



THE CONNECTION



RHANDI M. STITH, EDITOR

"FORTIFYING OUR FAITH WHILE FOCUSING ON OUR FUTURE THROUGH: WORSHIP, LEADERSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP AND STEWARDSHIP"

CELEBRATING CONNECTIONAL LAY SUNDAY

Connectional Lay Council Observance Day Sunday, October 20, 2013*



"Fortifying Our Faith While Focusing On Our Future Through: Worship, Leadership, Discipleship and Stewardship" with emphasis this year on "Worship"

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.

2013 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



Laity, thank you for the great honor of electing me to serve you as General President. As we embark upon a new Quadrennium, energized and equipped from a momentous convention, we begin with a new passion, a new theme, and

higher expectations as we stand on the shoulders of the great laity and clergy that have gone before us. We begin this new and exciting journey celebrating Connectional Lay Sunday in our local churches!

The third Sunday in October is the anniversary of the denomination and known as Connectional Lay Sunday. According to the history of A.M.E. Zion Church, lay people have always been in the vanguard of the denomination's origin and development of her ministry. On Sunday, October 20, 2013, lay people

are given special privilege to develop the connectional interest with programs/events of evangelism that glorify God, invite others to come with us to Christ, and unify us as a connectional church. We look forward with anticipation to the support and encouragement that will come from our Pastors and other clergy as we plan for Lay Sunday.

Please know that if an event is already scheduled on the third Sunday, select another date that works for your local church and designate that day as Connectional Lay Day with the approval of the pastor in charge. The important thing is to set aside a day to celebrate with laity participation during the worship hour. You may also want to consider a Lay Day Lunch and Learn, or hold a Lay Academy to disseminate information that will enhance the effectiveness of the laity in ministry. Whatever the date, please remember to send a Lay Day offering to the Connectional Lay Council; we have great expectations for the laity!

See *President's Desk* .pg 14

2013 - 2014 Lay Sunday Offering Appeal

Lay Sunday "Harvest 2013 Lay Offering Appeal" - Goal \$25,000.

During the past Quadrennium, the Connectional Lay Council has been an excellent steward of your resources, providing spirit-filled and practical lay academies at our Evangelistic Retreat, Convocation, and Convention that have enriched the life of the laity. We have provided support and helped launch new lay councils, conducted leadership training, provided disaster relief assistance to our people, financially supported the efforts of newly elected Bishops in support of launching their vision for Eastern West Africa, Western West Africa and domestic mission conferences, contributed to our educational institutions, and done outreach to our Zionites across the globe. The Connectional Lay Council will be the recipient of the Lay Sunday Offering in 2013. We have given to great causes over the years, this year we are in need of finances to move forward and bless the work of Lay ministry.

I would like a moment of your time to talk about the \$5 bill. True, it will not buy much today, but we are still interested. I know that our goal is \$25,000, but let me just give you an example of how the blessing of a little can become much, when we work together. Multiply that \$5 by 38,000 active lay council members and you have \$190,000; not small at all. Right!

This year we are making a special appeal and are asking from you \$5 (one-time gift) to jump start the new administration financially and establish funds for convening the Evangelistic Retreat and future Lay Council endeavors as we struggle to keep registrations to these events affordable. If your district or conference holds a Lay Day event, join in the appeal and send a contribution in support of Connectional Lay Sunday. Our goal for Lay Sunday 2013 is 100% participation from every church. Raise the bar in 2013, by contributing at least \$213 for the support of the Connectional Lay Council Ministry. We can achieve this goal through direct contributions from local churches or mix of contributions with help from district and conference lay councils. Together, we can reach the goal of at least \$25,000 to continue the great work of the Connectional Lay Council.

All churches are asked to support the Lay Council Ministry with a special offering. Please mail contributions to: Connectional Lay Council Office, Post Office Box 26770 Charlotte, NC 28221 and put on the outside of the envelope "Harvest 2013 Offering Appeal". All contributions will be published in a future issue of The Connection Newsletter. Special recognition through a window on the Connectional Lay Council Website will be given to conference, and district Lay Councils for your special sacrificial contributions.

The Connection Reporters

PIEDMONT

Gloria Joyner Johnson gloriajoynerjohnson@yahoo.com

NORTH EASTERN

Joyce Harrington Jhat17@aol.com

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Debora A Roseborough DeboraA.Roseborough@uscg.mil

MID ATLANTIC II

Gail Wade gail.wade@comcast.net

MID WEST

Joanne Collins mommajmc@gmail.com

MID ATLANTIC I

Anita Rankin skipperrankin@aol.com

ALABAMA-FLORIDA

Alesia W. Ross leestigul@yahoo.com

SOUTH ATLANTIC

Elvira Faulkner-McIlwain Karimah_Vira@comporium.net

SOUTHWESTERN DELTA

Lena Golden lenabgolden@aol.com

WESTERN

Lynda Williams llw@mjlpl.com

Component # 1 – Worship August 1, 2013 - July 31, 2014 – taken from the CLC Thematic Theme Guide

WORSHIP -

SCRIPTURE: Deut. 16:27-29 – Psalm 95:6-7
– Psalm 100:1-5 – Luke 4:8 – John 4:23 – Romans
12:1 – Rev. 15:4

HYMNS - Holy, Holy, Holy – Blessed Assurance
– Lift Every Voice and Sing - O, For a Thousand
Tongues to Sing – There Is A Fountain - Standing
on The Promises – Pass Me Not – The Old Rug-
ged Cross – I Must Tell Jesus – More Love to Thee
– Come Thou Fount – All Hail The Power Of Jesus
Name – A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

SPIRITUALS - Walk Together Children – Ride
The Chariot – Calvary - I Know The Lord – Wade In
The Water – No Hiding Place – Calvary – It's Me, O
Lord – Deep River – Ride The Chariot – Wayfaring
Stranger – Let Us Break Bread Together -

ANTHEMS - Let Mt. Zion Rejoice – Lift Up Ye
Head, O Ye Gates – God So Loved The World – Total
Praise – Magnify The Lord – Seek Ye The Lord –
Here, The Risen Son – How Excellent Is Your Name

GOSPEL: Great Is Thy Faithfulness – Jesus,
You're The Center of My Joy – I Found The Answer
– Let The Church Say Amen – Soon and Very Soon
– We Shall Wear A Crown - O Zion, What's the Mat-
ter Now – Amen – There is Joy In That Land - Walk
Around Heaven All Day

CONTEMPORARY GOSPEL -Anointing Fall On
Me - I Really Love The Lord – Yes Lord – Soon and
Very Soon – A Change Is Gonna Come -The Reason
Why We Sing – The Presence Of The Lord Is Here –
Praise Him – Your Grace and Mercy – Somewhere
Around God's Throne

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.

CONNECTIONAL LAY SUNDAY

(*suggested Orders of Service for Connectional Lay Sunday)

TRADITIONAL ORDER OF THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Procession

Processional Hymn

“Onward Christian Laity”

Call to Worship – But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

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:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Responsive Reading

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 – focus should be on worship - (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 Tithes/Offering 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”.



Worship Topics, Helpful Hints With Scripture References

Plan your celebration of Connectional Lay Day with a goal to invite others to "Come with Us to Christ".

