

**Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization**  
**Virtual Meeting -August 14, 2021**

President Penny Oliver called the meeting to order at 10 am

**Sister Sonia Barbre, Western District Coordinator, led devotion.** Our opening song was the *Lay Hymn*, led by Brother Lamont Upperman, followed by a unity prayer by Sister Barbre. The Lay Litany was led by Sister Barbre and the response by Sister Iris Huff, Lay President of Emmanuel AME Church, Durham, NC. We experienced a very powerful closing to our devotion.

The Lay Body received a very warm **welcome** from Sister Barbara Myers, *3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President*.

**Roll Call of Officers** by Sister Diane Foy, *Recording Secretary*.

- P - President - Penny Oliver
- P - 1st VP Betty Parker
- P - 2nd VP – Adam Johnston
- P - 3rd VP – Barbara Myers
- P - Recording Secretary - Diane Foy
- P - Asst. Recording Secretary – Joy Grandy
- P - Corresponding Secretary- Barbara Smith
- P – Treasurer -Woodrow Winchester
- EX - Financial Secretary – Mozell Weston
- EX- Chaplain – Jessie Cardwell
- P - Parliamentarian – Bobbi Hague
- P - Director of Lay Activities – Jacqueline Kanipe
- P - Director of Public Relations – Portia Holman
- P - Young Adult Representative – Mary Royster-Harris
- EX - Eastern District Coordinator – Betty Duell
- P -Western District Coordinator – Sonia Barbre
- A- Credentials/Membership Chair – Shontea Smith
- P - District Chaplain                      - Kenneth Woods

**EX-OFFICIO OFFICERS:**

**Connectional**

- P - Gertrude Upperman                      EX - Starr Battle, 2nd VP
- EX- Mary Dasher-McAdams
- EX- Dwight Patterson
- EX- James Hill

EX: Excused  
A: Absent  
P: Present

President Oliver asked the Lay Body for changes (additions) to the agenda. Brother Woodrow Winchester asked for permission to give a few short remarks, at the end of the meeting and permission was granted.

The **Lay Body for corrections, March 13, 2021, reviewed the Minutes from the last meeting**, and Sister Betty Parker noted one. “In the body of the minutes, Sister Bobbi Hague’s first name was misspelled with an ‘e’ added at the end”. The correction was noted and corrected. With no further corrections, the Minutes were accepted as printed.

### **Officers Reports**

President Oliver announced that Sister Betty Duell, *Eastern District Coordinator*, had surgery and will be going to rehab for recovery.

### **Corresponding Secretary Sister Barbara Smith**

There was *no information/no report* to share with the Lay Body.

### **Treasurer’s Report Brother Woodrow Winchester**

The Finance Report and the Bank Statement are included in the packet, normally, only the finance report is shared, as explained by President Oliver. We are trying to be the “*teaching arm of the church.*” Please forward any questions that you may have to Brother Winchester/President Oliver. (*See pages 11, 12 and 13*)

President Oliver encouraged members that when the Local meetings are held, share your Financial Report and welcome questions for transparency. She thanked Brother Winchester, as well as, Sister Mozell Weston for their service.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**51<sup>st</sup> General Conference Updates** were compiled and included in the attached packet.

### **Written Reports from CLO Biennial**

The reports are in the packet (*pages 22-34*). President Oliver allowed the Delegates to comment on their experiences at the Conference Meetings. Kudos to Sisters Starr Battle and Azzie Conley for their *outstanding services* and to the WNCCC *Alternate* Delegates, for their help in supplying the entire Second District! The North Carolina and the Western North Carolina Conferences were the “only” conferences with a sufficient number of Alternates that could help relieve the Delegates.



## **Re-opening the Church Building**

Included in the packet, (page 52-69), was information shared at meetings and posted on the AME church website. Re-opening the church is an important decision between the Pastor and the Lay Members of the church. President Oliver asked for questions, none was asked.

