

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**  
**LAY ORGANIZATION**  
**POST PLANNING CONFERENCE MEETING**  
**3:00 P.M.**  
**BONNER-CAMPBELL, EDWARDS, MS**  
**November 16, 2017**

President Melvin Davis (LAC) called the meeting to order at about 2:58 p.m., November 16, 2017, Bonner-Campbell, Edwards, MS, and asked Chaplain Delphine Bridgewater (CNLA) to lead the devotion.

**1. DEVOTION**

Song: “King of My Life”  
 Prayer: Chaplain Bridgewater  
 Old Testament Scripture: Sis. Lena Tarpley, Proverbs 13:1-7  
 New Testament Scripture: Sis. Sherry Peyton, Romans 8:1-6  
 Song: “Yes, God Is Real”

**2. AGENDA ADOPTION**

President Davis presented the agenda for adoption.  
**ACTION:** Sis. Vivian Chambliss (LAC) moved to adopt the agenda. Sis. Lena Tarpley (CNLA) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

**3. 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 (medical exc.)	E
Betty Holland, Third Vice President	E
Shirley Hopkins Davis, Recording Secretary	P
Linda Thomas, Assistant Recording Secretary	P
Elna Huel, Corresponding Secretary	A
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>	
Hezzie Watts, South MS Conference	P
Johnny M. Dumas, Jr., North MS Conference	A
Raymond Morrison, Central North LA Conference	P
Maria Gauthier	P

President Davis recognized newly elected South MS Conference President Hezzie Watts and saluted outgoing President Lydia Lacey. The president acknowledged new lay officers on the Local Level: Eiesha Lee, LAC local first vice president and Gwen Rogers, a member of First Allen, Laurel, MS.

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

Shirley Davis highlighted the minutes of the previous meeting.

**ACTION:** Sis. JoEtta McClain (NOMS) moved that the minutes be adopted with necessary corrections. Sister Brenda Taylor (LAC) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### 5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Maria Gauthier (LAC) reported:

Balance Forwarded: \$20,344.69

Deposited: \$10,160

Disbursements: \$13,741.22

Balance in Treasury: \$16,763.47

**ACTION:** Sis. Linda Thomas (CNLA) moved the acceptance. Bro. Robert Chambliss (LAC) seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report for November 16, 2017:

Balance Forwarded: \$16,743.47

Deposited: \$2,449.11

Disbursed: \$9,150.74

Balance in Treasury: \$10,061.84

**ACTION:** Sis. Velma Rucker (SOMS) moved the acceptance. Sis. Alise Ware (LAC) seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Financial Secretary Sherry Peyton reported. Patricia Campbell moved to receive the report. Sis. Delphine Bridgewater (CNLA) seconded the motion. Correction: treasurer/financial secretary were reviewing list of amounts to check CLEDC contributions. Motion passed.

**Recording Secretary Shirley Davis confirmed the renewal of the bond with Porter's Insurance - \$50,000 @ \$257 per year.**

#### 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**President Davis** explained that the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> VPs would be alternating roles to give each experience at presiding.

*The Christian Recorder* – more involvement from the Lay members: think of subscribing to the paper. More articles from the 8<sup>th</sup> are requested from Editor John Thomas III. Send information to the website.

**First VP William Brown (SOMS)** presented a summary of Lay meetings: a spreadsheet with places of conventions with total numbers attending each. He presented a report on data collected on meetings since 2013; looking to finalize the meeting in 2018. He offered a summary of meeting in Monroe, LA, on May 27, 2017 at Brightwater AMEC: Attendees took a long look at Lay Organization; we must develop something where there is consistency in what we say; we must change the mindset of members. Attendance has been on the decline...

**Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis (SOMS) offered a brief Constitution/Bylaws Committee report.**

**President Davis reported on Spring Executive Board: will not have the Connectional Lay Spring EB: Lay will meet two days prior to the General Board in June 2018. Further information from EB 2017 in Birmingham: 2019 Biennial will be in Seattle, Washington; discussion on having Biennial 2021 in Johannesburg, SA.**

**Linda Thomas read the report on the Biennial from Erin Lacey (youth delegate)  
Shirley Davis reported on the first day of the Lay Biennial.**

**President Davis reported that EB in the summer will be held in ATL; members should try to go.**

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

**CLO-EB** – potential committees: President Bell is looking to determine whom she will select to place on committees. **Stephanie Burks (SOMS)** has been selected to chair the Proposed Legislation Committee. President Davis said Sister/President Valerie is hitting the ground running as the new President. New DOLA Ametta Reeves provided Lay Leadership Training for Presidents.

**2018 Lay training** – proposed venue is Biloxi/Gulf Coast area. Discussion on dates...

**ACTION:** Bro. Robert Chambliss (LAC) moved to accept the Gulfport venue. Sis. Linda Thomas (CNLA) seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Question: Can we have lay training at Christian Ed. Congress? Discussion followed....

**President emphasized Disaster Relief**, his work with the committee, and asked that all lay support disaster relief. He expressed a need for others to step up in leadership...same people doing the work all the time, need chairpersons! He was seeking a chair of Amenities (courtesies) Committee: **Sis. Vivian Chambliss (LAC) accepted the task.** The Lay needs a Historiographer. President Davis spoke of the visit to Daniel Payne Plaze where the Lay history is housed.

**Sis. Audreye Hall (SOMS)** moved that the Lay back the campaign of **Sis. Sherry Peyton for Connectional WMS Corresponding Secretary.** Sis. JoEtta McClain seconded the motion. Motion passed.

President Davis recognized Treasurer Maria Gauthier to make a statement about the financial report: clarification – report should show in November Statement, August 11<sup>th</sup> - \$900, CLEDC, \$150 for Black Tie Biennial affair.

President Davis had a gift for those first timers to the meeting: Eiesha Lee (LAC) and Gwen Rogers (SOMS).

The meeting was adjourned with the Lay Benediction.

Shirley Hopkins Davis, Recording Secretary

Melvin Davis, Episcopal Lay President