**MINUTES**

**Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization Meeting**

**Clapps Chapel AME Church**

**Saturday, January 9, 2016 - 10:00 AM**

**Safety Precautions** of the building was given by John Benton, member of Clapps Chapel, before the meeting began. He directed to the body the locations of the restrooms and emergency exits.

The meeting was called to order by President Penny Oliver; she thanked everyone for their presence and wished them a “Happy New Year!” Packets were distributed to all Lay Members.

**Devotion** was led by Theresa Watson, *3rd Vice President.* The Lay Body was asked to stand and sing, *What a Fellowship*, and then she led us in prayer. Scripture was read from Proverbs 23: 22-26; followed by the Lay Litany, which was included in our packets. Sister Watson concluded devotion by wishing everyone a “Happy New Year.”

**Welcome:** The Local Lay President of Clapps Chapel, Sister Carlene Timmons welcomed everyone in absentia of Pastor Clay Barrow, Senior Pastor. She asked the Lay Members of Clapps Chapel to stand and added if there was anything we needed, please ask any one of the members standing. She further encouraged us to please feel free to eat and drink as much as we would like of the food provided. President Oliver graciously thanked Sister Timmons and the Clapps Chapel Lay Members, for their hospitality.

**Agenda:** Dwight Patterson motioned agendaitems accepted as printed; there were several that seconded. The **motion carried.**

**Roll Call – Diane Foy**

All members of the Executive Board were present except for the following;

 Bertha McLendon, *Assistant Recording Secretary - Absent*

Rose Taylor, Chaplain - *Excused*

John Smith, *Parliamentarian – Excused*

 Renee White, *Western District Coordinator – Excused*

James Hill, *Ex-Officio Officer - Excused*

Starr Battle, *Ex-Officio Officer - Excused*

President Oliver asked if there were any corrections to the last ***Minutes***; they were approved as printed in our packet.

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**Officers Reports**

**1st Vice President, Wilbert Hooker** was Guest Speaker at Saint Stephens AME, Liberty and will be the Guest Speaker at Union Bethel AME, Winston Salem, as well as, Clapps Chapel AME, Whitsett, NC. He expressed his appreciation for the many prayers and well wishes during his illness and hospitalization. He also, thanked everyone for thinking and praying for him, his wife and family during the recent deaths in their family – “*it was truly God that brought them through. This is praying time for all of us –time out for playing.”*

***2nd Vice President,* Betty Parker** – No report.

**3rd Vice President, Theresa Watson**

Had no official report, however, her goal is that everyone reads the discipline.

**Young Adult Representative, Mary Royster-Harris**

A letter to the Lay Body/Presidents was included in our packets outlining the festivities for the 2016 Jack and Jill Extravaganza. The theme is:

*“Lifting Our Voices for the Black Lives Matter Movement”*

The extravaganza will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at St. James AME Church, Winston-Salem, NC at 12 Noon. ***Important:*** Registration begins at 10:45 AM for contestants participating in the competition and churches. All Jack and Jill Contestants will need to turn in their funds by 11:45 AM to remain eligible to participate.

Below are ideas for various age groups to present, however your own expressions of *Black Lives Matter Movement* are welcomed.

* Ages 3-7 can create a poster or form of art expression to

exhibit the current context of Black Lives Matter Movement.

* Ages 8-12 can write a poem, do a skit, or oratorical surround-

ing the effects of police brutality on minors.

* Ages 13-17 will present on how education at any level can be

reformed to aide in progression of reducing police brutality with-

in the minority community or differences in crime sentences as it

relates to the Black Lives Matter Movement.

* Ages 18-35 can present on a social issue meaningful to them that

can potentially arise in the 2016 Presidential Election that affects

people of color. There will be a time limit for each category depending

upon the number of participants. A scrapbook can be compiled for

judging as well.

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Church registration can be mailed prior to the event date, even if your church does not have anyone competing for the Jack and Jill. Please complete the entry form attached in the packet and return to Mary Royster Harris by March 16, 2016. The form is also available on [www.wncclay.org](http://www.wncclay.org).

A suggestion was made by Shirley Hamilton, *Saint Joseph, Durham,* that we should include training on “how we should conduct ourselves when these situations happen.” Mozell Weston*, Bethel – Greensboro*, volunteered her services since that information has already been provided for their youth.

***Eastern District Coordinator,* Bettie Duell**

She attended two (2) Lay Witness Sunday Programs; Saint Matthews, Burlington and Saint Matthews, Liberty. Sister Duell reiterated when she visits various churches she is there to enjoy the services – not to speak. You will to need to contact her directly for this requested service. She continued to thank everyone for their display of love and support during the deaths of her sister-in-law and brother.