## **2022-24 Office Nominating Committee      Sister Gertrude Upperman, Chairperson**

A detailed report is included in the packet, (page 70- Letter of Intent page 71). The next election will be held April 10, 2022, with Letters of Intent due no later than March 9, 2022. The Nominating Committee members are: Sister Jackie Kanipe      Sister Shontea Smith  
Brother John Smith      Brother Dale Wragg  
Sister Gertrude Upperman, Chairperson

All Offices Are Open and she has received a notice from the office of Recording Secretary, Diane Foy, that she would have served her eight (8) years and will not be running for any other office. The sooner they receive these notices, the better it will be for the committee to be prepared for the upcoming election. President Oliver informed the body that President Matthew Douglas would conduct the election; in order to run for office, you must have attended four (4) conference meetings in the last two years. If you have questions, contact a committee member.

## **Prayer Breakfast Update**

## **Prayer Breakfast Committee/DOLA**

Sister Kanipe thanked the members that have already sent in their pictures for the Memorial for the Breakfast. This event will take place on Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 10am. The theme: “*After the Pandemic: Renewed by Faith, Transformed by God, and Revived to Serve!*” Since she is not the only member of this committee, she called on Brother Adam Johnston for a general update. The Breakfast will be a Virtual Presentation with numerous prayers and the Pastor of Emmanuel AME Church, Reverend Akil Dickens will be our guest speaker. (See flyer enclosed in packet on page 72, with further details).

President Oliver added that you must register online – it is so much easier. However, should you mail in a check to Brother Winchester, let her know so she can send the link to you to view the breakfast. There were several inquiries about not having received the link for this morning’s meeting. We send the link on Thursday after 10pm.

### **Scholarship Committee Update**

### **Scholarship Committee/Sister Sonia Barbre**

Sister Barbre introduced the members of her committee -

Brother Adam Johnston      Brother Lamont Upperman

Sister Audrey McCain      Sister Betty Parker

Applications are being reviewed. Recipients of these scholarships will be announced online, in the *Lay Express* and at our Prayer Breakfast. Problem areas the applicants need to be aware of, that the local Presidents, DOLA's and other officers can be helpful with are... not reading requirements and not checking to see if **all documents** are attached/enclosed.

President asked if any of the local Lay Presidents/DOLA has had questions. Each organization are to have Constitution & By-Laws and share them with the conference lay upon completion. We are to mirror the SEDLO Constitution & By-Laws. The question was ask did the SEDLO organization approve or disapprove the WNCCLO updated Constitution & By-Laws and President Oliver stated No, and she did not receive any feedback.

### **Clergy /Lay Institute**

### **Sister Jackie Kanipe**

This event will take place *virtually – November 13, 2021 at 10 A.M.* The same committee for the Prayer Breakfast will serve for the Clergy/Lay Institute. Lay members are ask to submit topics for discussion to Sister Jackie Kanipe or President Penny Oliver. They will be meeting early September, so the sooner you submit your topics for discussion, the better!

### **Teaching Moment**

### **Sister Jackie Kanipe**

Sister Kanipe apologized for not having a handout available for our packet today; however, she proceeded to give a brief history on the topic. Each year the **Second Sunday in October is “Lay Witness Sunday”** in the AME Church. The Lay Members, other than Ministers/Pastors carry out the Sunday Morning Services.

Sister Kanipe appealed to all Presidents of Local Lay Organizations share your theme and the date of your Lay Witness Sunday.

President Oliver recognized the presence of Sister Portia Holman, *Director of Public Relations* and publisher of our newsletter, *Lay Express* for comments. She emphasized, “*deadline date for materials to be submitted in the Lay Express is August 20<sup>th</sup>!*”

**Praise Reports**

**Numerous**

- Gertrude Upperman for Lamont Upperman
- Diane Foy for Self
- Bobbi Hague for Self
- Margie Alston for Sister Patricia Jones
- Mary Locklear for her son.
- Emma Devine's Daughter, Kim
- Charmayne Morrison's Son, Matthew
- Barbara Smith lost 3 Lay Members, including Sister Joyce Corpening.
- Penny Oliver for Janie Wilson
- Reverend Donald Holman

**Special Announcement**

**Brother Woodrow Winchester**

He is currently a member of the Helium Corporation, fundraising organization, if you host a unit. He will be requesting information to be sent to our Lay Organization.

**Closing Prayer**

**Brother Kenneth Woods**

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am, by singing the *Lay Benediction* led by Sister Diane Foy.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Diane Foy**

**Attachments**