We are Called to Worship
Nehemiah 8:6
Luke 24:50-53

Worship Only God
Psalm 29:1-2
Matthew 4:10

Worship God In Spirit And Truth
Psalm 138:1-3
John 4:23-24

Inspiring Worship
Psalm 96:1-13
Hebrews 13:1-9

Worship
Psalm 150
Colossians 3:16 - 17

The Attitude of Worship
Psalms 27:1-27
Hebrews 4:16

Is God Pleased With My Worship
II Chronicles 29: 28-30
Mark 12:30

Preparing for Worship
I Chronicles 16:29
Romans 12:1-2

MUSIC

Gospel
How Great is Our God
Here I am to Worship
I Give Myself Away
Holding On (And I Won't Let Go My Faith)

Order My Steps
In the Sanctuary
This Morning When I Rose
Awesome God

Hymns
Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah
Holy, Holy, Holy
Blessed Assurance
Praise Him! Praise Him!

Victory in Jesus
Revive Us Again
Come Thou Fount
There is Power in the Blood

2013 Lay Sunday Offering Appeal: Financial Goal \$25,000. The Connectional Lay Council will be the recipient of the Lay Sunday Offering. We have given to great causes over the years, this year we are in need of finances to move forward and bless the work of Lay ministry. All churches are asked to support the Lay Council Ministry with a special offering. Please mail contributions to: Connectional Lay Council Office, Post Office Box 26770 Charlotte, NC 28221 and put on the outside of the envelope "Offering Appeal". All contributions will be published in a future issue of The Connection Newsletter.

Fortifying Our Faith While Focusing on Our Future Through Worship

by Reverend Lisa T. McDow, A.B., J.D.

Local church congregations across our beloved African Methodist Episcopal Zion connection have and will be answering the call to uplift the laity through the celebration of Lay Sunday during the next few months, sending the offering to the Connectional Lay Council office to assist in the continuing mission to prepare and equip laity for a life of discipleship in the Kingdom of God. The topic "Worship" (the first component of our four-part 2013 – 2017 Quadrennial Theme of "Fortifying Our Faith While Focusing on Our Future") presents an excellent means to deepen the spiritual life of the laity.

The Connectional Lay Council and our church leadership compiled the following resources for churches to use in their Lay Sunday Observances and continuing studies of the "Worship" component of the Quadrennial theme:

TOPIC	SCRIPTURE	HYMNS – WORSHIP THEME	GOSPEL MUSIC – WORSHIP THEME
We are called to Worship	Nehemiah 8:6, Luke 24:50-53	Holy, Holy, Holy	How Great is Our God
Preparing for Worship	I Chronicles 16:29, Romans 12:1-2	Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah	Order My Steps
Worship Only God	Psalms 29:1-2, Matthew 4:10	Blessed Assurance	Holding On (And I Won't Let Go My Faith)
Worship God in Spirit and Truth	Psalms 138:1-3, Psalm 4:23-24	Praise Him! Praise Him!	Awesome God
Inspiring Worship	Psalm 96:1-13; Hebrews 13:1-9	Victory In Jesus	This Morning When I Rose
Worship	Psalm 150, Colossians 3:16-17	Revive Us Again	Here I am to Worship
Attitude of Worship	Psalms 27:1-27, Hebrews 4:16	Come Thou Fount	In the Sanctuary
Worship pleasing God	II Chronicles 29:28-30, Mark 12:30	There is Power in The Blood	I Give Myself Away

If used effectively, these resources will empower us to challenge one another within the local church to engage absent church members, our youth and the community in developing a more comprehensive and scripturally-based understanding of the role, purpose and power of worship in the church and in the lives of Christians. As we search the scriptures to increase our understanding of worship and apply those lessons to create a more spirit-filled and scripturally based worship experience, here are seven points to consider:

1. Have we balanced reverencing God through ritual and tradition with incorporating worship elements, such as contemporary music, to meet the needs of our youth and young adults?
2. Does our worship reflect the judgment of God or the redeeming love of God? Should there be a balance between the two?
3. Are there both right and wrong motivations for worship?

.....
*See **Worship** .pg 18*

It's Memberships Campaign Time! "Maintaining Memberships, While Gaining New Ones"

by Effie Woodard, 2nd Vice President

First, Tenth Quadrennial Membership Campaign

August 1, 2013 – January 31, 2014

Goal for this Period: 3000 New Members



Our Membership Campaign goal for this period is to take Connectional Lay Council memberships to the next level. Get ready, and report for duty to build-up and retain, "Annual, Quadrennial and Life memberships". Get excited! Why not Supersize your Lay Council's membership as we embark upon a new Quadrennium. It is through your membership supported efforts we are able to power up ministries around the world for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church through the Connectional Lay Council.

If it's to be, It's starts with You!

READY! SET! GROW! – INCREASING MEMBERSHIPS BY:

- Organizing Lay Councils in each local church
- Increasing Life Memberships by 50%
- Continuing to encourage renewals of expired memberships by expiration date
- Starting and organizing new Councils
- Cleaning up Local Church Rosters

Holding Up The Finger While Leaving Service

Have you ever attended a church service and saw someone hold up one finger as they are exiting the sanctuary during the service? What does it mean? Here is one explanation:

During the slavery days when the masters took their slaves with them to public gatherings, the slaves would always sit in the balcony. When the slave had to go to the bathroom or wanted to be excused for any reason, they would hold their hand up and keep it up until their master acknowledged that they saw their hand and gave them permission to leave or in other words, "excused them to leave." After the slave was given permission to leave, they would hold up one finger as they were leaving to inform anyone that saw them leave that they had been excused.

So, it means, "My Master has excused me", and the "holding up of one finger while leaving the sanctuary" carried over from slavery. It is important that we investigate rituals before you follow them.

The next time you see someone holding up their finger, just tell them: "Put your finger down. It's okay to leave. You are not on the plantation; you've been freed." "Thank God

Almighty you are free at last!" (Author unknown)

Moses/Joshua Perspective - Worship



Rev. Dr. Kenneth Q. James

It is doubtful that if one went to many of our churches and spoke with the parishioners you would find many people who would think they needed to be told, taught or instructed on what worship is, or on how to worship. But I would argue that we do need instruction, or at the very least a healthy dialogue to clear up the misunderstandings that persist about what worship is, how it is done and for what

purpose. To the extent this misunderstanding exists and persists, I would suggest to you that it is because we have made some grave mistakes in our understanding and approach to the experience and meaning of worship. How sad this is, for it fails and falls short of the understanding of what it is in fact to be a Methodist. John Wesley, the "original" Methodist, wrote:

"There is no other religious society under heaven which requires nothing of men in order to their admission into it, but a desire to save their souls. Look all round you, you can not be admitted into the Church, or society of the Presbyterians, Anabaptists, Quakers, or any others, unless you hold the same opinions with them, and adhere to the same mode of worship. The Methodists alone do not insist on your holding this or that opinion; but they think and let think. Neither do they impose any particular mode of worship; but you may continue to worship in your former manner, be it what it may. Now, I do not know any other religious society, either ancient or modern, wherein such liberty of conscience is now allowed, or has been allowed, since the age of the Apostles. Here is our glorying; and a glorying peculiar to us. What society shares it with us?"

