Revs. Louis Hunter, Sr. and Darryl B. Starnes, SR. reminding us to keep it HOLY!!! I would stand in awe, to see my church raise almost three million dollars to save our historic Publishing House. Seeing the hand of God move as we consecrated 3 new Bishops and elected new General Officers, I knew God was still in control.

The A.M.E. Zion church is an amazing church. In this delegate’s opinion, the best in the world. We may not be the most popular, or have the largest membership. We may not make it to the Word Network or build a Cathedral that can hold twenty-thousand members. No, these will not be the things that make us great. It will be if we can simply adjust to the change and all the struggles that come with it. To write the vision plainly, this change will do one of two things: We will either evolve and adapt or we will die out and become extinct. I am of the firm belief that we should welcome this anomaly. I cannot wait to see the results of this change.

Because of Calvary,

2012 - 2016 Connectional Lay Council Board of Lay Activities Chairpersons

Bishop Kenneth Monroe, Board Chair
Bishop Michael Angelo Frencher, 1st Vice Chair
Bishop Roy A. Holmes, 2nd Vice Chair

49th QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE LEGISLATION PASSED THAT EFFECTS THE LAITY

Reso #	Category	Summary	Impact
R02	Church and Society	AME Zion ministers Authority to perform marriages ¹	Forbid performance of same sex marriages or unions
R06	Clergy Ministers	Annual conference establish conference	Composition includes 2 lay leader in board of specialized ministries related specialized vocation
R20	Clergy Ministers	Deleted term limits for pastor in charge appointment	Appointment as long as bishop sees fit
R37	Financial Administration	Internal audit for churches with I/E over \$25,000	Pastor and steward board ensure compliance with IRS documentation and audit done, and reported to the Quarterly Conference.
R60	Laity	Document in discipline the requirement for lay	The lay council president at each level council reporting of the church gives a report
R57	Laity	Revision of Board of Laity Chapter XI	Clarified inconsistency related to the function Of the board of lay activity at connectional, annual conference, district conference and local level of the church
R55	Laity	Ratification of CLC Bylaws from 9th Quadrennial Convention	Bylaws supersede CLC Constitution Convention and By-Laws of the 2008 Book of Discipline. Special Projects becomes a standing committee Establish the Election Committee. Committee established as a special committee. Appointed officer of Assistant Secretary renamed Executive Assistant. Establish an Executive Committee comprising CLC elected officers.
R58	Laity	Inquire on condition of Lay Council	Amended the regular business of the district conference to include the lay council
R56	Laity	Training for Local Church Board of Lay Activities	District Lay Council President in consultation with Pastor provides training.
R59	Laity	Anniversary Days and Collections in the Book of	Offering taken include a special offering in discipline amended to include Connectional Lay Sunday support CLC ministries.



BREAKING NEWS RELEASE from Zion A.M.E. US TODAY. . .

Word just in that the deadly SARS disease (salvation arrested religion spent) has claimed the life of a prominent Connectional member. Mr. Too Many A. Church was officially pronounced dead at the close of Sunday's Service. It was reported that after a lingering illness, he passed away quietly in his sleep. It is rather unusual for someone like Mr. Church to die like this. An autopsy had to be performed before the death certificate could be signed. The cause of death could not be immediately determined since so many ailments plagued the deceased. He suffered with gross lack of understanding, poor commitment, and suffered dedication dehydration. An undermining virus had attacked his vital organs, heart, head, hands, feet and pocketbook.

Some of his family testified that Mr. Church began to go down in health following the loss of his vision. He was blind to opportunities right under his nose to serve God. He could not see to read his Bible, nor did he see the need to. As his sight worsened, Mr. Church refused to recognize leadership and stumbled over any new leadership medications he was offered. Vitality was soon lost. By the end of any given week his lungs ached making him too weak to attend Worship. His walking upright was hampered by his shortness of breath. An impaired pulmonary system limited him with only enough breath to criticize. He dropped many activities due to his lack of his strength. His Spirituality was waning.

