**MINUTES**

**Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization**

**Clapps Chapel A.M.E. Church, Whitsett, NC**

**April 16, 2016-10:00 A. M.**

The Lay Organization meeting was called to order by President Penny Oliver. Bro. John Timmons led the Lay Body in singing two verses of the “Lay Hymn” and prayer, (in absentia of our Chaplain Sis. Rose Taylor). The Lay Litany was led by Bro. John and Sis. Carlene Timmons.

The Lay Body received a gracious welcome from Sis. Carlene Timmons, the Local Lay President of Clapps Chapel and in absentia of Pastor Clay Barrow.

**Roll Call of Officers – Diane Foy**

All Officers were present except the following.

* Bertha McLendon/Assistant Recording Secretary – Excused
* Barbara Smith/Corresponding Secretary – Excused, (President Oliver informed the Lay Body that Sis. Smith’s Husband is now home, doing well. He is having problems with his left hand and thanks everyone for their cards and continued prayers.
* Rose Taylor/Chaplain – Excused

 *EX-OFFICIO OFFICERS*

* James Hill – *Excused*
* Starr Battle – *Excused*

President Oliver greeted everyone and acknowledged their presence today and she thanked Clapps Chapel for their hospitality. Everyone was given an opportunity to look over the last minutes for corrections/additions, none reported. She continued to remind the Body that the Minutes are available online approximately two weeks after meetings are held. President Oliver made one change to the Agenda; that it be changed around so that the Election of Officers will be held last. The Lay Body was in agreement.

**UPDATES/QUESTIONS**

**2016 Jack and Jill – Mary Harris**

Sis. Harris thanked everyone for their support that assisted in various ways to make this program possible. The attendance was low because of the funeral of Elder Horton. Hopefully, next year we will not have to deal with this type of emergency….. “The children need our support – we cannot control death.”

The T-shirts –Black Lives Matter” may be purchased/ordered by persons other than members of the Lay.

There is a $10.00/cost, to order for all sizes. She continued to say that, “we are not making a profit off the sale of these T-shirts.” Please contact Sis. Harris if you are interested in purchasing a T-shirt(s). Orders will be taken until the end of the month.

**2016 Lay Night – Jackie Kanipe**

Sis Kanipe reported that Lay Night will be held at the Sheraton Imperial on Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 7:30 pm. The Conference Choir, Jack & Jill Participants and “***Wax*** **Museum*,”*** ***Civil Rights Movement***, will bepresentedby Saint Paul AME Church, Raleigh, NC. All Lay Presidents and their Pastors are asked to march in together. Information will be sent to Presiding Elders.

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**2016 Lay Night – Jackie Kanipe *(continued)***

Bro. Woodrow Winchester asked for clarification on amount to be paid on Lay Night. Sis. Jackie Kanipe responded all Lay Members, Pastors, Delegates are asked to pay $50.00/each. Each Lay Person is asked to wear Blue & White with scarves, (if you have one), and sit together in reserved seating, stated Bro. Wilbert Hooker, Jr.

The Planning Committee Meeting, per Bro. Hooker, is asking for Ads for annual conference. The Conference is facing a deficit of approximately $8,000. Correction was made by various members of the Lay Body that the deficit is $-14,000. Ads for the Conference Booklet are as following:

 Full Page - $100.00 ¼ Page - $ 50.00 ½ Page – $ 75.00

Deadline Date: Monday, April 18, 2016

Sis. Azzie Conley moved that the Lay Organization take out a ½ Page Ad @ $75.00; Seconded by Bro. Wilbert Hooker, Jr., so moved; Motion carried.

Afterwards, much discussion/comments followed, concerning the benefit/cost of more ads, etc...

**2016 Prayer Breakfast – Jackie Kanipe**

Sis. Kanipe requested the Lay Body to save the date, **2nd Saturday September 10, 2016**, for the ***10th Annual Prayer Breakfast,*** to be held this year, at Macedonia AME Church, Milton, NC, beginning at **10:00 am**; **ticket cost $15.00/each**; the Reverend Kelvin Royster, Pastor.

Also**, Saturday, October 22, 2016**, the next ***Lay Institute*** will be held at Bethel AME Church, Greensboro, NC, **9:30 am – 12:30 pm**; the Reverend Alphonso McGlen, Pastor.

(Schedules are Subject to Change Due to New Bishop)

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominating Committee – Bro. Kenneth Woods, Sr., Chair**

 **(See Attached Report)**

Sis. Gertrude Upperman conducted the election. She proceeded to accept a motion from Bro. John Smith to accept the Nominating Committees’ report, as read; seconded by Bro. Dwight Patterson; so moved. Motion carried unanimously.

**Credentials Report – Sis. Nikki Allen**

Sis. Allen read the listing of churches with Lay Organizations, who were eligible to vote. Sis. Jessie Cardwell requested, for clarification, that these members please stand, representing each church called, and to certify their vote.

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**Credentials Report – Sis. Nikki Allen – *(continued)***

Each church called was represented; the only church not called and was represented was Clover Garden, which rendered them unable to vote. (***A copy listing the churches is attached).***

Sis. Upperman continued with the election by announcing three times that “***No one has submitted their name for Assistant Recording Secretary, nor Nominations from the floor***.” Sis. Emma Devine offered a motion to utilize the slate officers read for 2016 -2018. Discussion followed.

Sis. Bobbi Hague moved that the Secretary for the WNCCLO cast a vote for the Officers for 2016-2018; Seconded by Bro. Wilbert Hooker, Jr., so moved. Motion carried. Sis. Upperman read the Officer’s List, as the Lay Body applauded. Officers were asked to stand by President Oliver. New Officers will not take office until after Annual Conference.

Sis. Azzie Conley commented on a great job done by all!

President Oliver thanked everyone for their cooperation and patience in this process and it is not even 11:00 yet! Sis. Oliver asked, “Are there any ***Praise Reports/Testimonies*** that anyone would like to share?” The following shared what the Lord had done in their lives.

 Sis. Emma Devine Bro. Lamont Upperman

 Bro. Woodrow Winchester – (having surgery Monday)

 Sis. Theresa Watson Sis. Renee’ White

Sis. Kathleen Lightfoot Sis. Diane Foy

Sis. Betty Parker Bro. Wilbert Hooker, Jr.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am with prayer by Bro. Hooker, then singing our Lay Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

**Diane T. Foy**

**Attachments**