

COST: \$1.00



We SPEAK

Kit Stuffing **Social Science for the Seventh** *Article By: Jimmy Williams – Director, Public Relations (3rd)*



Members of the CLO Registration Committee arrived to an army of volunteers from the Seventh Episcopal District. With smiling faces and can-do attitudes, they were ready to achieve the goal of stuffing 2200 kits. The 34th Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Officially opened August 2nd, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. with the seating of twenty Episcopal District Delegations that numbered in the thousands. However the volunteers from the Seventh Episcopal District arrived on Friday July 31, 2015, and stayed until the job was complete. Some were here way after dark. This writer was very impressed with the spirit of the Seventh. They converse different with a southern accent, very friendly, happy and eager to do the job. Thank You, Mr. Roger Cleckley , President of the Seventh Episcopal District Lay Organization; and Ms. Gloria McClam, Director of Lay Activities, and the entire Army of volunteers from the Seventh Episcopal District.

Information And Things You Need to Know! *Article By: Diane H. Battle – Director, Public Relations (9th)*

It is with great enthusiasm and excitement as well as an honor to serve you during this 34th Biennial session of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC. The Public Relations Office does not have internet access.

Our office is named Public Relations Office and located on the 2nd floor, Meeting Room Five (5). Please contact Walter Jeffers, 1st District, Connectional Director of Public Relations, for submission of articles. Please contact Amanda Johnson, 13th District, for copies of documents in the Public Relations Office. Please contact Dianne H. Battle, 9th District, for copies of daily “We Speak” in the Public Relations Office. District’s please send a representative from your district to sign out the number of daily “We Speak” copies needed.

The Hard Copy of the “We Speak” will be delivered to each registered biennial delegate through your District PR and signed off by the Episcopal District President verifying address information is correct. Without this verification process delivery process will not be complete.

To access documents delegates can visit the Connectional Lay Organization’s Website on both the home page and the upcoming events page, click this link (34th Biennial Session Drop Box.) When opening from a computer the document will open in PDF format. For tablets and smart phones users the drop box app must be downloaded prior to accessing the documents. If Committee Chairs are requiring copies of reports please allow ample time for copies to be printed.

On Thursday an AM and a PM copy of “We Speak” will be available.

For those delegates and observers who did not purchased a copy of “We Speak” a complete packet will be available for a cost of \$5.00 on Thursday.

Workshop presenters and Committee Chairs are requested to submit their Biennial Documents to the Connectional Director of Public Relations for inclusion on the Connectional Lay Organizations Website, following the close of the 34th Session of the Connectional Lay Biennial.

The Process of Handling Amendment

Virginia Henderson Harris, RP - Parliamentarian

Process for Handling an Amendment

The subsidiary motion to Amend allows changes to be made to the wording of a pending motion before it is acted upon. The amendment must be **germane** (closely related) and have bearing on whether the pending motion should be adopted. Several types of amendment possibilities exist among these are the following: inserting or adding words, striking out words, inserting and striking out words, inserting or adding paragraphs, striking out paragraphs, and substituting entire paragraphs.

The Chair is responsible for continually placing the **question**, whether to adopt or reject an issue or motion, before the Assembly. **Please see the motion that follows which will be amended by inserting words.**

Amendment

Member A: Receives recognition. "I move that we have a picnic on Saturday, September 05, 2015." **Member B:** Second

Chair "States" the Question on the Main Motion

"It is moved and seconded that we have a picnic on Saturday, September 05, 2015." Are you ready for the question?

Member C: Receives recognition. **Member C:** "I move to amend by inserting the words **at 10:00 a.m.** after the word picnic and before the word on." **Member D:** Second

Chair "States" the Question on the Amendment

Chair: It is moved and seconded to insert the words **at 10:00 a.m.** after the word picnic and before the word on. If the amendment is adopted the main motion will read, "That we have a picnic **at 10:00 a.m.** on Saturday, September 05, 2015." The question is on inserting the words **at 10:00 a.m.** after the word picnic and before the word on. Are you ready for the question?

Members: Debate the amendment. After ensuring that there is no further debate the Chair proceeds as follows:

Chair "Puts" the Question on the Amendment to a Vote

Chair: Are you ready for the question? The question is on inserting the words **at 10:00 a.m.** after the word picnic and before the word on. If the amendment is adopted the main motion will read, "That we have a picnic at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 05, 2015." Those in favor of inserting the words at 10:00 a.m. after the word picnic and before the word on will say, aye. Those opposed say, no.