It was suggested that Mr. Church's diet contributed to his demise. His Dentist diagnosed his love only of syrupy-sweet sermonettes as the cause of his Churchabetes. With any challenging Gospel, he suffered hearing loss and with blatant criticism heard only the rhythmic music from the choir. He claimed, with dismay, it made his rheumatic legs move up and down uncontrollably and his arthritic hands to clap. His Carotid artery malfunctioned particularly when asked to serve in almost any capacity in the House of Worship. He couldn't mow grass, sing, couldn't trustee, steward, or pay.

The Coroner's report revealed that Mr. Church also suffered cirrhosis of the Giver. His hands were so gnarled with Givearthrititis that he could only make a fist which he shook at every opportunity to pay money. Mr. Church

could always muster enough breath to say, "No" to almost every Church effort.

The autopsy revealed a collapse of Mr. Church's circulatory system. A clogged Bible Study Aorta had left the body without a steady flow of new blood. A Cardiac Specialist revealed ventricular disorder prevented his brain from pumping the necessary amount of prayer-oxygen. He had a Heart-virus that contaminated what little warm Christian blood he had ever had. Over a period of time, arteriosclerosis caused body parts to be amputated because life had ceased to exist in them. Head trouble had been diagnosed in Mr. Church during his last days. He lost his ability to make sound decisions and determine which way was up. Mr. Church's confusion and going around in circles caused him to stumble and stagger before his final collapse. It is very doubtful that Mr. Too Many A. Church died a quiet peaceful death. Statistics prove that Christians die that way.

Since the Christian part of the Church family has already moved to new locations, old friends are invited to remember them in serious Prayer in lieu of sending flowers. Mr. Church's cornerstone is being designed and will be placed on his plot in the Church-owned cemetery located at Deserted Street and Dead-End Avenue. May he rest . . . We are happy to report he leaves no family members to carry on his disease.

Hold on please . . . Word just in that the infectious SARS disease that killed Too Many A. Church is spreading and it is advised by the Surgeon General that special precautions be taken by anyone who had any contact with Too Many A. Church at anytime. A pandemic situation is pending. Prayer dosages need to be bumped up. "Watch as well as Pray" to ward off the SARS disease. Holy Spirit shots are free and available in Houses of Worship where pure and adulterated Gospel is preached. Salvation is free. Additional medical fortitude can be found in the Holy Writ. Christian Lay Practitioners are available. Listen in tomorrow for further results of the autopsy of Too Many A. Church. Check this website . . . www.ChristLord-MasterRedeemer (not valid email - used here for writing purposes only)

Reporting for Zion and the CLC – J. Fairbanks Leach

FROM THE EDITOR:

We would like to remind you that the main thrust of "The Connection" remains to help publicize and promote the Lay Council programs throughout the denomination. Many informative and exciting events are taking place and we want to share them with you. We hope the articles in this Newsletter will inform, and inspire, instruct and guide, encourage and challenge. Hopefully the Lay Council will continue to use this to promote Lay Councils. But I want to remind you that we also would like to receive articles pertaining to the Lay Council from the local, church, Presiding Elder District, Annual Conferences and Episcopal Districts (300 WORD LIMIT). So that the whole denomination knows what your Lay Council is doing or plans to do.

Articles and pictures (please identify people in the photo) may be mailed or e-mailed to the Editor, Miss Rhandi M. Stith, Carrington Arms Apt. 8H, 33 Lincoln Avenue, New Rochelle, New York 10801 1 (914) 235-3596.

ELECTION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

by Malcolm Russell, Elections Committee Chair.

The Election Committee of the Connectional Lay Council shares the following information regarding the open elected officer positions, the candidate application and election processes:

Elected Offices

1. All positions are open for election: President, Vice President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Chaplain.
2. All interested candidates must be pre-screened by the Election Committee to confirm that the criteria set forth in the CLC Bylaws adopted at the 49th Session of the General Conference are met. Interested new and incumbent candidate may contact the Central Office of the Connectional Lay Council at 704-599-4630 to arrange an appointment with the Election Committee.
3. All candidates approved by the election committee will be given a formal application and permission to announce their candidacy.