Having been advised or directed to read the Board of Bishops Quadrennial address to the church, I was both inspired and dismayed at what I discovered. The fathers and mother of our church wrote in this 2012 document the following, in part:

.....
See Worship - Moses .pg 19



Rev. Kelcy Steele

Quoted from the pages of the Bishop's Quadrennial Address:

"We must be careful to bring from the past the flame, not the ashes".

In our attempts to offer meaningful worship for these days and times,

We have to re-learn how to defer to the movement of the Spirit in matters of style across generational lines.

- I am standing as Joshua tonight
- Caught in between the contemporary lyrics
- Of Israel & New Breed

- Here I am to worship
- Here I am to bow down
- Here I am to say that You're my God

- But at the same time connected with the traditional melodies of:
- We have come into His house and gathered; In His name to worship Him;
- Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His name.
- So forget about yourself
- And concentrate on; Him and worship Him

- Zion..... Worship should be more about God and less about us.

- In recent years,
- Many of our congregations
- Have engaged in worship wars
- And some have changed the way they do things
- In order to cultivate a worshipful environment
- For all generations.

.....
See Worship - Joshua .pg 19

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention Highlights

July 27 - August 1, 2013

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2013

Pre-Convention Activity
Cultural & Gospel Extravaganza

The Bishop George J. Leake III Scholarship Benefit
Concert

The Gospel Extravaganza featured the World Renowned Mississippi Mass Choir was presented. The choir ignited the audience with songs such as "It's Good to Know" and ending the concert with their rendition of "Your Grace and Mercy." Also on the program were Mistress of Ceremony, Ms. Connye Bryant known as Connie B. singer, speaker and on-air talent, Minister McGill Andrews & Friends of Auburn, Alabama, the group sang some of their signature songs ending with "You are Holy" and the Freewill Baptist Church Choir, Rev. Edward J. Nettles, Pastor sang their rendition of "There is No Way I Can Live Without You." The proceeds from this Extravaganza will be given to the George J. Leake Scholarship Fund.

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2013

Tenth Quadrennial Lay Convention
Opening Session

The Tenth (10th) Quadrennial Lay Convention began with the Convention Grand March Assembly which included the presentation of each A.M.E. Zion Episcopal District Leadership, the Connectional Lay Council (CLC) Regional Directors, Conference and District Lay Council Presidents, as well as Overseas Representatives.

Plenary Session I

Bishop Kenneth Monroe opened the session and gave greetings to the Convention delegation as Chairman of the Board of Lay Activities. The First Vice Chairperson of the Board of Lay Activities, the Rt. Rev. Michael A. Frencher, gave the opening prayer. Bishop Monroe introduced the President of the Connectional Lay Council, Dr. Yvonne A Tracey. Dr. Tracey greeted the delegation, the President of the Board of Bishops and the other A.M.E. Zion Bishops present. Dr. Tracey officially called the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention to order.

After the seating of the delegates, Dr. Tracey called for the following Committees:

- Certification Committee
- Report of the Rules Committee
- The Convention Program Committee Report
- The nomination of the Convention Secretariat.
- The Head Marshal of the Convention, Mr. Charles Montgomery
- The nominated the Convention Timekeepers.
- The Presiding Officer appointed Rev. Lisa McDow the Convention Parliamentarian who nominated the Honorable Dr. Mary S. Pond, to serve as the the Assistant Parliamentarian.

Following the organization of the Convention, the Chairperson of the CLC Education Committee, Mrs. J. Fairbanks Leach, presented a presentation on the "Birthing of the Denomination." This was a Reader's Theatre production of milestones in the life of the founding father of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, James Varick. The production concluded with "The Rolling of the Scroll". The presentation reflected on the Civil Rights fray in the City of Montgomery, Alabama and commemorated the lives of the persons who organized the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) along with the many who unselfishly sacrificed to bring to the forefront opportunities and privileges of the present communities. Participating was Dr. A. L. Wilson, the only living member of the MIA

The Alabama/Florida Episcopal District Regional Lay Council welcomed the Convention delegation and Welcome Program which was received by all present.

MONDAY, JULY 29, 2013

Plenary Session II

Mr. Isaiah Flowers, Jr., Chairperson for the CLC Legislative Committee came forward and introduced the Connectional Lay Council Bylaws Amendments/Resolutions.

Plenary Session III

Lay Academy Session I

21st Century Christian (Panel) consisted of Lakesha Womack, Gary Jones, Jr. Mary Matthews and Samuel C. Brown

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention Highlights

July 28 - August 1, 2013

This forum was focused on the activities of the Young Adults in the Church. They shared ideas that they thought would be helpful to grow the church.

Bishop George J. Leak III Challenge Luncheon

The Right Reverend Richard Keith Thompson, Presiding Prelate, Mid-Atlantic II Episcopal District was the luncheon speaker. The title of Bishop Thompson's message was "Where Do We Go From Here?" Bishop Thompson advised that the church is in the hands of all of us. We all are in it together. He further added that if each church is going to grow, we all have to make it grow. It is time that all preachers and lay people struggle at it. Our church needs to be renewed, revived and refreshed. He is not ready to give the eulogy to the A.M.E. Zion Church. He identified 3 needs the church need to be renewed, revived and refreshed:

- The church needs to continue to lift up the blood stain banner of our Lord.
- There is a price to pay for the prize. The price is the prize of getting closer to God and letting him lead the way. Talk/teach about dedication, commitment and showing love in the church.
- Have to renew our faith. Our mothers and fathers had faith. Our God is able to supply our needs.

We are to surrender to God. Wherever you go he will lead the way.

The Challenge luncheon was sponsored by AARP. Mr. Dotson came forward and gave comments about AARP's partnership work with CLC.

After the Luncheon the delegates participated and/or attended the various seminars and lay academies.

Lay Academy Session II

Fortifying Our Faith With The Articles of Religion - Lynda Bryd, presenter

Kingdom Building Tools for Clergy and Laity - Ervin Reid, presenter

Development of E.F. Hutton/Jonahs in Zion Methodism - Dr. Brenda Smith, presenter

Investing Time, Gifts and Talents - Isaiah Pickney

Presenter

Clergy Seminars

Seminar 1

Excellence in Ministry - Rev. Dr. Dwayne Walker, presenter

Seminar 2

Growing Your Church Without Killing It - Rev. Brian Thompson, presenter

Lay Academy Session III

Deaconess: Consecrated Hearts and Hands - Bishop Mildred B. Hines, presenter

Retrofitting the Class Leader System - JoAnne Holmes, presenter.

Plenary Session IV

CLC Elected Officers Quadrennial Reports were read as follow:

- Treasurer – Mr. Trubbie Leeper
- Financial Secretary – Mr. Ira Golden
- Recording Secretary – Ms. Delores B. Lancaster
- Second Vice-President – Mrs. Effie Woodard
- Chaplain – Mr. Charles Montgomery. After Mr. Montgomery gave his report, the President hit the gravel one time for Mr. Montgomery's retirement.
- President – Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey

Candlelight Memorial Service

The Regional Director for each Episcopal District lit the Memorial Candle and the following Zionites names were called: Coyal Cooper, Former Chaplain, R. C. Rochon, Marshal, D. D. Garrett, Former 2nd Vice President and Chairperson for the Bishop George J. Leake III Scholarship Committee, the Right. Reverend Clarence Carr, Former Board of Lay Activities Chairperson, the Right Reverend James E. McCoy, Presiding Prelate Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District and the Right. Reverend Roy A. Holmes, Presiding Prelate of Northeastern Episcopal District

The Memorial Service speaker, the Rt. Rev. Michael Angelo Frencher, Presiding Prelate of the Eastern West Africa Episcopal District and First Vice Chairperson for the Board of Lay Activities. Bishop Frencher's scrip-

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention Highlights

July 28 - August 1, 2013

ture text was taken from Romans 8:37 and the title of his message was "Conquering Christians."