Chair: **Announces the results** of the vote on the Amendment. The ayes have it and the amendment is adopted to insert the words **at 10:00 a.m.** after the word picnic and before the word on.

Chair "Puts" the Question as Amended to a Vote

Chair: The question is now on the main motion as amended. "That we have a picnic at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 05, 2015." Are you ready for the question?

Members: Debate the question. After ensuring that there is no further debate the Chair proceeds as follows:

Chair: Are you ready for the question? The question is on the Main Motion as amended "That we have a picnic at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 05, 2015." Those in favor of the motion say aye. Those opposed say no.

Chair announces the results indicating which side "has it" declaring whether the motion was adopted or lost, indicate the effect of the vote and include the wording used in the motion as follows: The ayes have it and the motion is adopted. "We will have a picnic at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 05, 2015."

The Chair then explains or inquires what is next by using one of the as following:

Chair: The question is now on..., The next item of business is..., Is there further new business?

- 1. The First Aid station is located in room M3. Hours are 7 a.m. to the close of business session.**
- 2. There are no over the counter medications in the First Aid station.**
- 3. Drug stores can be found across the street or check your hotel gift shops.**
- 4. If you forget to bring your medicine or medical supplies, go to the nearest drug store and have the Pharmacist to call your prescription in.**
- 5. There is a list of pharmacies and medical supply stores in the First Aid room.**
- 6. If you are a diabetic, please check your blood sugar on the same schedule you are on at home. Take your meds on the same schedule as home. Carry a snack in your convention bag.**
- 7. Follow your health routine as you would at home**
- 8. If you have Asthma and use an inhaler please keep the inhaler on your person.**
- 9. Drink plenty of water.**
- 10. Take comfort breaks.**

*And be in good health,
even as thy soul prospers.*

3 John 1: 2 KJV
BE WELL!

The Honorable Patricia Mayberry presented a very enjoyable workshop with some inspiring ways to help in growing our church. We need to be inspired, equipped, motivated, passion invoked, transformed, empowered, and anointed. These are just a few of her pointers that she presented. She spoke about how we as Laity can get more people and Church Members engaged as sheep begetting sheep by:

- **Taking evangelism by the horns**
- **Training the sheep for the mission**
- **Developing leaders within the Laity**
- **Developing a spiritual mentality in the effort to recruit**

There are people out there for us to tell them that they hunger for the word of God. God has a blessing for each of us and we need to let them know. There is a lot of untapped talent. We need to tap into it regardless of the age.

We need to have accountability to the people in the church. Let us embrace transparency with the churches, survey the area the church is located and become familiar with the needs of the community. During conferences we all need to attend whether an officer or not. God gives us the visions and you need to step out and bring people to Christ.

When canvassing we need to have the available resources for family, work, community to tell the story, reach out to each other, help and share Christianity. In Luke 5:1-11 focus on verse 7, Christ had them to cast out the nets to help bring in more fish and we need to do the same for our people. Cast the nets deep for the harvest; remember who you are promoting (Jesus Christ).



By Virginia Henderson Harris, RP
Parliamentarian
Connectional Lay Organization

Lay on the Table

Lay on the Table allows the pending question to be laid aside temporarily when something else of immediate urgency has arisen. A majority vote allows the consideration of the motion to be stopped immediately **without debate**. There is no set time for taking the tabled matter up again. This action violates the rights of the minority and individual members if it is for any other purpose other than taking up a matter of urgency. For organizations holding regular business meetings quarterly, the motion to **Take from the Table** may be considered as long as it is done before the end of the next regular session or the motion dies. **Please see RONR 11th Edition page 301 lines 34-35 and page 302 lines 1-7.**

Misuses of the Motion and Correct Procedures

The motion to **Lay on the Table** is subject to several misuses which should be avoided. Lay on the Table is often used in an effort to kill the motion or delay taking action at that moment. If the desire is to kill the motion for the remainder of the session please use the motion to **Postpone Indefinitely**. **Please see RONR 11th Edition page 126 lines – 7.** If the goal is to delay taking action until a more convenient time please use the motion to **Postpone to a Certain Time**. **Please see RONR 11th Edition page 180 lines 3-6.**

