

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 8<sup>TH</sup> EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**  
**LAY ORGANIZATION**  
**MID-YEAR CONFERENCE MEETING**  
**2:00 P.M.**  
**BONNER-CAMPBELL, EDWARDS, MS**  
**March 8, 2018**

President Melvin Davis (LAC) called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., March 8, 2018, Bonner-Campbell, Edwards, MS, and asked Chaplain Delphine Bridgewater (CNLA) to lead the devotion.

**1. DEVOTION**

Song: “Blessed Assurance”  
 Prayer: Chaplain Bridgewater  
 Scripture: Linda Thomas (CNLA) Hebrews 11  
 Song: “Blessed Assurance”

**2. GREETINGS**

Greetings from President Davis...

**3. AGENDA ADOPTION**

President Davis presented the agenda for adoption.

**ACTION:** Sis. Audreye Hall (SOMS) moved to adopt the agenda. Sis. Elna Huel (CNLA) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**4. ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

Recording Secretary Shirley Davis (SOMS) called the roll:

Dr. Melvin Evans, President Emeritus	A
President Melvin Davis, President	P
William M. Brown, First Vice President	P
Marcia White, Second Vice President ( <a href="#">home emergency</a> )	E
Betty Holland, 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 ( <a href="#">open</a> )	---
Stephanie Burks, Dir. Of Lay Activities	P
Eddie Pitts, Parliamentarian	P
Florine Pernell Herron, Public Relations	P
Bobbie Hollins, Young Adult Rep. ( <a href="#">called in to work</a> )	E
<b>Lay Conference Presidents</b>	
Hezzie Watts, South MS Conference	P
JoEtta McClain, North MS Conference	P
Raymond Morrison, Central North LA Conference	P
Maria Gauthier	P

President Davis recognized newly elected North MS Conference President JoEtta McClain, who was elected on December 16, 2017.

## 5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The printed minutes were presented for adoption.

**ACTION:** Bro. Robert Chambliss (LAC) moved that the minutes be adopted with necessary corrections. Sister JoEtta McClain (NOMS) seconded the motion. Correction noted on minutes of previous minutes. Motion carried.

## 6. REPORTS – President asked 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Sis. Betty Holland (NOMS) to preside.

### Presidents – Episcopal and Conference

Sis. Holland called for the President’s report, followed by reports from Conference Presidents.

President Davis presented the report on the District Lay Organization’s work.

Conference Lay Presidents’ reports:

Sis. JoEtta McClain, NOMS

Sis. Maria Gauthier, LAC

Sis. Vivian Chambliss moved to receive the reports. Sis. Linda Thomas (CNLA) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

President Davis asked members to allow him to move DOLA Stephanie Burks (SOMS) up on the agenda since she needed to leave for another meeting.

With permission granted, Sis. Burks reported on the updated website and requested that all levels send pics and write-ups about the work of the Lay Organization; each Conference has a page on the website, which needs a greeting from each President and the names of officers of the Conference. She said she was working to get good workshop presenters for the Annual Retreat of the Lay. She also requested contact information on DOLAs of each level of the district in order to form a network.

### Financial Reports

The reports of the Treasurer and the Financial Secretary were presented.

Treasurer’s Report:

Balance Forwarded: \$10,061.84

Deposited: \$960.00

Disbursements: \$2,238.89

Balance in Treasury: \$8,782.95

The Financial Secretary’s report listed the details of finances; the two coincided on the above.

**ACTION:** Bro. Allen Williams (LAC) moved that the reports be filed. Sis. Earline (LAC) seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Betty Holland presided.

Mr. Hezzie Watts was given opportunity to report on the work of the South MS Conference Lay.

### Connectional Lay Committees

President Davis reported that he had sent in names for Connectional Lay Committees but had not gotten a response from Connectional Lay President Valerie Bell. President Bell had notified him that she would let him know if there were any other appointments during a meeting scheduled Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Stephanie Burks had been selected to chair the Proposed Legislation Committee.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Brown presented the report on the search for hotel accommodations/meeting space for the convention scheduled June 7-9, 2018. Once all search information was presented, President Davis asked what the recommendations were from the body. Sis. Linda Thomas moved to receive the report on hotels. Frances Smith Seconded. Discussion ensued and Sister Thomas withdrew her motion. Sister Frances Smith seconded the motion to withdraw. Motion passed.

Sis. Linda Thomas (CNLA) moved to receive the 1<sup>st</sup> VP's report as information. Frances Smith seconded. Motion passed. Discussion on the options for the meeting place and accommodations followed.

Bro. Robert Chambliss (LAC) moved that the organization have the meeting at Bonner-Campbell June 7-9, 2018.

Sis. Lydia Lacey (SOMS) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

President Davis thanked Recording Secretary Dr. Shirley Davis (SOMS) for laboring with him to prepare the list of committees for the Annual Lay Convention/retreat. He presented the chairs who were appointed to committees so far and asked Sis. Frances Smith (SOMS) if she would chair the Kit Committee. Sis. Smith consented to do so.

## **9. DISTRICT CONCERNS**

President Davis questioned the body as to whether we're doing things right. Are we handling matters according to the Constitution/Bylaws? Concerns are the financial team, Presidents, and Local Lay elections.

## **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

President Davis called on Constitution/Bylaws Chair, Dr. Shirley Davis, to report on the committee. Sis. Davis had distributed a booklet draft of the Constitution and Bylaws of the 8<sup>th</sup> District Lay, as well as a handout on issues of concern in the Constitution and Bylaws. The report drew many questions.

Sis. Vivian Chambliss (LAC), chair of the Amenities Committee, reported on cards sent to ill and bereaved.

Sis. Sherry Peyton (SOMS) presented the registration report: 11 registrations @ \$10 = \$110; 8 one-year memberships; 3 two-year memberships; LAC Annual Assessment/donation, \$1500.

Sis. Florine Herron presented the Public Relations report: 8<sup>th</sup> represented with articles in WE SPEAK. If conferences have pics/other matters to be reported, send to Sis. Herron.

President Davis called on Samuel Sarpong (SOMS) to give a summary of his Biennial experience.

Concerns: President Davis put the question to the body of whether they wanted to contract with a hotel for accommodations or whether individuals preferred making their own arrangements. The body voted to make their own hotel arrangements.

Bro. William Brown announced that there would be a Social Media/Photo Release form available at the Annual Convention to be signed by Convention attendees.

Bro. Milton Chambliss (SOMS) moved that Dr. Shirley Davis be reimbursed for the printed booklet material on Constitution and Bylaws. Sis. Beatrice Beatrice Peace (NOMS) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Davis thanked everyone for being a part of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lay Benediction.

Shirley Hopkins Davis, Recording Secretary

Melvin Davis, Episcopal Lay President