



# THE LAY EXPRESS

*"Laity walking humbly with God to do justice  
and to love kindness"  
Micah 6:8 (ESV)*



Second Episcopal District  
African Methodist Episcopal Church  
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION  
Website: <http://wnccloy.org/>



From  
*the desk*  
of...

*Penny S. Oliver, President*

*Our opinions might not be the same, There's so many things that are  
Hand in hand we can form a chain, That never can be torn apart  
Together we Stand, Divided we fall, Let's build a bridge, Tear down the wall  
Let us respond to our brother's call Together we Stand Divided We fall.*

These are the lyrics to the **Together We Stand** by the Winans. The lyrics continue:

*In life there are times we'll disagree, Doesn't mean that I don't care  
I need you and you need me – Love has made that very clear . . .  
Oh, how we need one another, We can't live without each other,  
You're my sister, You're my brother, I need you every day of my life.*

This unprecedented time has brought discord in the United States with the COVID-19 pandemic, riots in the street, killing of unarmed men and women, as we, the people, voted to change the White House from Red to Blue with President Elect Joe Biden and Vice President Elect Kamala Harris.

This unprecedented time in our churches have closed the doors of the building but has brought the "Good News" to the streets, highways and sidewalks of our communities – "it takes the wisdom of the elders and young people's energy" to usher in the knowledge of the Jesus the Christ as we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, walk, live and share the Word of Jesus, as together, we stand as Sister and Brother.

# *From The Desk of The President, Continued*

This holiday season I encourage you to celebrate not only the birth of Jesus but the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is the reason for the season and he is our anchor during these unprecedented times.

Join us on January 9 and March 13, 2020 for our virtual conference lay meetings. We will elect delegates to the Connectional Lay Organization Biennial (July 11-13, 2021) at our January 9 meeting. Online registration is available <https://form.jotform.com/203294432953154>.

***During this time of faith and family, May the true meaning of Christmas fill you with joy. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!***



Second Episcopal District  
Lay Organization

# Advent Service

Join Us on  
Facebook

Friday December 4, 2020

@ 7:30PM

 SEDLO Lay Organization

*Advent*  
*The Season of Hope and Expectation*

Guest Speakers:

Rev. Akil Dickens - Emmanuel AMEC

Rev. Jasmine Brooks- Macedonia AMEC

Rev. Melech E. M. Thomas- Bethel AMEC

Rev. Micheal Bell Jr.- Fairview AMEC



Bro. Matthew Douglas, District President  
Sis. Adrienne Warren, 2nd District DOLA  
Bro. Adam Johnston, 2nd District YAR



**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION**



December 2020

I greet you in the Mighty and Matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

The election of delegates to the Connectional Lay Biennial Convention will be held virtual on January 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at our regular conference meeting. The CLO Biennial is schedule for July 11-13, 2021. The AME Church and the CLO is trying to work through the best avenue to handle the Convention whether in person or virtual.

**All elected delegates must be a member in good and regular standing in their local church lay (attends ½ of their local lay organization's meetings and pays required dues as set by his/her local lay organization).**

**Must have attended at least ½ of the official established meetings for the WNCCLC (August 8, 2018 – 3/2020) and membership dues must be received by September 30, 2020 (Wednesday) to the membership chair Shontea Smith.**

As President of the Lay Organization, I look forward to you joining the January virtual conference meeting as members of African Methodist Episcopal Church to join hands with me to continue embracing and up-holding the purpose and mission of the Lay Organization. Online registration is available <https://form.jotform.com/203294432953154> and for voting purposes you must be on ZOOM. The January meeting link will be sent on Thursday, January 7, 2021 to the email you provided during online registration.

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

The Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization  
Sister Penny Oliver, President

*Penny S. Oliver, President*

*Betty Parker, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

*Diane Foy, Recording Secretary*



## The Lay Biennial Convention

The Biennial Convention of the Connectional Lay Organization is a working convention. The delegates have very little time for relaxation, entertainment or anything else that is not a part of the scheduled program. No event or project that may conflict or compete with the scheduled program can be authorized.