Election

To participate in the election process one must be certified by the Election Committee based on the following criteria:

1. Must be a card carrying member of the Connectional Lay Council thirty (30) days prior to the official opening of the convention July 27, 2013.
2. Must be 18 years old (the legal voting age).
3. Cannot be a member of the ordained ministry.
4. Registered with the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention prior to the deadline established by the Election Committee. The deadline will be announced at least 30 days prior to the start of the convention.

The 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention will be in Montgomery, Alabama July 27th to August 1st 2013.

.....Spread Out
continued from page 9

and our commitment will be heightened to such a degree, that our Christian productivity in Expansion will be immeasurable. Should we follow through without fail, our dedication and commitment will be so deep-seated we will be like the tree planted by the water as spoken of in Jeremiah 17:8.

I believe if we set our Connectional Lay Council Objectives and Purpose 'like flint', nothing will deter us from Maximizing our Mission by Managing our Ministry through Expansion. After all, we will "Spread Out!" We will "Think Big!" We are in a mode of Expansion! Let's examine new ways of impacting our constituency; let's be innovative in our approach. "Try me now in this", says the Lord of Hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessings that there will not be room enough to receive it." (Malachi 3:10) My! My! Seems to me we'll have to expand our venue to accommodate God's promises of Expansion. We desire, Lord God, to enlarge Zion Methodism, to increase the spirituality of our Churches, extend the realm of our outreach, broaden the scope of our teaching and learning with the idea that we can then boldly say, "Come With Us to Christ", thus increasing the numbers on our roll books. "God has spoken! Let the Church say, Amen!"

Enough of my 'wool gathering' . . . Let me recommend further enhancement by our study of a fine document entitled The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church "A Description of the Quadrennial Theme". Please read it through again and pay particular attention to pages 18-20. After pondering this Theme determine to "Spread Out!" "Think Big!" Expansion! Expansion! Expansion! Let this be our sincere determination.

One last filament of wool . . . those of us privileged to be in leadership roles and are slack on servanthood will have to either step up our game or, get out of it. Bishop Richard Thompson impacted me with this statement: "A Leader Leads". Romans 15:1-6 tells us about a 'servant's heart'. John Maxwell shares that this passage serves as a reminder that leadership is about serving others, not wielding power: notice how Paul describes a servant. 1. Denies self, 2. Develops others, 3. Accepts mistreatment, 4. Imitates Christ, 5. Takes the attitude of a student (we are to remain teachable) 6. Pursues the harmony of relationships. Maxwell goes on to suggest that it is a leader's job to keep the main thing, the main thing. "The heart that serves, and loves, and clings, Hears everywhere the rush of angels wings". Live and work in an Expansion mode.



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Shine Productions is owned and operated by our own Young Adult Initiative Chairperson, Ms. Crystal Bailey. The 9th Lay Convocation and General Conference were Live Streamed by this media company.

Please contact Shine Productions at the web address above for all your audio/visual and media services needs.



The Connectional Lay Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is the proud sponsor of the Bishop George J. Leake III Scholarship which awards scholarships to A.M.E. Zion church members on the track to the ordained ministry who are enrolled as full time students in the M.Div, MTS or DMin programs at Hood Theological Seminary. We are proud to announce the formation of our Crystal Awards campaign!

The Crystal Award exemplifies vision, integrity and empowerment and encourages the courageous and inspiring legacy of Bishop Leake. Bishop Leake urged the Connectional Lay Council to "make a difference" and it is in that spirit that the scholarship fund was initiated to perpetuate his memory and dedication to Zion Methodism.

There are three levels of giving:

- Gold - \$5,000.00
- Silver - \$2,500.00
- Bronze - \$1,000.00

You have one full year to contribute. Awards will be given at the 10th Quadrennial Connectional Lay Council Convention to be held July 27 – August 1, 2013 in Montgomery, Alabama. We encourage your Episcopal area, Region, Conference, District, Local congregation or individual donor to participate in this worthy endeavor.