The Rev. Malcolm Byrd, California Annual Conference, came forward and presented a contribution of \$3,000 on behalf of Mr. R. C. Rochon to Dr. Tracey for a music scholarship in memory of Mr. Rochon. Dr. Tracey thanked the Western Episcopal District and the California Annual Conference for their contribution and gave accolades to the faithful service Mr. Rochon gave to the Connectional Lay Council.

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2013

Prayer Breakfast

Meditation by Sheila Quintana Western Episcopal District Topic: Importance of Prayer, scripture read was 11 Chronicle 7th chapter verses 14, Ms. Quintana, made mention of the book Three Simple Rules: Do no harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God.

Plenary Session V

Rev. Kathryn Brown, General Secretary, Christian Education Department - presented the first Bible Study. Rev. Brown's scripture text for the Bible Study presentation was 2 Peter 1:1-8 and the title of the lesson was "Fortifying Our Faith While Focusing on Our Future." Rev. Brown discussed the following seven attributes to faith:

- Goodness – moral excellence – virtuous course of thought, feeling and action
- Knowledge – Moral wisdom, such as is seen in right living
- Self-Control – The virtue of one who masters his/her desires and passions, especially sensual appetites
- Perseverance – Not swerving in deliberate purpose and loyalty to faith even by greatest trials and suffering
- Godliness – Reverence – respect
- Brotherly Kindness – Philadelphia – The love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren

- Love – Agape – Unconditional, selfless, self-giving, sacrificial love

Lay Academy Session IV

Modes of Music: Presenters were, Drs.. Grant & Joanne Harrison, Modes of music for Worship Hymns, Praise Music & Gospel. We were given Seven Rules by John Wesley for Hymn singing. Rule#1 Learn these tunes before you learn any other; afterwards learn as many as you please, Rule#2 Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all, Rule#3 Sing all. Rule#4 Sing lustily and with good courage, Rule#5 Sing modestly, Rule#6 Sing in time, Rule#7 Above all, sing spiritually.

Praise songs and Gospel music- Psalm 149:1: Psalm 150, Praise songs are a viable alternative to hymns, 5 questions were asked about 77 top examples of Contemporary Worship Music or Praise songs. Do songs name the Trinity, do songs direct our worship toward the Trinity, do songs remember the activity of the Divine Person among themselves, and do songs see Christian worship as participation of believers in inter Trinitarian Dynamics or Activity. How great is our God praise song that is Trinitarian in scope.

\$\$ & Sense Games – Stewardship, David Aiken, Sr., former CLC General President and Secretary/Treasurer Zion's Benefit Services, presenter. He opened with a statement about how Conference, and Episcopal District budgets are set and General Conference assessments how they are paid and how it involves both Clergy and Lay.

Talking about General Claims he informed us that there was an increase in general claims of 81,000 for 2012-2016. General Claims pays for salaries for Bishops, General officers and retired bishops; \$200,000.00 fund general conference, \$300,000.00 debt service, \$50,000.00 legal fund and 2.6 million mortgage to BOA Then Rev Saddler along with Shirley Welch the CFO talked about Budget, who gets what, how the amount is determined. According to the Historical and Numerical strength for previous 4 years to determine the amount to pay each local congregation. Rev Saddler

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention Highlights

July 28 - August 1, 2013

stated good money management matters, what goes in, is what come out. You should need a Budget stick with the budget, write it down, and have discipline to follow it.

Come with us to Christ- Discipleship, Presenter Lula Howard, and former CLC General President. Lay ministers – Servants, making ,disciples is the call for Matthew 11th chapter verses 28-30, is the , involving and welcoming people in and Matthew chapter 29, verses 19-20, Let me teach them duties of lay people. Good news has to shared/ trustworthy.

Plenary Session VI

Session was called to order by the Second Vice President, Mrs. Yvonne Baskerville at 4:10 pm. During this session we were scheduled to take action on the CLC Bylaws; however, there was no quorum.

The Session was followed with the Regional Meeting

Plenary Session VII

The Presiding Officer opened the Session at 7:35 pm. Bishop Monroe introduced Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Presiding Prelate of the Mid-West Episcopal District.

Bishop Starnes presented the Quadrennial Theme entitled "Fortifying Our Faith While Focusing on Our Future Through Worship, Leadership, Discipleship and Stewardship. Faith is trusting with what God has promised. In order for faith to be dynamic it must be fortified or made strong. How faith fortified? It is fortified by our appointed means of grace. The emphasis of our Quadrennial Theme is (1) Worship is the 1st year of our Theme. Our emphasis on "Worship" has been on authentic worship. Authentic worship must have the right object—the true and the living God. Authentic worship must also have the right objective. Worship should be authentic but it should also be inspiring. It must have the proper balance of spirit and truth. The 2nd year of the Theme is on Leadership. Empowering leadership empowers others to lead and serve, equips the saints for their ministry. The 3rd year of the Quadrennial is "Discipleship. Our greatest need is to reestablish disci-

pling as our God given mission and divine manner. In the 4th and final year of the Quadrennial our emphasis is on Stewardship. Stewardship is a way of life. All that we have belongs to God. We are God's stewards who he has entrusted into our care. As stewards we must be found faithful. We must be faithful in our stewardship with our time and talents; our tithing, our virtues and our management of his church. Bishop Starnes closed by advising those present that it is time for the church to fortify our faith, fortify our future, fortify our worship, time to raise the level of our leadership, time to raise the level of our discipleship, time to raise the level of our stewardship. He completed his presentation with the recitation of "O Zion Haste."

"The Moses and Joshua Perspectives" panelist were - Moses Generation Rev. Dr. Joanne Terrell - Opener; Rev. Dr. Kenneth Q. James – Worship; Rev. Dr. Kathy McFadden– Leadership; Rev. Dr. Claude Shufford - Discipleship; Rev. Monica H. Marshall – Stewardship and Rev. Dr. Richard Chappell - Closing . Joshua Generation Rev. Dr. Daran H. Mitchell – Opener; Rev. Kelcy Steele – Worship; Rev. Malcolm Byrd – Leadership; Rev. Eldren Morrison – Discipleship; Rev. Pamela Wofford – Stewardship and Rev. Dominique Robinson – Closer. Each panelist gave their perspective on the Quadrennial Theme.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2013

Regional Cluster Breakfast where each of the Candidates seeking a CLC Elected Office visited each Regional Cluster and presented themselves to the delegates.

Plenary Session VIII

Bishop Nathaniel Jarrett, Jr. Retired Bishop who delivered the second Bible entitled "Deepening Spiritual Life Through Discipleship." Bishop Jarrett's main points presented were (1) Identify the source of spiritual life; (2) discuss God's "Growth Principle" and how it is related to deepening our spirituality; (3) explain the role of discipleship in the deepening process and (4) sharing a prescription for spiritual deepening/growth.