***Historiographer,* Sonia Barbre**

Sonia distributed copies of the Lay Express 2016, of which she is the author. She displayed pictures on the Board of the Prayer Breakfast, 2015 also, the Clergy/Lay Institute held in November, 2015. Sonia continues to spotlight churches and their History.

Constance Pearson, *Saint James, Winston-Salem,* stated she would like to see all church History’s placed in a separate book and she would be willing to help Sonia prepare this book.

***Social Action Committee,* Kenneth Woods**

This Committee primarily concentrated on New Voting Laws for the upcoming Presidential Election. March 3rd is (Early Voting); One Stop Voting, (Register and Vote). Make sure your name, (especially women), is the same on both driver’s license and ID.

*Helpful Information*: Bobbie Hague, *Greater Bethel, Charlotte,* indicated when obtaining an ID from the Highway Patrol Station, it is important to say *FREE,* or you will be charged. Emma Devine, *Emmanuel, Durham,* churches can volunteer their van to transport persons to the voting poles.

Crystal Taylor asked, “are Pastor’s allowed to endorse any particular candidate?” Mary Harris answered, *“No AME Pastors are not to endorse candidates.* Emma Devine stated that “*candidates may come in and present, upon the agreement of the Steward Board. It can be any candidate/party, other- wise, no one can come!”* Bro Woods reiterated make sure we get it clear that your church is **not** endorsing any candidate/party.

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***Corresponding Secretary,* Barbara Smith** – No report.

**Treasurer’s Report, Woodrow Winchester, *Treasurer* &**

 **Mozell Weston, *Financial Secretary***

Copies of this report were distributed. Bro. Winchester proceeded to do an overview of the report.

***Comments:*** Under Use of Funds:

Audrey McLean questioned what do we do with the bank account amount (balance)? Bro. Winchester replied you will note the distribution in the monthly Budget.

The Western N.C. Conference purchased a Brick in the amount of $200.00 for the General Conference.

Penny Oliver questioned the *($59.30) Change in Funds amount?* Bro. Winchester answered at first he was unable to balance the budgets, and then he recalled the stop payments that had to be done when he and the bank caught someone trying to “hack/compromise” our account. Dale Wragg, *Bethel, Greensboro* wanted to know if we changed accounts? Bro. Winchester said, “Since no monetary damage was done, the bank offered to open a new account, he declined and said he would monitor the account very closely. Emma Devine commended Bro. Winchester on his due diligence for being so watchful over the funds of the Western NCC Lay Funds. The Body applauded!

The Treasurer’s Report was accepted as information, per President Oliver.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

***Updated Conference Meeting Locations***

The next meeting location for the Western NC Conference Lay Meeting is Saturday, March 12, 2016 at Saint James AME, Asheville, NC.

Our updated Meeting Dates and Locations indicate August 13, 2016 as one of our meeting dates. Janie Wilson, Rock Creek brought it to the attention of the Lay Body that this date is in conflict with the Missionary’s Winter Institute, this activity will take several of the members away. After much discussion, Wilbert Hooker **motioned** to move the Lay Meeting Date to Saturday, August 20, 2016; **seconded** by Adolphus Kelly. The motion carried; location is TBA.

***Outreach Ministry Committee*** - ***Mary Dasher-McAdams, Chairperson***

Sister Mary Dasher-McAdams, Chairperson reported this committee met Tuesday, December 29, 2015 at Saint Joseph, Durham, NC. The focus of this committee was two-folded: develop guidelines to provide a source to churches within the WNCC as an outreach tool of help as a last resort to complete immediate structural task at hand or prospective structural that may need a little nudge; benevolence fund for the WNCCLO. Ceiling amount of $5,000 was allocated in the Budget; the committee decided the following guidelines should adhered to – leave $2,500 for unforeseen emergencies and $2,500 for funding minor structure repair either interior or exterior for small churches, upon requesting funds via application. No monies were set aside for Benevolence.

Sister McAdams explained this recommendation was first presented to the Executive Board via Conference Call and they suggested that this committee

go back and consider including the Benevolence aspect with guidelines, also, that guidelines be put in place for Structural Repairs. During the Conference Call, President Oliver further suggested that this report be read at the meeting be read today for the Lay Body’s input. After much discussion, Levi Davis, *Saint Joseph* motioned that we accept the committee’s report to help the small churches in need; seconded by numerous persons, so moved. The most any church can get is $1,000, after an application has been filled out. **We voted and the majority was in agreement; one (1) against.** The Lay Body agreed that the report be adopted be with the inclusion of the Benevolence with guidelines and guidelines for Structural Repairs. This information will be presented at our next meeting, March 12th in Asheville, NC.