Memberships

Starting in October "Blast Off" the Connectional Lay Day celebration with CLC Memberships... new, renewals and upgrades!

Our Membership Goals:

Episcopal Districts:

- 100% of the Conference with organized and Active Lay Councils

Conferences:

- 100% of the District with organized and active Lay Councils

Districts

- 100% of the Local churches with organized and active Lay Councils

Local Churches

- 100% of the congregation are members of the Lay Council.

We can do it...yes we can!

Our Connectional Lay Council membership thrust is to continue to increase our memberships. We are "Blasting the Cannons" for you now to feel the rumble and to encourage you to help meet the quadrennial goal of 50,000 active Lay Council Members by July 2013. Effie Woodard, 2nd VP and Membership Chairperson

NOW AVAILABLE Connectional Lay Council Handbook -Revised

Post General Conference Edition

Now Available \$10.00 plus S&H

- Summary of updates:
- Ratified CLC Bylaws
- Directory of Bishops
- Board of Lay Activities Board Chairs
- Directory Information of Members of the Executive Board
- Listing of Standing and Special Committees
- Electronic Filing Procedures

Revised edition printed by the Livingstone College print shop.



REGIONAL NEWS

North Eastern Episcopal District
Bishop Roy A. Holmes Presiding Prelate
Mrs. Marie H. Baxter, Regional Director

Africa, a Lasting Impression

Submitted by Mrs. Jean Bligen,
 Jackson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church,
 Hempstead, New York

Thirty six travelers journeyed abroad on a trip sponsored by Jackson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in Hempstead, New York where the Reverend Keith I. Harris is the pastor. This was the third trip to Africa sponsored by our church. However, each trip was a new awakening to the reality of the plight of our African brothers and sisters.



Our first stop was Morocco where we visited the famous Hassan II Mosque, the second largest mosque in the world. What a beautiful site! We gained a better understanding and appreciation for how Muslims worship.

We then traveled to Benin where our eyes were opened to the dire needs of our people. We marveled at the resilience of our people living in Ganvie, the largest stilt village in all of Africa. Our visit was filled with a roller coaster of emotions; from the smiles and happiness brought on by the warm welcome of African dancing and songs to the harsh reality of life in Ganvie. The sight of mothers and fathers peddling their wares on the floating market is one we will never forget. To see seven or eight year old children paddling canoes to help their family with the daily chores brought tears. Yet, we saw a community, unbowed using its skills and creativity to persevere while living under deplorable conditions that are unacceptable in today's world.

Moving on to Togo we visited museums and historical sites which reflected the great contributions of our people. We were especially impressed with the craft vendors. It was amazing to see how scraps and anything that could be found were used to make such beautiful hand crafted items to sell. It was a joy to support them by making purchases.

Upon entering Ghana, we were impressed with the growth of businesses and transportation. Streets were filled with men and women going to work. Open markets were brimming with foods, clothing and other items for sale. We visited the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum and Park, the W.E.B. DuBois Centre for Pan Africanism, among other sites. Yet we came face to face with the inequity in the country. The poverty still overshadowed the progress.

Perhaps one of the most memorable stops in Ghana was our visit to Cape Coast Castle Dungeon where we came face to face with the evils of the slave trade. The meaning of "the door of no return" became real. At the same time in the words of Kwest J. Anquandah, "Thanks to the new spirit of reconciliation of the Castle and fort culture, now it has become... for the black Diaspora, the "Gate of Return" into their second home, their real home, in Africa".

Whenever we travel to Africa we make an attempt to worship with one of our sister churches. This year we worshipped at Bishop Small A.M.E. Zion Cathedral in Kumasi where Reverend Coleman is the pastor. The service was high in the spirit of our Lord and Savior. The choir filled the sanctuary with voices of praise. The prayers gave voice to hope and dependence upon our Lord. The sermon reiterated the good news and rejuvenated our charge to go out do God's will by making disciples of all mankind.