Legislative Matters

The following Bylaws were acted on:

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention Highlights

July 28 - August 1, 2013

- Article II -- Objectives and Purpose "The purpose of this organization shall be to organize the laity of the A.M.E. Zion Church in each Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District and local church in the Connection to the end that the following objectives may be achieved: Motion passed to adopt the language changes.
- Article III, Section 1 – Eligibility. All lay persons who are members of the A.M.E. Zion Church and who are in good standing in their respective churches are eligible and encouraged to become members of the Connectional Lay Council. Motion passed to adopt the language changes.
- Article III, Section 2A. Categories. The Connectional Lay Council shall have the following membership categories, Life, Four-Year, Regular, and Honorary (ordained clergy and youth members under the age of 18). Discussion was held on this proposed change (Add the word "ordained") and after discussion, the motion was defeated.
- Article III, Section 2A. Dues. Added another category of dues that will permit the Life Members the opportunity to give a gift that will allow the Lay Council to enhance existing ministries and develop new ones. Delegation adopted the addition of the "Sustaining Life Membership dues changed from \$25.00 to \$10.00 – was passed by a 2/3rd vote of 239. The Nay votes were 139.

Election of CLC Officers

- President – (1) Mary J. Matthews -- 226 (2) Sheila M. Quintana – 189
- 1st Vice President – Yvonne E. Baskerville – 405
- 2nd Vice President – (1) Marilyn J. Quow – 166 (2) Eddie Woodard – 257
- Recording Secretary – Delores B. Lancaster 405
- Financial Secretary – Ira Golden 409
- Treasurer – Trubbie R. Leeper 413
- Chaplain – William F. Manning 405

Connectional Lay Council Officers for 2013-2017

- President – Mary J. Matthews

- 1st Vice President – Yvonne E. Baskerville
- 2nd Vice President – Effie Woodard
- Recording Secretary – Delores B. Lancaster
- Financial Secretary – Ira Golden
- Treasurer – Trubbie R. Leeper
- Chaplain – William F. Manning

Plenary Session IX "Mama's Girls" Play

Victor J. Tulane Awards Banquet The following persons received awards:

- The William Orr Membership Awardee – Mrs. Sandra Williams, Piedmont Episcopal District
- President's Awardees - Dr. W. Edwyn Baird - Regional Director; J. Fairbanks Leach- Education Committee Chairperson, Rhandi Stith- Connectional News Editor, Crystal Bailey – Young Adult Imitative Chairperson, Rose Alexander - Historian, Roy A. Chaney; and Yvonne Baskerville - 2nd Vice President of CLC all for Excellence during the 2009-13 Quadrennial
- Laity Hall of Fame – Shirley Allen, Piedmont; Margaret Brown, Eastern North Carolina; David A. Aiken, North Eastern; Mary Edmund, Mid-West; Isaiah Flowers, Alabama/Florida and Priscilla Mat thews, Southwestern Delta
- The Betty V. Stith Exemplary Award – Mrs. Mildred Saddler, Piedmont Episcopal District
- Dr. J. Victor Tulane Leadership Award – Mr. Ervin Reid, Piedmont Episcopal District

Selections were given by the choir from St. Peter A.M.E. Zion Church Choir, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Two CLC Elected Officers retired during this Convention. Mr. Charles Montgomery, Chaplain and Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey, President.

Remarks were given by Mr. Charles Simms from the Chamber of Commerce and the sponsor of the Banquet. Presentation was in the amount of \$500 was made to the Bishop George J. Leake II Endowment Scholarship

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention Highlights

July 28 - August 1, 2013

and \$17,177 was presented to the Central Alabama Veterans Outreach Program on behalf of the A.M.E. Zion Church by Mrs. Queen E. Degraphenreid, Chairperson , CLC Social/Political Action Committee.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2013

Plenary Section X

Bible Study 3 was done by Bishop Moore The topic of his Bible Study was "Focusing on our Future" and his text was taken from 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10. He advised that we are at a critical time in the church. If we want to look at the future of the church, we need to look at what it is that the Lord has called us to do. Bishop Moore advised that we must have an example of a virtuous faith; evangelize with a vitalized faith and an expectation of a victorious faith.

Bishop Monroe came forth and addressed the delegation. He advised that it is unfortunately that we cannot do the business of the Convention. It would seem to him that any business that would come before

this Connectional Council shall be taken up by the new administration and any decisions that have to be made will go before the Executive Board and be confirmed by the Board of Lay Activities. Whatever business that should have come before this Convention, whether it was budget, etc. is placed in the hands of the new administration and they will deal with it through the Executive Committee and bring it before the Board of Lay Activities for resolve.

The following persons came forward for the installation:

- President – Ms. Mary Matthews
- 1st Vice President – Mrs. Yvonne Baskerville
- 2nd Vice President – Mrs. Effie Woodard
- Recording Secretary – Ms. Delores Lancaster
- Treasurer – Mr. Trubbie Leeper
- Financial Secretary – Mr. Ira Golden
- Chaplain – Mr. William Manning

Bishop Monroe wished every one safe travel and gave the benediction. The Convention adjourned

CLC 2013-2017 Elected Officers



(L-R) William Manning-Chaplain; Trubbie Leeper-Treasurer; Ira Golden-Financial Secretary; Delores Lancaster-Secretary; Effie Woodard-2nd Vice President; Yvonne Baskerville-1st Vice President; Mary Matthews-President

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention

Legislation Passed

Plenary Session II, the committee presented reading of all proposed amendments to be considerations by the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention.

Plenary Session VIII the following actions were taken:

1. The propose change to Article II was approved. New wording ,
The purpose of this organization shall be to organize the laity of The A.M.E. Zion Church in each Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District and local church in the Connection to the end that the following objectives may be achieved:
2. The proposed change to Article III, Section I was approved. New wording,
Section 1. Eligibility. All lay persons who are members of The A.M.E. Zion Church and who are in good standing in their respective churches are eligible and encouraged to become members of the Connec-tional Lay Council.
3. The proposed change to Article III, Section 2 was rejected
4. The proposed change to Article III, Section 2A was approved as amended. New wording,

MEMBER-SHIPS	CONNEC-TIONAL	REGIONAL	CONFERENCE	DISTRICT	LOCAL
Life – 125.00	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$25.00	\$50.00
Four Year-20.00	\$8.00	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$4.00
Regular – 5.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$1.00
Sustaining Life - \$10.00	\$2.50	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.50	\$5.00

Plenary Session X - lack of a quorum , unable to complete legislative matters.

Note: Proposed change to Article III, Section 2B is rejected by virtue of Article III, Section 2 rejection. An explanation of Sustaining Life is needed, Proposed addition of Article III, Section 2C. Executive Board actions.

....President's Desk

continued from page 1

We will use the first component of our theme "Worship" during our Lay Day celebrations. Therefore, our Lay Sunday theme is "Fortifying Our Faith While Focusing on Our Future Through: Worship". Worship is a means of fortifying our faith both now and for the future, providing it remains unencumbered by human distractions and accretions. When Spirit-led, the essence of worship is made manifest to those who earnestly seek God.

