



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

*Oh, holy night! The stars are brightly shining - It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining - Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices - For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn*

Happy New Year to each of you as we give Praise to the Lord for allowing us to see a New Year!

As we embark on this New Year with many unknowns about so many things, there is one thing that is certain -Christ is the Lord! And for this, there is no reason to worry.

This is an election year for the AMEC General Conference and the AMEC Connectional Lay- the highest governing bodies in the church. Delegates are expected to view the church as a body and not as an individual. I implore the elected delegates that are to vote on our behalf, to consider what leadership truly means.

Leadership is a lot like parenting. When you are a parent, you love your child so much and you want to give them all their hearts desire. As a parent you yearn to help your child become the best and you teach them about resiliency and the importance of making difficult decisions. You make every attempt to mold your child into a person who can be an upstanding, respectable, and successful adult someday. You model Godliness, discipline, and dedication because you know the importance of setting the example.

The same logic applies in leadership. As a leader, it feels good when the team is relaxed, comfortable, and having fun. However, just as with parenting, leadership requires more. It involves helping people grow, mature, and perform. Great leaders possess anointing and vision to see the untapped potential in dark times and encouraging pursuit of it for the upbuilding of God's kingdom!

Sis. Portia C. Holman, WNCC-LO Director of Public Relations

From The Desk of The President, Continued

Successful leaders lay out expectations for the team, push people out of their comfort zones, and hold everyone accountable, including themselves. May we seek the Lord, as we prepare to elect discerning *leaders* that are spiritually and emotionally mature, resourceful, full of Jesus' joy and committed servants to God's people.

Please join us on January 9 and March 13, 2021 for our virtual conference lay meetings. We will elect delegates to the Connectional Lay Organization Biennial (July 11-13, 2021) at our January 9th meeting. You must be present on ZOOM to participate in the election. Online registration is available <https://form.jotform.com/203294432953154>.

The SEDLO virtual convention is scheduled for January 22 through January 23, 2021 (more information may be found in this edition of the Lay Express).

*Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices - Oh, night divine
Oh, night when Christ was born.*

Let's celebrate a new beginning with Jesus the Christ, as our Lord and Savior.

Thank you for your willingness to serve!





WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION



January 2021

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, 2021 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, 1st Vice President

Diane Foy, Recording Secretary

Memo from the Second Episcopal District Lay Organization

Subject: LILLY ENDOWMENT GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

*This grant was able to be awarded through the diligent work of the Bishop James L. Davis and Rev. Dr. Linda Mouzon. One of the major contributing factors was the **Mirroring Project** that was led by the **Lay Organization** and our lay leader, President Penny Oliver.*

This is amazing news and the work is still divine!

Matthew Douglas, President
Connectional Lay Economic Development Corporation (CLEDC)
sedloppresident@yahoo.com



ANNOUNCING!

The Second Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church (SED) has received a **third** grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., to implement its **Thriving in Ministry** (TIM) project. 2020 has laid bare many of the issues that clergy have long struggled with from feelings of isolation to creating innovative ways to lead.

The TIM empowers clergy in developing meaningful relationships with colleagues who can help guide them through key leadership challenges; building upon recent studies that examined the importance of colleagues and mentors who help clergy face and overcome common professional challenges.

Through the TIM initiative, the SED will implement the Wounded Healers Support (WHPSP) Program. Our WHPSP core emphases are based upon input from the online survey obtained through the synergy and webinar sessions. With its five goals of **1) self-care, 2) spiritual formation, 3) boundary maintenance, 4) authentic voice cultivation, and 5) establishment of meaningful collegial relationships**, the SED is uniquely situated to guide clergy in transformational change in this defining moment; And is proud and excited to receive the grant from Lilly Endowment funding to do so.

The opportunity is open for all Clergy to take advantage of any of the four program components: support groups, mentoring, retreats, and/or an online web portal to increase their well-being. WHPSP will help clergy become their best self, which will allow the congregations and communities they serve to flourish. More detailed information is forthcoming and will be provided during a virtual session.



Tested, safe, and effective COVID-19 vaccines will help us defeat the virus, get back in control of our lives, and back to the people and places we love.

Scientists had a head start. The vaccines were built upon years of work in developing vaccines for similar viruses.

Tested, safe, and effective. More than 70,000 people volunteered in clinical trials for two vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) to see if they are safe and work to prevent COVID illness. To date, the vaccines are 95% effective in preventing COVID-19 with no safety concerns. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) makes sure the vaccines are safe and can prevent people from getting COVID-19. Like all drugs, the FDA keeps monitoring safety.

