

In 1956, the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization was formed as a result of the encouragement of the Bishop of the District that all Conferences in the Second Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church should establish such an organization.

- Around 1966, Baby contest/calendar was instituted to raise funds to send delegates to the Biennial Convention
- *The first WNCC Lay Organization Religious Institute was held in April 1973 at Bethel AME Church, Greensboro, NC.*
- On November 19, 1976, for the first time, the WNCC Lay Organization honored its current & retired presiding elders for their contributions to the conference. The honorees were Dr. C. C. Scott, Rev. G. W. Larkin, Rev. James N. Sheares, and Rev. J. D. Davis.
- *In 1977, the lay organization honored the Rt. Rev. Henry Wendell Murph, Presiding Prelate of the Second Episcopal District.*



- To increase laity and clergy's knowledge of the Lay Organization, a *Course of Study* was designed and distributed to each local church, members of the clergy and presiding elders to help local churches with their program format. This course of study was designed to give some direction as to what information needed to be conveyed to the laity and clergy of the conference.
- *At the Annual Meeting in 1981, the corresponding secretary reported that there were 1,100 members listed on the Conference Lay roll. This was an increase of 500 members on 1980's membership.*
- In June 1983, the WNCC Lay Organization was recognized for having the largest number of individual memberships out of the five Annual Conferences in the Second Episcopal District.
- *Hosted First Annual Lay Convention at the Ramada Inn, November 30-December 2, 1989, hosted by Bethel A.M.E. Church, Greensboro, NC. Panel discussion focused on the theme, "Recognizing our A.M.E. Resources for Improving Human Condition"*

Second Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

A "Snapshot" of the History of Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization



2018-2020 WNCC Lay Organization Officers

President.....Penny Oliver
 1st Vice President.....Betty Parker
 2nd Vice President.....Adam Johnston
 3rd Vice President.....Barbara Myers
 Recording Secretary.....Diane Foy
 Asst. Recording Secretary.....Joy Grandy
 Corresponding Secretary....Barbara Smith
 Treasurer.....Woodrow Winchester
 Financial Secretary.....Mozell Weston
 Chaplain.....Jessie Cardwell
 Parliamentarian.....Bobbi L. Hague
 Historiographer.....Melissa Roberts
 Dir. of Lay Activities....Jacqueline C. Kanipe
 Young Adult Rep..... Mary R. Harris
 Eastern Dist. Coordinator.....Bettie Duell
 Western Dist. Coord.....Sonia P. Barbre
 Dir. of Public Relations.....Angela Elam
 Membership Coordinator...Shontea Smith

Ex-officio Officers: Mary Dasher-
 McAdams, James W. Hill, Gertrude
 Upperman, and Dwight Patterson

WNCC LAY ORGANIZATION
PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Ruth Waddell

Tenure: 1956-1959



Mrs. O.M. Carr

Tenure: 1959-1966



Mr. Bryant Bethea

Tenure: 1966-1976



Mrs. Minerva Evans

Tenure: 1976-1978



Mrs. Gertrude Judd Upperman

Tenure: 1978-1988



Mr. Woodrow Winchester

Tenure: 1988-1996



Dr. James W. Hill

Tenure: 1996-2000



Dr. James C. Johnson

Tenure: 2000-2002



Mrs. Mary Dashers McAdams

Tenure: 2002-2004



Mr. Ward Miller

Tenure: 2004-2006



Mr. Dwight Patterson

Tenure: 2006-2014



Ms. Penny Oliver

Tenure: 2014-Present