The R. C. Rochon YYA Church Music and Leadership Development Academy

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2013

Session #1: Global Leadership in Ministry

Facilitator: Ms. Crystal Bailey

Presenter: Mr. John Thomas, III; YYA Coordinator for World Methodist Council

Workshop Summary: To begin the workshop, Ms. Bailey introduced the presenter Mr. John Thomas as the Youth Young Adult Coordinator for the World Methodist Council. Mr. Thomas explained his role within the World Methodist Council and the structure of the Global Methodist Church. He then discussed the meaning of the word "Methodist" based on the spiritual practices (prayer, meditation) of John Wesley. Mr. Thomas informed the group of his young adult lay membership in the African Methodist Episcopal Church where he is an active political activist within the church. He urged those in attendance to collaborate with other denominational and/or ecumenical affiliations to understand our similarities and differences. The session ended with an open group collaborative discussion.

Session #2: Church Music Academy: Theory & Practicum

Facilitators: Ms. Crystal Bailey

Presenter: Mr. Othello Jefferson - Theory & Mr. Jonathan French= Practicum

Workshop Summary: The most important thing to remember is that Music is a Ministry. Each individual has a story and song that is uniquely yours. It is up to each individual to identify his or hers.

-a story – testimony of God's goodness, grace and mercy.

-a song – personal praise of thanksgiving to God.

Ministers of Music have an awesome responsibility to spread His (God's) Gospel through music. There are several genres of music used in the church to tell our stories through song such as: Spirituals, Hymns, Anthems, Traditional Gospel, Contemporary Gospel and Praise and Worship

Praise and worship is not just a worship approach, genre, or style. It is about a lifestyle, not a set of musical preference. We praise God for what He has done for us (praise automatic). We worship Him for

who He is to us (our relationship with God).

Ministers of Music working closely with the pastor must understand the importance of program vs flow. There is always a need for connection between the message and the music.

Session #3: Local Leadership Training

Presenter: Mrs. Twiila Harrison

Workshop Summary: Mrs. Harrison presented on the varying leadership styles among youth, young adults and adults. She explained the differences between the generational leadership styles of persons within the church. Mrs. Harrison also utilized biblical examples such as King David to explain the importance and significance of praise dance for numerous youth and/or young adults to the seasoned adults in attendance. Throughout the session, the group engaged with each other through dialogue by making connections of their leadership styles with persons within and outside their age group.

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2013

Session #1: YYA Lunch N' Learn

Facilitators: Ms. Crystal Bailey, Ms. LaKesha Womack

Workshop Summary: Youth and Young Adults introduced themselves to each other as an opening activity of the Lunch N' Learn. Ms. LaKesha Womack reviewed the planned YYA workshops/activities for the remainder of the week. Dr. Yvonne Tracey, President, Connectional Lay Council, also offered remarks and assistance for the YYA workshops/activities for efficient leadership development throughout the week. Afterwards, the youth and young adults present interacted with each other over lunch.

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2013

Session #2: Each One, Teach One Mentoring

Facilitator: Ms. Crystal Bailey

Presenter: Mrs. Twiila Harrison

Workshop Summary: Mrs. Harrison started the workshop by having the participants to write down/think about one word that describes them. Mrs. Harrison discussed the carryover connections about what we learn and practice in the church and our professional

The R. C. Rochon YYA Church Music and Leadership Development Academy

occupations. Then, Mrs. Harrison requested prayer to officially begin the workshop. Prayer was rendered by Mrs. Tina Betts of the Alabama-Florida Episcopal District. Afterwards, Mrs. Harrison facilitated a group discussion of expectations for the workshop, concerns about local/connectional church involvement of youth and young adults, and everyday living skills inside and outside of church (i.e. relationships). The group also had a more detailed discussion of effective technology use within the church. In closing, the group decided to continue talking about relationship matters in the next scheduled session. The workshop ended with prayer by Ms. Shannon Bracey of the Mid-Atlantic II Episcopal District.

MONDAY, JULY 29, 2013

Session #1: Using Small Groups to Grow Ministry

Facilitator: Ms. Crystal Bailey

Presenter: Mrs. Twiila Harrison

Workshop Summary: The workshop began with a review of the discussion in the previous workshop on Sunday afternoon (7/28/13) and an overview of the goals and objectives for today's workshop. After the overview, the participants shared their words that best describe their personalities as a carryover activity from the previous workshop. Some of the descriptive words given were: curious, passionate, servant, creative, collaborator, vocal, non defined, and etc. Mrs. Harrison explained that these descriptive words typically define who we are as persons inside and outside the church. The group continued the discussion by establishing rules for a safe sharing environment. Other topics conversed about were: everyday living skills (resume sharing) and mentoring relationships. The workshop ended with the participants leaving to attend the 21st Century Panel discussion with the participants of the General Lay Council Convention.

Session #3: Using Small Groups to Grow Ministry

Facilitator: Ms. Crystal Bailey

Presenter: Mrs. Twiila Harrison

Workshop Summary: The workshop opened with a prayer given by Mr. Chris Rogers of the Alabama-Florida Episcopal District. Mrs. Harrison then con-

tinued the group discussion on everyday living skills as initiated during the morning session. The participants were encouraged to share resumes with other young adult on professional networks such as LinkedIn. Mrs. Harrison also facilitated the group with discussing other everyday living skills topics such as: public speaking, personal finances, peer pressure, conflict resolution, etiquette standards, personal branding, and identifying your motivators. The workshop was closed in prayer by Master Lee Kennedy of the Piedmont Episcopal District.

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2013

Session #1: Using Small Groups to Grow Ministry

Facilitator: Ms. Crystal Bailey

Presenters: Ms. LaKesha Womack, Mrs. Twiila Harrison, Ms. Quinta Ellis, Reverend Kelcy Steele

Workshop Summary: Mrs. Harrison opened the workshop by explaining the presentation format of each presenter. Mrs. Harrison then offered prayer for the workshop and presenters. The first workshop presenter, Ms. LaKesha Womack, started her presentation on "The Robert Rules of Order" in brief. Ms. Womack provided a handout for all participants. She encouraged all persons to become familiar with "Robert Rules of Order" by providing an agenda and minutes before the meeting. Ms. Womack also suggested that chairpersons or presidents should contact other committee chairs before the meeting to inform them if a report is needed. She also reviewed the appropriate language and actions for making, seconding, or stating a motion. The "Robert Rules of Order" is available as a hard copy or as an e-book.

The second workshop presenter, Ms. Quinta Ellis, began her workshop on mentoring as the Chair of the Mentoring Committee for the Connectional YACM Steering Committee. She interacted with the youth in the room by having them to introduce themselves and explain their desires for leadership within the church. Some of the youth/young adults expressed preferences for a mentor close to their age range, with similar professions and wisdom. Members of the Bahamas Conference expressed

The R. C. Rochon YYA Church Music and Leadership Development Academy

an interest with the mentoring project between the various youth and young adult departments. To wrap up the session, Ms. Ellis remarked that she would create a database of gifts, graces, skills, and talents of the names and gender for each youth/young adult interested in participating with the mentoring project.

.....Worship

continued from page 6

4. What is the proper attitude for worship?
5. Have we effectively communicated the symbolism behind our ritual to new members and the younger generation to inform and deepen their understanding of our corporate worship?
6. Are we as individuals and church congregations maintaining the proper balance between worship, church business, outreach and socializing?
7. What changes can we implement at home in our devotions and advocate for within our local church to create a more effective worship experience?