There is no COVID in the vaccines—and there are no serious side effects. You may have temporary reactions like a sore arm, being tired, or feeling off for a day or two after receiving the vaccine.

Vaccines will be available to all—for free. Supplies will be limited at first, but you have a spot to take your shot. State and federal public health experts have recommended starting first with vaccinations for those most at risk. More people will be reached when vaccine supply increases throughout 2021.

VACCINE SAFETY

Are there vaccines that are safe and work in preventing COVID-19?

Yes. One from Pfizer has proven to prevent COVID-19 illness with no safety concerns. It is 95% effective. Another from Moderna is 94.5% effective with no safety concerns, and it is waiting for the federal government to allow its use.

Who makes sure the vaccines are safe and can prevent COVID-19?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) makes sure all food and drugs are safe. The COVID-19 vaccines must pass clinical trials like other drugs and vaccines. The FDA checks the work and approves vaccines only if they are safe and effective. The FDA can get them to people faster through an Emergency Use Authorization. Like all vaccines, the FDA keeps checking safety through the [Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#). Healthcare providers are required to report serious side effects, or if someone gets seriously ill with COVID-19. There is also a smartphone-based health checker called [V-SAFE](#) that uses text messaging and web surveys to do health check-ins after people receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

VACCINE DEVELOPMENT and AUTHORIZATION

What is an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)?

An Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) allows the FDA to get a safe COVID-19 vaccine to you quickly during a public health emergency. An independent advisory committee makes sure the vaccines are safe and work before issuing an EUA.

- Pfizer applied for an EUA on November 20, 2020, the advisory committee recommended authorization on December 10, 2020, and the [EUA](#) was approved Friday, December 11, 2020.
- Moderna applied for an EUA on November 30, 2020 and the advisory committee will meet on [December 17, 2020](#).

The meetings are public. You can find out about them on the [FDA](#) website.

What happens after an EUA is issued?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices decides who should be vaccinated to make sure the vaccine is safe and works for those who get it.

How do the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines work?

There is no COVID-19 in the vaccines. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines give your body instructions to make a kind of protein. This protein safely tricks your body into thinking the virus is attacking. Your body then strengthens itself to fight off the real COVID-19 if it ever tries to attack you. Your body gets rid of the small protein naturally and quickly.

How can someone enroll in a clinical trial for a vaccine?

Over 100 vaccines for COVID-19 are under development, and many are in clinical trials that are recruiting participants. People interested in enrolling in a COVID-19 vaccine trial may visit the following website:

<https://www.coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org/clinical-study-locations/>.

VACCINE SHIPPING AND STORAGE

How many vaccines will the state receive?

States will receive very limited supplies at first. The federal government decides how many COVID-19 vaccines each state gets based on the state's population.

How will the vaccine be shipped?

The federal government ships the vaccines and vaccination supply kits to states as soon as they are approved by the FDA and the CDC. For the Pfizer vaccine, 11 hospitals will get shipments after FDA authorization. After the CDC makes its recommendations, vaccines are shipped on dry ice to 42 more hospitals. These hospitals were chosen based on bed capacity, health care workers, and county population.

How will the vaccine be stored?

North Carolina is working closely with providers to safely store vaccines that need ultra-cold storage or frozen storage. Vaccines that need ultra-cold storage will come with packaging and cooling material for places that do not have permanent ultra-cold storage. The Moderna vaccine does not need ultra-cold storage. The state and CDC will deliver training on COVID-19 vaccine storage, handling, and administration.

GETTING VACCINATED

Who will be vaccinated first?

Public health experts say the best way to fight COVID-19 is to first start with vaccinations for those most at-risk, then reach more people as the vaccine supply increases from January 2021 to June 2021.

The first supply will go to a small number of hospitals to vaccinate health care workers at high risk of exposure to COVID-19, like doctors, nurses, and those cleaning areas used by COVID-19 patients. As more vaccines become available, more hospitals and local health departments will vaccinate high-risk health care workers. Hospitals will give vaccines to staff on different days in case they have temporary reactions that may prevent them from working for a day or two.

Long-term care staff and residents are also one of the first groups who will receive a vaccine. Giving vaccinations at nursing homes and most adult care homes and other long-term care settings is being managed by the federal government. However, the vaccines used in long-term care will come from North Carolina's supply.

We hope that by early 2021, health departments and community health centers will start vaccinating other adults with two or more chronic conditions that make them higher risk for getting COVID-19.

As more vaccines become available, vaccinations will be offered to everyone who wants one, including in clinics and drug stores, as well as at vaccination events in communities.

Are children able to get the vaccine?