With the move of General Conference to 2021, the 37th Biennial of the Connectional Lay Organization will also be moved and held in Orlando, Florida following the General Conference.

What are the objectives of the Biennial Convention?

- To set policy, discuss and recommend legislation to the general Church, and update the Lay Constitution for the next biennial.
- Participate in workshops to understand, promote and guide members of the organization to become better informed about the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Disseminate information through lectures, discussions and special workshops for leadership training and to stimulate more effective participation in the church and community.
- Promote fellowship among church members and leaders to help maintain organizational identity and commitment.
- To plan, structure, organize, manage and promote the convention as a public information vehicle to inform, educate and enhance all work among Church members and the public.

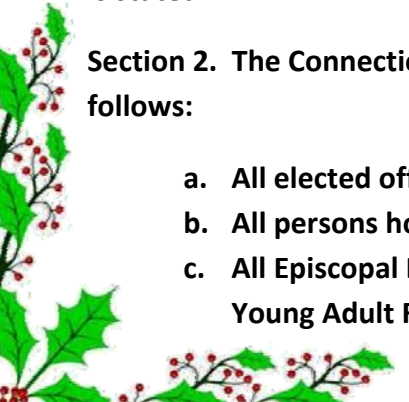

The program and activities planned are often changed to conform with the facilities available. These working notes shall form a guide to prevent overlapping of duties and responsibilities.

(Information from the Lay Organization Handbook, by the late Dr. Joseph C. McKinney, October 1999)

Who will attend the Biennial to carry out the work?

In the Connectional Lay Organization Constitution and Bylaws, Article IV, Section 2 the following is stated:

Section 2. The Connectional Lay Organization membership to the Biennial Session shall be as follows:

- a. All elected officers of the Connectional Lay Organization.
  - b. All persons holding the designation and/or office of President Emeritus.
  - c. All Episcopal District Lay Organization Presidents, and Directors of Lay Activities and Young Adult Representatives (YAR).
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- d. Six (6) elected delegates from each Episcopal District Lay Organization, of who at least One (1) shall be a Young Adult Representative, ages 18-35
- e.
- f. All Conference Lay Organization Presidents.
- g. Six (6) elected delegates from each Conference Lay Organization, of whom at least one (1) Shall be a young adult Representative, ages 18-35.
- h. Each president or an elected representative of each duly organized District Lay Organization of an Annual Conference. A duly organized District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference shall be an organization reporting to the Conference Lay Organization's Annual Meeting or which is recognized by the Conference as an organization. *(Currently this does not apply to the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization).*
- i. Each president or an elected representative of each organized Station or Circuit Organization.



WESTERN NORTH  
CAROLINA CONFERENCE-  
LAY ORGANIZATION

Introduces

A portrait of Portia Holman-Jenkins, a Black woman with curly hair, wearing a colorful patterned top and large hoop earrings. The portrait is partially visible on the left side of the graphic.

## PORTIA HOLMAN-JENKINS

DIRECTOR OF  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Portia is a member of Gaines Chapel A.M.E. Church in Efland, NC., where Rev. Sherri L. Gibbs is the Pastor. She is a member of the local Women's Missionary Society, Lay Organization, and Christian Education Committee. She is the YPD Director and the Director of the Youth Choir.

She is also a member of the church Administrative Staff.

She is a married, Mother of 5, with 6 Grandchildren.

2020

# Merry Christmas

From:  
President Penny Oliver  
and the  
Western North Carolina  
Conference Lay Organization



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

» *January* «



The Lay Newsletter will be published every other month.

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Please submit information for  
JANUARY and FEBRUARY  
by: DECEMBER 28th

» *February* «



# DON'T FORGET



Email All Information to Penny Oliver ~ [penny.oliver52@yahoo.com](mailto:penny.oliver52@yahoo.com)  
Any Questions, email to Portia C. Holman ~ [pcamille1@yahoo.com](mailto:pcamille1@yahoo.com)