We had an opportunity to bring greetings from the United States. Loretta Goff, Long Island District Lay Council President and member of the Connectional Lay Council Executive Board represented us. During the greeting, she referenced the Quadrennial Theme, Maximizing our Mission by Managing our Ministry: through Education,



Evangelism,

Empowerment and Expansion. She also noted that to be empowered, we must be equipped. In the spirit of denominational loyalty she presented Brother Kuwornu, Mid- Ghana Conference Lay Council President with some small tokens which included the current Lay Council Hand Book, a description of the quadrennial theme, and A.M.E. Zion conference bags among other useful items.

Before departing back to the United States we were visited by the Reverend Dr. Godfred Zormelo, presiding elder and pastor of Price Cathedral A.M.E. Zion Church. What a wonderful reunion took place between him and yours truly, the daughter of his very personal friend, the Rev. Dora Atlas of Asheboro, NC, who he affectionately referred to as "Mama" when they were students at Hood Theological Seminary. Dr. Zormelo was moved to tears as he dictated a letter to be given to "Mama" who is now ninety years old and still vibrant.

Our trip to Africa was powerful. We are witnesses that our sisters and brothers in Africa are suffering. They are calling out for our help. Some of us can travel to Africa and offer helping hands. Others cannot. However, all of us are called upon as missionaries to do our part. Support the Overseas missions efforts. Donate to a replicable organization that aids African countries. Whatever, DO SOMETHING!

REGIONAL NEWS

Mid West Episcopal District
Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Presiding
Prelate
Ms. Lynda Byrd, Regional Director

Highlights From the Mega Conference

Submitted by Ms. Lynda Byrd,
 Mid West Regional Director

The Historic Midwest Episcopal District (Michigan, Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee) MEGA Annual Conference came together under one roof May 29-June 3, 2012, under the great leadership of the Dynamic, Bishop Roy Anderson Holmes and the Lovely, Mrs. Lovetta Jean Holmes, Missionary Supervisor. This momentous setting convened at the riverfront Galt House Hotel in 'The City Of Possibilities', Louisville, Kentucky.

This harmonious MEGA Conference was M-E-G-A in every aspect according to the acronym for which it stands: the M - Ministry, E - Equipping the Saints, G - God's, A - Ambassadors. The Holy Spirit enabled us to do MEGA Ministries these five days at the Conference. We were empowered to become witnesses of Jesus Christ's Love and Power.

The Lay Council Convocation was held on Wednesday, May 30, 2012. Three persons from

the Michigan Conference were presented with Life Member Stoles: Hattie Washington (Greater Walters, Chicago), Albert and Yunorma Moore (St. Luke, Grand Rapids, Michigan).

Reports were given by all five conference Presidents, Lucy White, Missouri Conference, Steve Dobbins, Kentucky Conference, J. Evelyn-Dorsey, Indiana Conference, Mary Ann Edmond (read by Cheryl Brewster, Michigan Conference Secretary), Leonard E. Wallace, Tennessee Conference. A humorous skit titled "What General Conference Delegates are NOT Supposed to Do" provided pointers for those attending the upcoming General Conference. We were fortunate to have present Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey, President, Connectional Lay Council and Mrs. J. Fairbanks Leach, Chairperson of the Education Committee of the CLC. Both made excellent presentations reminding the convocation of the interconnected responsibilities of the Lay Council members with their obligations to "prepare and equip" the laity for service and lay ministry.

Mr. Leonard E. Wallace presided over the singing of the two Connectional songs, "Guide Me, O, Thou Great Jehovah" and "Onward Christian Laity" reminding the audience that both were to be sung with gusto and spirit!

The MEGA Conference provided the Midwest Region with a rare opportunity to share in fellowship and communion.

To God Be The Glory!

The Connection 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. All articles must be typed and double spaced. Do not format or use effects (such as text boxes). Use upper and lower case letters when typing, (do not use all capital letters or italics.)

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INTRODUCING EASTERN WEST AFRICA REGIONAL DIRECTOR PATRICIA WALTON



I am a native of Pittsylvania County Virginia. I graduated from Southside High School in Blairs, Virginia.