Children will not receive vaccines until clinical trials are completed to ensure the vaccines are safe and work to prevent COVID illness in children. The Pfizer vaccine can be given to teenagers 16 years old and up now, and they are doing additional studies with children 12 and over.

How will staff and residents in long-term care facilities be vaccinated?

The federal government manages vaccinations for most staff and residents of long-term care facilities. Long-term care facilities include skilled nursing facilities and adult care homes. The federal government has created the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program with CVS and Walgreens to work with long-term care facilities to give vaccinations. They will likely begin vaccinating staff and residents once the Moderna vaccine is authorized.

Are there side effects from the vaccines?

No serious side effects have been reported. But people have reported temporary reactions like sore arms, tiredness, and feeling off for a day or two after receiving the vaccine. These temporary reactions were more common after the second vaccine dose.

Why are two vaccine shots necessary?

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two shots a set number of days apart. You need two doses to build up strong immunity against COVID. The second shot will come about 3-4 weeks after the first. It is important to get two doses of the same vaccine.

If two shots are necessary, how will people know when to get their second shot?

North Carolina will use a secure data system called the COVID-19 Vaccine Management System (CVMS) to make sure you are safe and get your second shot at the right time. When a person gets the first shot, they get information on when to come back for the second and they are asked to make a second appointment. People will also be given a card with information about which vaccine they got for their first dose and the date of that shot. They will receive an email notification with reminders for the second shot. The provider who gave the vaccine may also help with reminders for the second one. State and federal privacy laws make sure none of your private information will be shared. The shot you take and when you need the second is confidential health information that is carefully managed to protect your privacy.

How much will the vaccines cost?

There is no cost. They are free to everyone, even if you don't have health insurance. The federal government is covering the cost.

Do people who have had COVID-19 still need to be vaccinated?

Yes, and it is safe to get vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine if you have been infected in the past. The vaccine works to protect you against a future infection. You don't need a COVID test before vaccination.

Will people who have been vaccinated still need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others?

Yes. Everyone should continue using the 3 Ws—wearing a mask, waiting 6 feet apart, washing your hands, and limiting gatherings—until most people are vaccinated. Receiving the COVID-19 shot and following the 3 Ws is everyone's best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19.

Will people who have been vaccinated still need to be quarantined?

Experts are still deciding on whether people who are vaccinated still need to be quarantined if they have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

Should pregnant women be vaccinated?

Pregnant and breastfeeding women may choose to receive the Pfizer COVID vaccine. Pregnant women should talk with their doctors before making the choice. You do not need to take a pregnancy test before you get your vaccine. Women who are breastfeeding may also choose to get vaccinated. The vaccine is not thought to be a risk to a baby who is breastfeeding.

What is the risk of an allergic reaction from the vaccine?

People who have had severe allergic reactions, also called anaphylaxis, to any ingredient in the Pfizer vaccine should not receive that vaccine. People who have had this type of severe allergic reaction to any vaccine or treatment that is injected should not receive the Pfizer vaccine at this time. Vaccine providers will watch patients for 15-30 minutes after vaccination to ensure the patient's safety.

Will I need to sign a consent form to get vaccinated?

No, it is not required for COVID vaccination here in North Carolina.

Does the state require or mandate vaccination?

No. North Carolina has no plan to require people to be vaccinated against COVID-19. It is possible that some employers or schools will require vaccines for their employees or students.

What kind of identification will be required to be vaccinated?

North Carolina does not require an identification card, like a driver's license, to be vaccinated. Some employers could request ID when limited vaccine has to be prioritized, but it is not required.

For how long will the vaccine protect me from COVID?

Since the Pfizer trial just ended, we know that it can protect people from COVID illness for at least two months. We'll know even more about how long the immunity from the vaccine lasts as people have been vaccinated for a longer period of time.