If it is evident that there is no urgency, it is out of order to lay a pending question on the table. **Please see RONR 11th Edition page 215 lines 13–15.**

At a special meeting, it is dilatory* and out of order to move **to Lay on the Table** a matter for which the meeting was called. **Please see RONR 11th Edition page 215 lines 22-23 and page 216 lines 1-2.**

If it is felt that discussion of a particular **Main motion** might do harm, rather than using Lay on the Table, raising an **Objection to the Consideration of a Question** is the proper motion, which should be made before any consideration has begun. **Please see RONR 11th Edition page 216 lines 34 – 35 through page 217 lines 1–2.**

*A motion is considered to be dilatory if it seeks to obstruct or prevent the will of the assembly.

Please see RONR 11th Edition page 37 lines 27 through page 38 line 1.

RONR- Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th Edition

Virginia Henderson Harris is a Registered Parliamentarian Certified by the National Association of Parliamentarians®

The Role of the Laity in Developing Healthy Churches

by Janie Reeder - 2nd Episcopal District

Christianity in America has lost much of its fervor despite the fact that this country was founded on the principles of religious freedom especially Protestantism. A disturbing question involves the reason that Islam has become so attractive to the youth and young adults in the United States and other countries around the world. What can be done to make Christianity, more inviting to young people; but more importantly, what role must the Laity play in attracting all people to our Zion.

Bishop Reginald Jackson shared that Christian Churches in America, and the African Methodist Episcopal Church in particular, are not growing because the Laity are not playing the role they should play in helping the church to grow. The Laity have not been taught its proper role by Clergy. Too many Lay people have titles and roles for which they have not been properly trained. There should be a partnership between Clergy and Lay; however, some clergy neglect to help in the training component. The Pastor's responsibility is to teach, preach, and train his parishioners. When these components are absent Lay Members will not be fully equipped to address all the tasks that are assigned to them. Good leadership training develops effective Lay Leaders.

The first primary role of the Laity in growing a healthy and relevant church includes the following. First, make a commitment to help build a healthy, relevant church by being a genuine worshiper. Question yourself regarding the importance of Christ in your life. Next, encourage the congregations to have healthy relationships with the community in which it exists.

An important observation regarding Christianity in America is that major denominations are not young, and that a huge population of unchurched people exists in every community. Who will do the research to develop strategies for reaching people who are not active worshipers? The Lay Members are not excused from this question. Bishop Jackson admonished that the Number One priority of the church should be church growth which does not occur each Sunday as the Pastor opens the doors of the church to invite New Members. The church cannot become caretakers, because caretakers ultimately become undertakers. The Laity must realize that they have more responsibility for church growth than the Pastor. A few observations offered by Bishop Jackson include the fact that 80% of people who are active members of the church have never bought anyone to church or persuaded anyone to join. Many have never invited a visitor to attend the services; and welcoming visitors can be a disappointing endeavor during Sunday services.

For every ten persons who join a Local Congregation, only two remain. There is a reason that the retention rate is an astounding 20%, because people do not stay where they do not grow. An essential part of Church Growth is Christian Education because it deals with every aspect of the church, and helps one to grow from Members to Disciples.

Finally, Bishop Jackson provided a Litany of Actions that Lay Organizations may consider as they return to their churches and pursue the task of building healthy and relevant churches.

- Scrutinize the mission/vision plan of the church. The mission statement is a blue print developed by the pastor for a three to five year strategic plan that addresses the programs of the church. The Vision statement tells what the church will be doing in that time period.
- Make a commitment for growth because a deliberate decision about growth will lead to positive change. Numerical growth alone is not the growth plan, but spiritual growth ensures that members will be eager to share the Plan of God with others and welcome them to the fold. Congregants who are passionate and eager about their spirituality will bring others to the church.
- Exercise Good Stewardship of the church's resources; and always be inclusive and not exclusive.
- Remember that Jesus welcomes ALL, therefore use His Example.
- Provide programs for Children, Youth and Young Adults. The average age of Young Adults in America is 31 years, while in parts of Africa the average age is 26 years. Therefore, the message is bring these groups into the church.
- Take an interest in children because they will attract parents.
- Provide programs such as food pantries and clothing drives
Introduce Rights of Passage programs for males and females.
Encourage Social Action Commissions to attend political and school board meetings.
Adopt a school in your proximity; and provide needs to the classroom for teachers and students.
Encourage retired teachers to develop After School Tutoring Programs for Youth.