As a teenager I was baptized into the Baptist faith, and attended church faithfully. Though I wanted to be an usher in the church I was not able because of transportation. I was in the county (country)

where no buses ran except the mill bus for mill workers.

After my son and I matriculated to Greensboro, North Carolina we joined Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Zion church. Here I immediately joined the Florence Henderson Usher Board. My life long dream of becoming an usher was finally realized. I have served in various capacities on this board since 1974. During that same year the then Rev. Cecil Bishop appointed me as Vice President of the newly formed Birthday Calendar Club for the month of May.

Under the leadership of the then Rev. Dr. Joseph Johnson I was nominated and confirmed as one of the first two ladies to serve as a steward at Trinity church. I served as a steward for over twenty (20) years.

I am a life member in the Missionary Department and have served in various offices. I was treasurer for the

Greensboro District Missionary Department for over ten years and Secretary of Supply for the Greensboro District for eight (8) years.

I served as Sunday School Superintendent for more than ten years and I am now the assistant teacher to one of the adult classes.

I have been a member of the Lay council since joining Trinity. I served as Vice President, as Assistant Treasurer, and as President for six (6) years. I am a card carrying Life Member of the Connectional Lay Council. I am presently 1st. Vice President of the Greensboro District Lay Council.

I currently serve as Leader of Leaders of the class leaders in Trinity. I have been a class leader for a number of years.

I served as the secretary for the Greensboro District Office for five years, working with the Rev. Dr. Michael E. Ellis.

I have an Associate in Applied Science in Accounting from Guilford Technical Institute, now Guilford Technical Community College, in Jamestown, NC. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and Economics, from Greensboro College in Greensboro, NC.

The church is my extended family and I love them as family. Trinity has been the answer to so many of my prayers through so many trials and tribulations.

My husband is John H. Walton, U.S. Army, Retired.

Working in the church brings out the joy that God has given to me that nothing else in this world will ever do. "I have not yet reached my goal, and I not perfect. But Christ has taken hold of me. So I keep on running and struggling to take hold of the prize." Phil 3:12 (CEV)



CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

"Maximizing Our Mission by Managing Our Ministry Through:
Education, Evangelism, Empowerment, and Expansion"

South Atlantic Regional Lay Academy
Site of the 2012 CED/Winter Meeting on Christian
Education

With the General President
Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey, Presenter

Date: Thursday, December 27, 2012

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Place: The Hyatt Regency Hotel, 265 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303 +1 404 577 -1234

Location: Check the monitors for room location

No Registration Fee Required

Glenda Canteen Davis, Regional Director
The Right.Rev. Kenneth Monroe, Presiding Prelate



Introducing the Caregiver Assistance Campaign: A New PSA Campaign from AARP and the Ad Council

We're pleased to share with you the new Public Service Announcements (PSAs), created pro bono by ad agency, Butler, Shine, Stern & Partners, for the Caregiver Assistance campaign, a new collaboration between AARP and the Ad Council.

Family support is critical to the care needed for older adults as they age, but often comes at substantial costs to those providing the care, to their families and to society. According to the "Caregiving in the U.S." report, in 2009, there were roughly 42.1 million caregivers in the U.S., providing an estimated \$450 billion worth of unpaid care to aging relatives and friends.

Approximately 3 out of 4 boomer caregivers describe the task of providing care to an older adult as difficult and many feel they need more help or information, but don't know where to turn for support. In an effort to reach out to caregivers, AARP has worked with the Ad Council to create a PSA campaign emphasizing the resources that are available and concluding with the tagline, "Together, let's help each other better care for ourselves and the ones we love." The PSAs drive to www.aarp.org/caregiving, where caregivers can join a community and find practical tips and tools, as well as connect with experts and other caregivers for advice and support.

Help Spread the Campaign Message In order to get this important message out to as many people as possible, we need your help in spreading the word. We have set up a central location with links to the PSAs, template outreach tools and social media content. These resources are free to use and can be accessed at <http://caregiving.adcouncil.org>.

Thank you in advance for your support of this campaign.

Addison Barry Rand
CCEO, AARP