***2016-18 Nominating Committee Report* – Kenneth Woods, *Chairperson***

Kenneth Woods reported that this committee will follow the Constitution, as written. As of today, they have received four (4) Letters of Intent. The Letters

 of Intent may be found on the website, [www.wncclay.org](http://www.wncclay.org) Persons running for office are unable to campaign, until you have been qualified on March16th by

 ***Niki Allen verifying the number of meetings you have attended; and*** ***the Committee verifies the other information you have provided.***

1ST Vice President Hooker stated, “*When we wrote our Constitution and By-Laws, we made mistakes, our conference president cannot sign the Letter of Intent because she may also be running for an office, it is a conflict of interest.”* President Oliver restated, “YES WE MADE A MISTAKE.” Bro. Robert McAdams, *Saint Joseph, Durham,* questioned her statement – what does that mean? She replied, *“Now we have to live with our mistakes and abide by those rules that were put into place at that time.”* President Oliver will notbe signing the letters, since she is running for office, however, members of the Laity, interested in running for office, were asked to send Letters of Intent directly to the Nominating Committee and the nominating committee will contact the local presidents.

***Clergy and Lay Institute Update* – Jackie Kanipe**

Jackie asked her committee to stand and she expressed her appreciation. The handouts that were distributed at the institute are included in our packet. The information delivered was well received by all presenters; the lack of handouts was the greatest criticism. The question that kept coming up was; *“when* *will the next institute be held?”* Sis. Kanipe stated that will have to be part of our calendar planning for this year.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

***Founder’s Day Updates***

The Bishop’s Retirement activities will be held during Founder’s Day; the dates are February 18-20, 2016.

 Beginning February 18th – Reid Temple

 Friday, February 19th – Bishop Preaching

 Friday, February 19th - Lay Luncheon (Cost Unknown)

 ***Friday PM is the Retirement Reception – “No Cost”***

***Theme: “It Is Well”***

- Go Online to Make Tribute –

Bobbi Hague motioned that we submit a $100 tribute to Bishop & Mrs. DeVeau from the WNCCLO; seconded by Kenneth Wood, so moved. Mary Harris announced, per Elder Pridgen, asking all Delegates, Alternates to please be present at Founder’s Day.

*Director of Lay Activities,* Jackie Kanipe updated the Lay Body on plans for the **Prayer Breakfast 2016.** This is the 10th year Anniversary and we have two (2) bids. Volunteers are welcome to serve in the implementation of this year’s celebration.

Sis. Kanipe reported that the ***U. S. Postal Stamp Dedication for the Richard Allen Commemorative “Forever” Stamp*** will be held *Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 12:00 pm, Mother Bethel AMEC, 419 South 6th Street, Philadelphia, PA. (*See further information in packet). Also, she will be taking orders today for Study Guides; ***$20/each, April 2015 edition –*** monies/checks payable to Treasurer.

***Laity Teaching Moment – Jackie Kanipe***

*Laity Fulfilling the Great Commission”*

Sis. Kanipe stated that, the Laity can work in partnership with the Clergy to fulfill the great commission, i.e., our *Clergy and Lay Institute* was a great example of that. All of us have a great responsibility!

***2016 Budget – Woodrow Winchester & Budget Committee***

The only major difference is conference membership – 1500.

 Lay Institute raised … $2,500.00

 Prayer Breakfast raised … $5,000.00

Basically the proposed budget for 2016 is same as 2015 Budget, except for the above mentioned items. A motion was entertained; it was **moved** by Wilbert Hooker to accept the budget for 2016; **seconded** by Betty Duell, so moved –the motion carried.

Kenneth Wood inquired if a reception would be held for the Conference?Bro. Winchester replied*, “We do not have it in our budget – word is we will not have a reception.”*

**Membership Update –Niki Allen**

59 persons registered for today’s meeting ……………………………..**$ 270.00**

As of today, we have lay dues received for 9*5 adults and 8 youth.*

Youth do not pay, under 18 years old.

***Miscellaneous Announcements***

President Oliver announced that John Smith, *Parliamentarian*, is out of ICU, asked for your prayers. Emma Devine requested that when announcements are sent out for sick & shut-in, please include their addresses; she was unable to find an address for Bro. Smith.

Kenneth Woods distributed flyers for Annual Day at White Cross AME.

Betty Parker thanked everyone for their prayers, telephone calls, and acts of kindness during the death of son. Please continue to pray for her and her family.

Myrtle Mayo thanked everyone for their prayers for both she and her grand-daughter during both their illnesses.

President Penny Oliver asked Bobbie Hague to lead the Lay Body in Closing Prayer.

 **Respectfully submitted,**

 **Diane Foy**