Downsizing the church is not the goal of Christianity in our country. Growth is the primary goal as Clergy and Lay work to make the African Methodist Episcopal Church relevant to the spiritual, educational, and moral needs of a healthy society. Remember to be Disciples, and bring people to Christ. Pew warmers only warm the pews.

BUSINESS SESSION 3 & PLENARY SESSION 1 & 2

Rochelle McCrayer - Recording Secretary, 3rd Episcopal District

Business Session 3

The 34th Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization resumed on Tuesday, August 4, 2015, with Business Session 3. Mr. Matikane Abednego Makiti, Connectional Lay 2nd Vice President, was the presiding officer. The Credentials Committee reported they have already had a preliminary meeting and their next one would be at 1:00 pm that day. Mr. Robert Nicholas, A.M.E. SADA Executive Director, gave the agency's report. He highlighted the work and programs taking place through PowerPoint and a handout given to the District Delegations. One of the programs mentioned was the Child Survival Program that assists women who are conception age, pregnant women, mothers, and children (birth to five years old). Bishop McKinley Young, 3rd Episcopal District Prelate, and A.M.E. SADA Chairman, thanked the delegation for their efforts in supporting A.M.E. SADA. Pamela Tilley gave her Historiographer Report. She talked about the Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church display located in the Charleston Area Convention Center Lobby and everyone being able to write messages on the board. In her slide presentation she showed a picture of the Daniel Payne Middle School in Birmingham, Alabama. She highlighted Daniel Payne as being the first A.M.E. Historian and the Bishop to have had the longest term of active service. The Connectional Lay Organization in partnership with the 9th Episcopal District is working on putting a CLO Archives in Birmingham, AL.

Plenary Session 1

Edith Bartley Cartledge, Connectional Lay Director of Lay Activities, presided for the Plenary Sessions. She asked the 19th Episcopal District to sing while the transition process from the Business Session was taking place. The 19th District Delegation sang an African song and danced in the aisles. They also sang part of the Lay Hymn in their native language. It was the highlight of the morning giving you a physical and spiritual wake up. Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, 20th Episcopal District Prelate, did a presentation on "The Role of the Laity in Healthy Growing and Relevant Churches. He discussed how some people have titles but have not been trained for their positions. Good leadership develops other leaders, instead of good leadership developing good followers. He recommended reading Acts 2:42-47. Many churches are slowly dying because they have become exclusive instead of inclusive, lack children, youth, and young adults, and do not have a mission or vision statement. Church Growth and Christian Education must be the top two priorities of our church. The church must be the hub of the community.

Plenary Session 2

Rev. Dr. Allen Wayne Parrott, Rev. Randolph Miller, and Rev. Bill Swinton presented "Worship in the Low Country". Worship can be defined as declaring the worth and worthiness of God. Rev. Randolph Miller led the delegation in a Lowcountry Worship experience. He had the convention sing "The Lord is Blessing Me"; and tell their neighbor what the Lord had done for them. We sang Hymn #83, "Oh Thou in His Presence", the way you hear it in most places and then in the Lowcountry upbeat style with the South Carolina Hand Clap. We received our Hand Clap 101 lesson to be ready to truly praise in the Lowcountry way. "My Hope is Built" is one of the know songs in the Lowcountry. Rev. Miller showed us how "We Praise Thee Oh God" was sung differently in the Lowcountry upbeat style with a twist. Lowcountry Worship has call and response. Some of the choir members from Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, Charleston, South Carolina sang "It is Well" and "Love Lifted Me" Lowcountry style. They also sang "I Feel the Spirit" and "I got Another Yes Lord". Rev. Bill Swinton explained the preaching aspect of Lowcountry Worship. Altar Call is a little different in the South because it is a time for ministry, leading people to Christ, and prayer. An unclouded view of heaven is unique to the Southern culture. Lowcountry Worship is comforting and influenced by African and Caribbean traditions

The Jesse L. Burns Black Tie Soiree

Ethel Wooten - 11th Episcopal District

What an assuming evening of everyone stepping in the elegant black attire to Ballroom A for a very special occasion honoring the Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, FL where Dr. Nathaniel Glover is the President. This special occasion was open with musical interlude by the SeaBreeze Band followed with Sister Doris Bell introducing the Master and Mistress of Ceremonies, Mr. Michael Cousin and Dr. Dorothy Henderson.