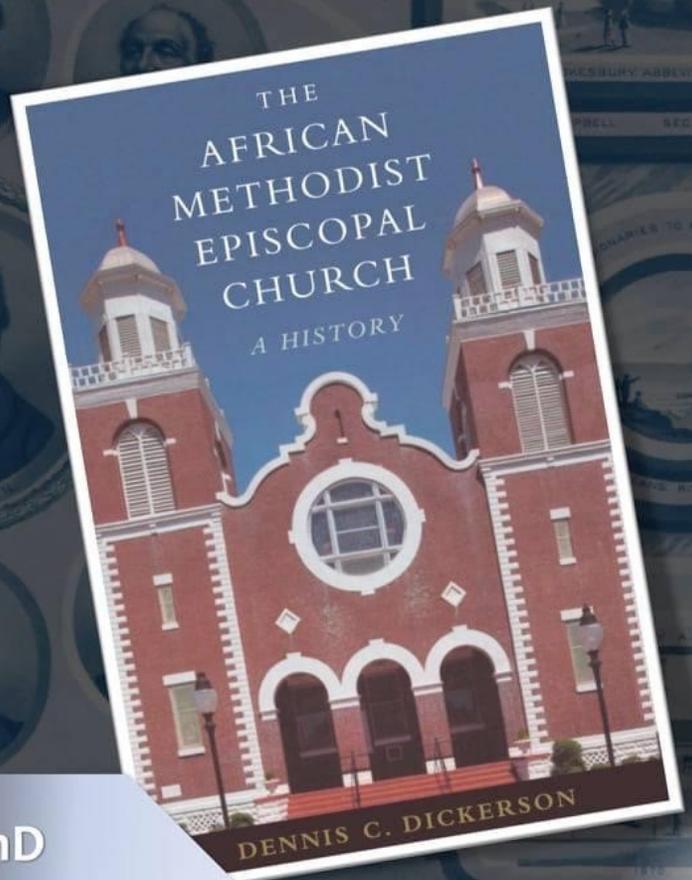
VACCINE DATA

How will the state know who has been vaccinated?

North Carolina will use the COVID-19 Vaccine Management System (CVMS), a free, secure, web-based system provided to all who give COVID-19 vaccinations. It helps vaccine providers know who has been vaccinated with which vaccine to make sure people get the second dose of the same vaccine at the right time. It also helps people register for vaccination at the appropriate time and allows the state to manage vaccine supply. Pharmacies, such as CVS and Walgreens doing vaccinations in long-term care facilities, will not use CVMS to give and manage vaccines. These pharmacies will use their own systems. Your information on vaccination is confidential health information that is carefully managed to protect your privacy. Information will not be shared except in accordance with state and federal law. Any personal information will be taken out prior to sending public health information to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

What data about vaccinations will be available to the public?

North Carolina will have an online public dashboard to share data on vaccinations. We plan to begin sharing data on vaccinations on December 22. The data in the dashboard will be updated weekly.



The Reverend Dennis C. Dickerson, PhD

Professor of History at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN and
Former Historiographer of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

BOOK REVIEW

WEBINAR

Thursday ~

NOVEMBER 12th

7:00PM

Register in advance for this webinar:

<https://bit.ly/2nDameHis-Wb>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

ZOOM
WEBINAR
SYMPOSIUMS

Mark Your Calendars

UPCOMING

EVENTS

November 19th @ 7pm
Dr. Matthew Bonner
The Wounded Healer (Clergy Only)
MENTAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

December 17th @ 7pm
Districtwide Christmas Service
"A Child Is Born"

January 14th & 21st @ 7pm
Dr. Barbara Kellerman
"The End of Leadership"
BOOK REVIEW SYMPOSIUM

January 28th @ 7pm
Thriving Congregations
SYMPOSIUM

February 11 - 12, 2021
Virtual Midwinter Meeting

**SECOND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
LAY ORGANIZATION**

Virtual Lay Convention

**SAVE THE
DATE**

**JANUARY 22-23,
2021**

"Laity Walking Humbly with God to
do Justice and to Love Kindness"
Micah 6:8



Bro. Matthew Douglas, SEDLO President
Sis. Adreienne Warren, SEDLO DOLA
Bro. Adam Johnston, SEDLO YAR



@sedlolayorganization



www.sedlo.org

Mt. Zion AME Church
Dr. James C. Johnson Lay Organization
(Hillsborough, NC)

FOUNDER'S DAY

Celebration

10:00 am

February 14, 2021



Please Join Us!!
LIVE on FACEBOOK.

Guest Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Steven L. Lyons
Pastor



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION

THE **37**TH

Biennial Convention

“LAITY WALKING HUMBL Y WITH GOD,
TO DO JUSTICE AND TO LOVE KINDNESS.” MICAH 6:8

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

JULY
11-12, 2021

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

MATIKANE A. MAKITI
CLO-PRESIDENT

AMETTA L. REAVES
CLO-DIRECTOR OF LAY ACTIVITIES

JAMESHA J. WILLIAMS
YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVE

It is time to seek the LORD.

HOSEA 10:12



God's
hope & peace
in the *New Year*

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

» *March* «



The Lay Newsletter will be published every other month.

Please submit information for MARCH and APRIL by: FEBRUARY 28th

» *April* «



DON'T FORGET

Special Edition Newsletter for February (Black History Month).

~Please feel free to submit photos of you wearing your "Pearls" by JANUARY 20.



Email All Information to Penny Oliver ~ penny.oliver52@yahoo.com
Any Questions, email to Portia C. Holman ~ pcamille1@yahoo.com