Unless we challenge ourselves and each other to gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the privilege of worship, we risk becoming complacent and disengaged. No one will desire to "Come with us to Christ" if we are lukewarm, self-absorbed or negative about our church and its leadership. We need to be passionate about our worship, positive about our church and living examples of the love of God.

In John 4:23-24 (The Message Bible), the challenge of worship is summarized as "It's who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration."

True worshippers reverence God; have a personal relationship with God (i.e. salvation through revelation, repentance and restoration); and, represent God by living a life of faith this is pleasing to God. God is calling each of us to deepen, strengthen and broaden our worship of Him to fortify our faith.

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

Moses Perspective - Worship

...Worship - Moses *continued from page 8*

"...as a result of the critical thinking of John Wesley, flexibility and latitude in worship became essential parts of the Wesleyan Tradition, in which we are free to move from solemn reverence to emotional jubilation, all to the glory of God and to the conversion of souls...Our hallowed traditions help define who we are. They set the guidelines for our forward movement. But a French proverb offers us wise counsel: 'We must be careful to bring from the past the flame, not the ashes...' We must be willing to change, try new things and pursue new understandings, always remaining thoughtful, vigilant and prayerful. Let us not view change as a thief in the night coming to rob us of our precious traditions and valued legacy...Let the doors of worship be open so that the Holy Spirit may lead the people of God into His presence."

I was inspired to read this, but also dismayed as apparently, we have neither taken seriously nor been subjected to adhere to the counsel of our bishops. I find no other way to explain why these "worship wars" persist between the "Moses" and the "Joshua" generations, each arguing across the divide with the other about what "real" worship is or should be.

So now, I shall attempt to wade in the waters of this controversy between these two sides of the debate each standing on opposite banks of the same river and say that BOTH sides are wrong if the intent of the discussion is to seek a way of gaining advantage of our own narrow perspectives to prove that "my" way is the right way. These arguments miss the point! As Robert E. Webber states, "The focus of worship...is not human experience, not a lecture, not entertainment, but Jesus Christ - his life, death and resurrection" (*Worship is a Verb* p. 1). As Thomas G. Long ("*Beyond the Worship Wars*," p. 17) says, "Worshiping God is not simply a good thing to do; it is a necessary thing to do to be human...Thus, planners of worship do not MAKE worship meaningful; worship is ALREADY meaningful. We do not manufacture worship that addresses people's deepest needs; true worship already meets those needs. Our job, then, is to get the distortions out of the way and to plan worship that is authentic, that does not obscure, indeed magnifies, those aspects of true worship that draw people to be whole." I submit therefore to you, my church family, that we can

do this if - and only if - we finally admit and realize, as Soren Kierkegaard has put it, "that if there is an audience in worship, it is God." Revelation 4:11 explains it best: "'Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.'" (Revelation 4:11) This is why I wrote in my recent book "*A Principle Within*" (p. 34) the following: "The arguments about worship in which we often currently engage are debates that diminish or destroy the meaning and purpose of worship as it delves into squabbles that amount to nothing more than personal preference." May we now agree to agree that what makes or constitutes real or true worship as Jesus defines it in John 4 is not style but sincerity. I like what Warren Wiersbe ("*Real Worship*" p. 85) says, "No church is perfect, but it can at least strive to be true."

We have to get this right and settle this matter once and for all if our worship is to be pleasing to God. The only way towards that, it seems to me, is through worship. I cannot find any instance in the early (1st century) church where any matter of disagreement or dispute was settled by majority rule, by Robert's Rules, by legislation or by fiat. Disputes and disagreements about any issue the church faced, including disputes and disagreements about worship, were settled by acts of worship. Wesley followed this model in employing and advocating what is known to us as "the means of grace." Wesley understood them to be "outward signs, words, or actions, ordained of God, and appointed for this end, to be the ordinary channels whereby he might convey to men, preventing, justifying, or sanctifying grace...The chief of these means are prayer, whether in secret or with the great congregation; searching the Scriptures; (which implies reading, hearing, and meditating thereon;) and receiving the Lord's Supper, eating bread and drinking wine in remembrance of Him: And these we believe to be ordained of God, as the ordinary channels of conveying his grace to the souls of men" (Wesley, Sermon 16, "The Means of Grace").

Thus it seems that if the true worship of God "in Spirit and in truth" is in fact our focus, we will indeed find our way out of this wilderness into the Promised Land.

Joshua Perspective - Worship

....Worship - Joshua *continued from page 8*

- While others have been wounded
- And caught in the line of fire of congregation transformation
- All because of drum beats and praise dancers.

- And we have lost many to the church down the street
- And others who have united with mega churches
- With no regards to sound doctrine
- And have submitted themselves
- To ego driven ecclesiastical polity.

- Many in our generation don't care that the Pastor down the street
- Has made himself a bishop
- Because they are so wrapped up in the banging praise team
- Not realizing that Sound without Spiritual Sight is null and void.

- It doesn't take Stevie Wonder nor Ray Charles to see or realize that, the "culture" in our beloved Zion is changing.

- We have a great variety of music now,
- We have B3 Organs,
- Pipe organs,
- Tambourines,
- And all other instruments.

- It should be no surprise
- That some seasoned saint's
- Find these changes uncomfortable

- And often times view them
- As a holy hostile take over
- And categorized them
- As Church Folk Gone Wild.

- Some have grown used to the traditional way of doing things,
- And the slighted change can cause unnecessary interruption
- Of their comfort levels.
- Moses please stop rejecting us and programing us out.
- Can we come and reason together?
- And engage in dynamic didactic dialogue?

- Can we talk TONIGHT?

- We need you MOSES to help us bridge the gap.
- And allow room for
- The traditional to meet the contemporary.

- Please don't be threatened by us.
- We are not here to move you out of the way.

- Moses we value your wisdom
- Moses we appreciate your worship style
- Moses we to are sons and daughters of Varick

- And many of us have come through the ranks of
- Varick Christian Endeavor, VCYC, YACM,
- And yes, even the Lay Council
- And we know the order and the structure of Zion Methodism.

- Don't allow the enemy of Stagnated worship
- To play tricks with your mind

- This is not about rejection
- It's more about Succession

- We are not trying to come before you
- We are not trying to take anything from you
- But we are simply here
- To prepare ourselves to come after you.

- Don't push us away from the table
- Because of our youthfulness

- But pull us to the table
- Because there is a mantle
- That will be passed down

- And now is the time to impart in us
- Valuable Instructions
- On how to handle it with care.



- Moses we to would like to connect with our transcendent Creator
- Who nonetheless condescends to walk and talk with us?