Mr. Charlie Nichols, Eleventh Episcopal District President, gave the Welcome and Occasion; and Invocation and Grace given by Dr. Felicia Commodore, Young Adult Representative, for the CLO. The H & C Band serenaded us with smooth jazz music from the 40's they played Summer Time which is Charleston's National Anthem. As Dinner was served they continued to play melodies, like Etta James and other well-known artists from the era.

Ms. Adrienne Morris, Third District acknowledged the special guests; Bishop J. Adam Richardson, Presiding Prelate of the 11th Episcopal District and Supervisor Connie Speights Richardson, The Reverend Michael Mitchell, Bishop Robert Von Webster, Bishop McKinley Young and Supervisor Dorothy Young. Bishop Richardson introduced Dr. Nathaniel Glover, Legacy President of the Edward Waters College.

President Glover shared the needs of funds for this college and that we have been favorably blessed; and thanks to Bishop Young and the Trustees for the work that he did in getting everything in place to help run the school smoothly. He is the 29th President of this college and this is meant to him as he attend Edward Waters College after graduating high school. He received a full scholarship and after 11 years he was finally recognized. President Glover is a very humbling person, from cleaning bathrooms at the school to the President's office.

What an awesome change in his life. Edward Waters College has been affirmed by the SAC certification, they had 189 students in 2015, and a program called "MR" has been implemented to help our young black men with law enforcement in criminal justice, and a forensic lab. Funds from the State of Florida have been awarded. Finally, a 350 new bed dormitory has been built with a grand opening for the students to move in on August 29, 2015.

After President Glover's presentation the H & C Productions did a dedication in song, "How Can I Say Thanks." What a glorious night; and thanks to everyone for having (EWC) Edwards Water College to be in the rotation. President Willie Glover made the presentation to Edwards Waters College in the amount of \$50,000. Bishop William P. DeVeaux closed the evening by thanking all for their support and sharing the history of Edwards Waters College.

A Prayer for Our Church

Dear Heavenly Father,

If there was ever a time in our Zion needed you, we need you now Lord. We call upon Your Name through our tears and sorrows, for the tragedy that has come upon us through the doors of Mother Emanuel Church. While our Clergy and Layman soldiers had gathered together to praise, worship, and study your word, they were interrupted by someone they welcomed, but chose the wrong path. Although our hearts feel the pain and suffering of the loss of nine beautiful spirits, our faith in your amazing power to heal and comfort will carry us through this awful experience. We especially pray for the families, who must say a temporary goodbye to loved ones they will miss – please be their strength in the time of their sorrow.

May we be reminded that the Members and Leadership of Emanuel Church departed this earth while being about “The Father’s Business” and were not caught with “their work undone,” Even in the midst of this most tragic circumstance, members, family and friends have expressed forgiveness as reflective in their obedience and application of scripture to their lives. May their example be a motivator to all who hear their sentiment. Because of their example of forgiveness, we also pray for Dylan Roof, who the enemy overtook to carry out this awful act, and be with his family as they too also suffer as a result of his actions.

We ask that the African Methodist Episcopal Church be empowered and strengthened in the midst of tragedy. Provide comfort and hop for a better world and May we not forget the condolences and heartfelt expressions of concern of EVERYONE, who has responded to our call for comfort in our struggle to deal with this devastating situation. We ask that you protect us, the Connectional Lay Organization as we meet in the same city this week. Be a fence all around us while we’re there.

In the Name of Jesus, the Christ,

Amen.

Eric Bruce

Third District Lay Chaplin

The Morning Worship with Dr. Betty Deas

Cleveland Frasier - 7th Episcopal District

Hope is:

How do we maintain hope when it appears to be hopeless.

We must look back on our faith.

Hope against hope is to look for something when it is not there.

Hebrews 11:1 tells us Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen. Psalms 131:3 Oh Israel, Hope in Jehovah from this time forth and forevermore. Sometimes we must be content with what we have. The Psalms says that our hope indeed is in the Lord.

**After all the things we have been through,
we still have our hope in Christ, the Solid Rock.**