

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**  
**LAY ORGANIZATION**  
**MID-YEAR MEETING**  
**2:00 P.M.**  
**BONNER-CAMPBELL, EDWARDS, MS**  
**March 9, 2017**

President Melvin Davis (LAC) called the meeting to order at about 2:24 p.m., March 9, 2017, Bonner-Campbell, Edwards, MS, and asked Chaplain Delphine Bridgewater (CNLA) to lead the devotion.

**1. DEVOTION**

Song: “King of My Life”

Prayer in Unison

Old Testament Scripture: Stephanie Burks Ps. 150

New Testament Scripture: Linda Thomas Romans 12:16-21

Song: “Yes, God Is Real”

**2. AGENDA ADOPTION**

President Davis presented the agenda for adoption.

**ACTION:** Financial Secretary Sherry Peyton (SOMS) moved to adopt the agenda with President Davis’ suggested changes to Unfinished Business and New Business. Assistant Recording Secretary Linda Thomas (CNLA) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Recording Secretary, Shirley H. Davis (South MS Conference) called the roll.

**3. ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:**

President Davis asked for the roll call of officers.

Dr. Melvin Evans, President Emeritus	A
President Melvin Davis, President	P
William M. Brown, First Vice President	P
Marcia White, Second Vice President	P
Betty Holland Stephen, Third Vice President	P
Shirley Hopkins Davis, Recording Secretary	P
Linda Thomas, Assistant Recording Secretary	P
Elna Huel, Corresponding Secretary	P
Maria Gauthier, Treasurer	P
Sherry Peyton, Financial Secretary	P
Delphine Bridgewater, Chaplain	P
_____, Historiographer	--
Stephanie Burks, Dir. Of Lay Activities	P
Eddie Pitts, Parliamentarian	P
Florine Pernell Herron, Public Relations	P
Bobbie Hollins, Young Adult Rep.	A
<b><u>Lay Conference Presidents</u></b>	
Lydia Lacey, South MS Conference	P

Johnny M. Dumas, Jr., North MS Conference	A
Raymond Morrison, Central North LA Conference	P
Maria Gauthier	P

#### 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Assistant Recording Secretary Linda Thomas (CNLA) read the minutes of the previous Mid-year Lay meeting.

**ACTION:** Brother Robert Chambliss (LAC) moved that the minutes be adopted with necessary corrections. Sister Darlene Gordon (LAC) seconded the motion.

**CORRECTIONS:** spelling Allen in Allen Williams' name; Motion by Allen Williams (LAC) was passed that we not have Lay Convention in the year of the biennial; name of assistant secretary should be at the end of the minutes.

Motion carried.

#### 5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Secretary Sherry Peyton (SOMS) reported:

Balance Forwarded 12-1-16: \$18,485.53

Income: \$5,840

Expenses: \$3,980.84

Balance in Treasury: \$20,344.69

**ACTION:** Parliamentarian Eddie Pitts (NOMS) moved the acceptance. First Vice President William Brown (SOMS) seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Membership Drive – President Davis reiterated the action on Conference memberships and supporting the Episcopal District; total membership - 38

President Davis summarized the Lay Organization's support during disasters: support of flood victims. Tornadoes in LA and MS recently-our support is needed; Lay was asked to offer a motion in support of those victims.

**ACTION:** Chaplain Delphine Bridgewater (CNLA) moved that the Lay give \$500 to LA/MS tornado victims. Brother Robert Chambliss (LAC) seconded the motion. DOLA Stephanie Burks (SOMS) offered a friendly amendment to the motion and suggested that the Lay give \$1,000. Recording Secretary Shirley Davis seconded the motion to amend the motion. Motion passed.

DOLA Stephanie Burks (SOMS) remarked that Bishop McAllister made a detailed report at the General Board and received positive responses from Board members.

Hosting of Connectional Executive Board 2018: Brother Robert Chambliss moved that we host the Board meeting. DOLA Stephanie Burks seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### 7. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on 2017 Training/Workshops/Seminars: Stephanie Burks suggested that we focus on concrete ideas that can be carried to Local Lay Organizations and implemented. Local and District Lays that are thriving should be the examples. She suggested that the venue be somewhere that we can use technology. Allen Williams (LAC) was concerned that we do great things at the Connectional level; others need to be shown how something successful has been done. Look at the dates in the summer and spend more time on training.

Discussion ensued on what is keeping our young adults from being involved.

### **2017 Biennial, Columbus, OH, August 7-10, 2017:**

**Delegates** \$250

**Observers** \$150

\$250 registration includes banquet ticket (\$75), 1 year's subscription to We Speak  
Black tie event ticketed at \$100

**Deadline date** for registration is **March 31, 2017.**

CLEDC payment? Payment is \$100 per biennial.

**HOTELS:** Hyatt – main hotel; Hilton –secondary

**SEATING OF DELEGATES:** luck of the draw to be done at Lay EB

**CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE:**

3 running for President: Valerie Bell (2<sup>nd</sup>), Gloria Boyd (6<sup>th</sup>), Charlie Nichols (11<sup>th</sup>)

2 running for Chaplain

2 running for Director of Lay Activities

2 running for Historiographer

Candidates may speak to the Lay Organization during Christian Ed. Congress in June 2017.

## **8. NOMINEES FOR EPISCOPAL DELEGATES**

**South MS Conference:**

Shirley Hopkins Davis

Erin Lacey, Young Adult

**Central North LA Conference:**

Elna Huel

**Louisiana Conference:**

Malcolm Powell

**North MS Conference:**

**ACTION:** Brother Allen Williams (LAC) moved to elect the adult delegates. Chaplain Delphine Bridgewater (CNLA) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**ACTION:** Financial Secretary Sherry Peyton moved to elect Erin Lacey as young adult delegate. Brother Robert Chambliss seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**INSERT OF REPORT:** Mrs. Lacey presented the recording secretary the delegates and committee assignments of the South MS Conference:

**Episcopal Delegates:**

Shirley Hopkins Davis, Constitution and Bylaws

Erin Lacey, Young Adult, Marshal

**Conference Delegates:**

Audrey Hall, Memorial

Sadie Walls, Kits distributed to District

Ramona Mozee, Higher Education  
Anita Rucker, Marshal  
Linda Pate, Evaluation  
Vershaune Stamps, Young Adult, Issues Facing the Church and Nation

**Presiding Elder's District:**

Sherry Peyton, Jackson-Vicksburg District, Rules

**Local Church Delegate:**

Milton Chambliss, Issues Facing the Church and Nation

**9. TASK FORCE**

President Davis reported that the Task Force is moving forward. Discussion: strategies for getting young adults and others involved in the work of the church and Lay organizations.

**10. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Maria Gauthier had arrived and made the treasurer's report:

Balance Forwarded: \$18,485.33

Deposits: \$5,840

Disbursements: \$3,980.84

Balance in Treasury: \$20, 344.69

**ACTION:** Darlene Gordon (LAC) moved to accept the treasurer's report. Parliamentarian Eddie Pitts (NOMS) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

With President Davis' final remarks, the meeting was adjourned with the Lay Benediction.

Shirley Hopkins Davis, Recording Secretary

Melvin Davis, President