- Moses please don't let our Joshua Generation worship styles.
- Intimidate you,

Joshua Perspective - Worship

- We just want integration.
 - We don't want your part
 - We just want our part.
 - We want to be like Isaiah in the 6th Chapter
 - In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple.
 - Isaiah caught a glimpse of his Glory.
 - He saw the Lord Just
 - As Moses saw the Lord in Exodus 15:11 –
 - Glorious in his holiness,
 - Fearful in his praises,
 - And awesome in His glory
 - And that's what worship is all about
 - God being high and lifted up
 - Isaiah saw God as the central object of all worship,
 - Surrounded by angelic beings
 - That's all we want Zion!
 - We want a theophany....
 - We want to see God high and lifted up....
 - We want such a personal encounter with God like Isaiah.
 - That we can sing:
 - Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
 - I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
 - I can hear the brush of angel's wings.
 - I see glory on each face.
 - Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
 - Because If others were seated around Isaiah in the Temple that day.
 - I'm sure they wouldn't have seen the revelation of God as Isaiah did.
 - Because He doesn't write
 - "WE saw the Lord",
 - He says, "I saw the Lord".
 - Worship is always personal –
 - It always begins with a (I)
 - And many of times expressed corporately
 - Then it becomes a (WE)
 - Our corporate worship
 - Is still made up of INDIVIDUALS
 - Who are worshipping.
 - But we cannot afford to be "individualistic" in our worship,
 - Where we ignore or disregard others people around us.
 - Due to style, trends, and traditions.
 - And become selfish and catching an attitude.
 - I'm getting mind, they better get theirs.
 - In other words,
 - What it takes for you to see the Lord,
 - May be different from what it takes for me.
 - Different strokes for different folks.
 - Moses can you please be flexible with us!
 -
 - We can't afford as the African Methodist Episcopal Zion church
 - To go back to the good old days
 - Of bad sound,
 - Marginal talent
 - And torn hymnbooks.
 - God deserves our Best!
 - I stand as a proud member of the FREEDOM CHURCH"
 - Can we be free to worship with our own personalities?
 - Can we be free to explore other worship styles?
 - Can we be free to engage all generations in worship?
 - "We must be careful to bring from the past the flame, Not the ashes".
- We have to re-learn how to defer to the movement of the Spirit
In matters of style across generational lines.
- Humbly Submitted,
 - Joshua

Convention Evaluations

ACTIVITY			N/A	COMMENTS
Lay Academy Session III				Enjoyable Great idea to make session III available for attendees to heard participate in all sessions
Modes of Music for Worship	6		2	
\$\$ & Sense Games - Stewardship	7		1	Very informative
Gospel-cise Stretch	5		1	Missed this rest room break Should have done this alone
"Come With Us To Christ" - Discipleship	8			
Regional Cluster Breakfast	3		3	
Meet The Candidates Forum	4	2	1	More time for questions Due to the constraints this did not happen at the scheduled time
"Mama's Girls" Stage Play	7			Great Excellent, needed a little humor
Victor J. Tulane Banquet	3	1		A little lengthy Too long went one time This is very important, it should have been at an earlier time. Too late
Bishop George J. Leake Challenge Luncheon	9			Enjoyed very much Very organized Food was bad - (untasty) Could have shortened the time
Candlelight Memorial Service	8			There was no candlelight
Election Process	4	1	2	Too slow need faster process Seemed a bit unorganized Not well organized Had to leave early - work obligations Should of had hand held devices too long - 21 century
Prayer Breakfast	5		4	Wonderful
Closing Session			2	
Other				
Other				
Overall Organization of Lay Convention	2			Well organized - events on time (attended Saturday - Thursday) Could of better use of time instead of so much preaching

Convention Evaluations Additional Comments

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

This is the first CLC convention. It was informative and spiritually uplifting. I received plenty of ideas and information to take back to my local church and district meetings

Need more time to ask questions to the candidates. Maybe a debate between candidates.

Put in packets information on getting powerpoint presentations from presenters

Have a life members stoling ceremony.

Very important to stick to schedule. If going green suggestion to have information available on jump drive for handout as part of registration package. Or provide to regional direction for distribution,

Why did 98% of the awards go to North Carolina? Is that because you know them and work with them?

I enjoyed my stay at the Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery, Alabama. I also enjoyed the Convention, it was very informative and I appreciated the opportunity to enjoy the concert and the play.

My only critique would be the following:

- Not enough time for lunch and/or dinner
- Not being able to stay on track

We were scheduled to leave around 10 am, but due to not completing the legislative matters, we were undecided about when to leave. Some wanted to stay, some wanted to leave.

Need more youth participation. Perhaps a general a general registration fee that will allow more people and churches to send participates with out having to pay full registration fee that many of the small local churches cannot afford.

Delegate seating: Episcopal areas should be marked with signs

- Seminars should repeat at different days and on time - allow you to take more classes
- Should leave off the night preaching - Sunday is enough preaching - you have Bible class.
- You should of allowed time to visit the church and King home before starting something else
- Should have included a light meal for dinner
- Should of gotten coupons for breakfast at the hotel
- Everyone should be voting at the same time too much time consuming the way it was done

A GREAT CONFERENCE - JUST INFO TO IMPROVE

I would love to come and learn something that is not the normal subject that is discussed at church, district, conference, etc. I know it is hard to tackle such a task but those that do attend re mostly seasoned saints and we do attend mot if not all but I personally would like to learn new ministries.

Enjoyed Bible Study but felt that could have been shorten to allow more time for legislative matters.

Delegate seating and Episcopal areas should be marked with signs and delegates just be directed to go sit in their Episcopal area/district rows should be reserved by registered attendees from each Episcopal area/district this will save time and confusion. Delegation was moving slowly not listening to directions.

Please put on the schedule in the future business of the Lay Council early. Some of us left before the by-laws were voted on, bad business, The conference was GREAT! It could be GREATER

REGIONAL NEWS

Eastern West Africa Episcopal District
Bishop Michael Angelo Frencher, Sr., Presiding Prelate
Mrs. Patricia W. Walton, Regional Director

Schools and Colleges

The Eastern West Africa Episcopal District is proud of the fact the A.M.E. Zion Church owns several nursery and primary schools throughout Nigeria. The A.M.E. Zion Church also maintains five post primary (secondary) schools, one post-secondary school added to fourteen primary schools. The A.M.E. Zion Church also owns and maintains the Hood-Speaks Theological Seminary which has an Affiliate membership/Association with the University of Calabar. There are approximately 2,000 students enrolled in these schools. Hood-Speaks Seminary and all but one of the schools were founded during Bishop Samuel Chuka Ekemam's Episcopal dispensation and are maintained by the Annual Conferences in the areas where they exist. In his last report to the General Conference (2012) Bishop Ekemam stated that the aggressive educational and expansion program of this Episcopal District calls for support and encouragement. Hundreds of indigent students in Higher Institutions as well as unemployed youths look to the church for help, solace and succor. The present Episcopate, Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr., agrees with Bishop Ekemam. The more support we give to these schools, the greater will be the return in producing students who will not only go on to peruse Higher Education but will become productive citizens of society. The Hood-Speaks Theological Seminary provides excellent training for those going into the ministry. It also provides a training ground for institutions and conventions provided by the Annual Conferences. The Eastern West Africa Episcopal District appreciates any and all support that has and will be given to support the schools of Nigeria.

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. So that the whole denomination knows what your Lay Council is doing or plans to do.

Articles may be e-mailed to the your Regional Reporter or to the Editor, Miss Rhandi M. Stith Rhandim@aol.com



Shine Productions LLC provides quality, professional, audio/visual and media services. A minority owned and operated media company headquartered in Southeast Michigan.

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Shine Productions is owned and operated by our own Young Adult Initiative Chairperson, Ms. Crystal Bailey. The 9th Lay Convocation, General Conference, The 10th Quadrennial Lay Convocations and Bishops McCoy, and Holmes funerals were Live Streamed by this media company.

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10th Quadrennial Lay Convention



10th Quadrennial Lay Convention



10th Quadrennial Lay Convention



March on Washington

