

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
8TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
LAY ORGANIZATION
POST CONFERENCE CONVENTION & PLANNING MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2014
4:15 P.M.
BONNER-CAMPBELL, EDWARDS, MS

President Melvin Davis (LA Conference) called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. and asked Sis. Delphine Bridgewater (CNLA Conference) to lead the devotion.

Devotion

Song: “To God Be the Glory”

Prayer: Sister Bridgewater

Scripture: Responsive Reading – Psalm 136: 1-9, 25, 26

Song: “Let the Church Say Amen”

President Melvin Davis (LA Conference) presented the agenda for approval with one addition: add Rev. George Tyler’s request for support under New Business. DOLA Stephanie Burks (South MS Conference) moved to adopt the agenda. Sheila Robinson (LA Conference) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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
Darlene Gordon, Second Vice President	P
Connie Brothers, Third Vice President	P
Shirley Hopkins Davis, Recording Secretary	P
Betty Holland Stephen, Asst. Rec. Secretary	P
Elna Huel, Corresponding Secretary	A
Maria Gauthier, Treasurer (jury duty) excused	A
JoEtta McClain, Financial Secretary	P
Delphine Bridgewater, Chaplain	P
Christine McGilberry, Historiographer	P
Stephanie Burks, Dir. Of Lay Activities	P
Eddie Pitts, Parliamentarian	P
Ruby W. Smith, Public Relations (excused)	A
Bobbie Hollins, Young Adult Rep. (excused)	A
<u>Lay Conference Presidents</u>	
Lydia Lacey, South MS Conference	P
Johnny M. Dumas, Jr., North MS Conference	A
Raymond Morrison, Central North LA Conference	P
Patricia W. Campbell, LA Conference (excused)	A

Recording Secretary Shirley Davis (South MS Conference) distributed copies of the minutes from the meeting with Bishop McAllister on August 30, 2014. Arthurine Williams (NorthMS Conference) moved that the minutes be received. Clarence Jones (South MS Conference) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Davis offered thanks to Bishop McAllister for returning from his vacation to meet with us on August 30th, and he thanked all the officers for attending and participating in the meeting. He also thanked Bishop McAllister for his visibility and accountability.

Financial Report

Financial Secretary JoEtta McClain (North MS) presented the report of the treasurer in Treasurer Maria Gauthier's absence (LA Conference): **Balance Brought Forward - \$19,720.65; Total Deposits - \$3,500; Amount Disbursed - \$3,376.70; Balance in Treasure - \$19,843.95.**

Allen Williams (LA Conference) moved that the report of the treasurer be received. Brenda Taylor (LA Conference) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Davis reported on the process of getting funds from the \$20,000 deposited by previous Lay administration in Pan-Amoco Federal Credit Union about ten years ago. After much work during the past two years by the President, Treasurer, and Secretary, the Lay Organization finally received a check in the amount of \$26,045.38, on November 5, 2014. He said they are still checking to see whether any taxes have to be paid because of some ambiguities with the tax exempt number. He also explained that there will need to be a division of the funds, which were comprised of contributions from the conferences at the time.

Discussion: Job well done, Mr. President! The name of the credit union is Pan-Amoco Federal Credit Union. As to the conference division of funds, members were reminded that at the time the money was collected, there were seven conferences in the Episcopal District. Now, we have four.

President Davis explained that Treasurer Maria Gauthier (LA Conference) had made several trips to New Orleans to take care of the matter of the CD. He felt she should be compensated. Darlene Gordon (LA Conference) moved that the Lay give Mrs. Gauthier \$100 for travel. Connie Brothers (North MS Conference) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

President Davis presented the third part to the financial report: funds for demolition of certain Bonner-Campbell properties. Financial Secretary JoEtta McClain passed out a report of the funds in the account: total in account - \$49,130.79.

President Davis reported that he had met with members of the Bonner Campbell Trustee Board (Bishop McAllister, Rev. Ray Jackson, Rev. Mack Hurst) to determine how to move forward with the project. We are ready to go with Contractor Delbert Goodloe in the demolition of the old barn and the Stanton building. \$50,000 will take care of these two since rain/weather had diminished the possibility any threats to the environment from asbestos. To demolish the other

building, the cost will be \$42,500. During the meeting on August 30th, Bishop McAllister had turned to entire demolition project over to the Episcopal District Lay Organization. The Lay Organization committed to raising the funds to have the third building demolished.

First Vice President William Brown (South MS Conference) presented the report of the Membership and Recruitment Committee. Copies were distributed to the members. The committee offered several recommendations to recruit and renew memberships in the Lay Organization. The main recommendation was that each 4th Sunday in the Local Lay Organizations will be Recruitment Sunday. All Local Lays are asked to prepare brochures and other materials to inform others about the Lay Organization. Local Lay First Vice Presidents are to collect dues in the amount of \$40 for annual membership and report as specified in the report. All officers at every level were challenged to carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lay Organization. The target is to recruit/renew 600 plus memberships to put us on solid footing with our budget.

Gladys Martin (LA Conference) moved to receive the report; JoEtta McClain (North MS Conference) seconded the motion. Discussion followed: *consider churches with no Local Lay Organizations; will this decrease the amount has to pay to the Episcopal District; concerned about the number of hands included in the process of sending membership dues in, etc.* Responses to Concerns: *Churches with no Lay Organizations have been considered. We will have to see how the membership dues collection goes before we can say that Conference assessments will be reduced.*

The motion to receive the report on Membership and Recruitment was carried.

New Business

The following actions were approved:

Motion to support Rev. George W. Tyler's induction into the **Turner Theological Seminary Hall of Fame with a \$500 ad**: Second VP Darlene Gordon (LA Conference) moved, and Dr. Patricia Jernigan (South MS Conference) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion to support the campaign for **Bishop 2016 of Rev. Moses Simms with a \$1,000 donation**: DOLA Stephanie Burks (South MS Conference) moved, and Worship Director Delphine Bridgewater (CNLA Conference) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Lay Organization committed to support the Bishop's Investiture in ways that the Bishop will specify. President Davis said we would table the discussion of specifics until after the Bishop gives instructions.

President Davis presented possibilities for the Annual Lay Convention in 2015. The suggestion was a one-day convention. Discussion followed. First VP William Brown (South MS) said that there was a possibility that we could have the meeting at a church; suggested church was St Paul, Madison, MS.

Latah Holloway (North MS Conference) moved to **have a one-day Annual Convention meeting (half day Friday afternoon and half day Saturday morning)**; Linda Thomas (CNLA

Conference) seconded the motion. Motion carried. Gladys Martin (LA Conference) moved that we take the meeting to St. Paul AME Church, Madison, MS; 1st VP William Brown (South MS Conference) seconded the motion. Motion carried. President Davis **recommended June 5-6, 2015, but noted that he would need to discuss with the Bishop.**

Other events of the Lay Organization scheduled: **Connectional Lay Biennial, August 2-6, 2015, Charleston, SC**

President Davis informed the members that Connectional President Glover had asked the 8th District Lay Organization to consider hosting the **Connectional Lay EB meeting in April 2016, at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans.** DOLA Stephanie Burks (South MS Conference) moved that the Lay Organization act in support of hosting of the meeting; Arthurine Williams (North MS Conference) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Following remarks and announcements, the meeting was adjourned with the singing of the Lay Benediction.

Sister Shirley Hopkins Davis, Recording Secretary

Brother Melvin Davis, Episcopal President