

Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization
Virtual Meeting -January 8, 2022

President Penny Oliver Presiding

The WNCC Lay Organization Meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by President Penny Oliver.

Devotion/Prayer Bro. Howard Manning from St James AMEC- Raleigh, NC.

The **scripture** lesson came from Matthew 25:31-46 (The Sheep & The Goats) and the three key verses were 34-36. The question was asked: “*Are we so heavenly bound that we are no earthly good?*” We were encouraged to have mercy, love and compassion for others for these are the keys to the kingdom. The **Lay Litany** was repeated and **devotions** was closed with a **prayer** by Bro. Manning.

A warm and spirit filled **welcome** was given by Sis. Mary Royster Harris the WNCCLO YAR.

President Oliver asked if there was anything that needed to be added to our agenda. Hearing no additions the Agenda was accepted as printed.

The Roll Call of Officers Sis. Joy Gandy, Assistant Recording Secretary

ROLL CALL:

Sis. Penny Oliver-President	Present
Sis. Betty Parker-1 st Vice President	Present
Bro. Adam Johnston-2 nd Vice President	Present
Sis. Barbara Myers-3 rd vice President	Present
Sis. Diane Foy-Recording Secretary	Excused
Sis. Joy Grandy-Asst. Recording Secretary	Present
Sis. Barbara R. Smith-Corresponding Secretary	Present
Bro. Woodrow Winchester-Treasurer	Present
Sis. Mozell Weston-Financial Secretary	Excused
Sis. Bobbi L. Hague-Parliamentarian	Present
Sis. Jessie Cardwell- Chaplain	Excused
Sis. Portia Holman-Dir. of Public Relations	Excused
Sis. Jacqueline C. Kanipe-Dir. of Lay Activities	Present
Sis. Mary Harris-Young Adult Representative	Present
Sis. Bettie Duell-Eastern District Coordinator	Present
Sis. Sonia Barbre-Western District Coordinator	Present
Sis. Shontea Smith-Credential/Membership Chair	Present

SED Officers:

Bro. Kenneth Woods-SEDLO Chaplain	Present
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Ex-Officio Officers:

Bro. Dwight Patterson	Excused
Sis. Gertrude Upperman	Present
Bro. James Hill	Excused
Sis. Starr Battle	Present

Minutes:

President Oliver asked for any corrections or additions to the Minutes as minutes were provided in the packet, distributed and placed on the website. There were no corrections or additions. Sis. Betty Parker made a motion that the Minutes be accepted with no corrections and Bro. Kenneth Woods seconded. There was no discussion or opposition. The Minutes will be accepted with any necessary correction.

Officers Reports

1st Vice President-Sis. Betty Parker-Membership Update for 2021

Sis. Parker, Sis. Shontea Smith and Sis. Jacqueline Kanipe are working on the updated membership list for 2021. Sis. Shontea is working on the list and it will be forwarded by the end of this month. The Connectional is asking for this information to compile a Lay Directory of all the members of the Lay Organization across the world.

3rd Vice President-Sis. Barbara Myers-Social Action

Sis. Barbara encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and get a booster due to the spread of the Omicron Variant. Also consider getting your children vaccinated.

Challenges to the redistricting maps ended on Thursday. A decision should be made by 1/11/22. Please review the maps. Elections were moved from March to May. Look specifically at your district because lines have been changed. Continue to register and educate others.

First Time Home Buyers Initiative-check with the Council of Governments or other entities in your area that help with housing to see if they have this program. This may assist someone in our churches buy a home.

Poor Peoples Campaign-we are asked to contact Sen. Manchin, Sen. Shumer and Sen. McConnell to tell them to protect our vote, health and welfare across the board.

MLK Jr. Birthday Celebration-some activities have been cancelled but we can all do a Day of Service.

NC Coalition is hiring a Regional Manager for Health Equity. They are also looking for volunteers.

44th Legislative Breakfast on Mental Health will be 02/26/22 at 9:00AM. Go to the website to register.

NAACP Offices are closed due to COVID but you can contact the office. Encourage your young people to volunteer.

VENMO, PayPal and Cash App will now have to report transactions over \$600 to the IRS.

Sis. Bobbi Hague stated that the ABC Board is required to give back 7% to churches with a 501-C3 who have Substance Abuse Classes or Programs. They have one million dollars to disburse.

President Oliver stated that emails were shared about this information so the members are kept abreast of what is going on.

Correspondence-Sis. Barbara Smith

There is no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report-Bro. Woodrow Winchester

The Treasurers report was accepted for information

Old Business:

2022-2024 Nominating Committee-Sis. Gertrude Upperman

The Nominating Committee has not received enough Letters of Intent for the Offices available. The Committee will be making calls to individuals asking to consider and pray about positions. A report has to be made in March. All Offices are open and we would like to have a full slate. The Offices being vacated due to years of services this year are: President, DOLA, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Chaplain and YAR.

2022 SEDLO Convention Nominating Committee-Sis. Bobbie Hague

President Douglas has not shared when it will be. May be virtual, in-person or hybrid.

Sis. Bobbie Hague asked that people send in their Letter of Intent for Delegate to the SEDLO Convention. The question was raised as to how many can attend. The new President, the new DOLA and the new YAR will go but anyone can complete the Letter of Intent (this is an election year and we need to be present). The total number is 11 and that being the President, DOLA, YAR plus 6 Delegates, 1 Alternate and 1 District Representative.

Local Presidents can go the SEDLO Convention or a representative from the church. These are people who are allowed to vote. There can be delegates from the local churches-1 YAR and 1 Delegate (*Must be a Lay Member).

**Clarification per the Discipline Page 493-Each Local President and 6 elected delegates (with one being a young adult 18-35) can attend the SEDLO Convention as voting members. IF no YAR is identified then only 6 delegates.

Clergy/Lay Institute-Sis. Jackie Kanipe, DOLA & Clergy/Lay Institute Committee

Sis. Kanipe thanked all those who helped and participated in the Institute to help make it a success. She stated that prayerfully this program will continue under the new administration. President Oliver thanked Sis. Jackie and her Committee and all that participated.

New Business:

Words from the President-President Penny Oliver

Virtual/In Person WNCCLO Meetings

The Executive Board met and decided not to meet in-person in January. We need to stop and think about whether we want to meet in-person in March and April. After little discussion, it was decided, we would continue to meet virtually until the end of the conference year. President Oliver asked if there were any objections and none were stated. A suggestion for the new administration was to consider having the meetings as a hybrid for those who work and would like to attend.

December 2021 GB Minutes without reports (see pkg)

Missing material -money from the Annuity Account. President Oliver stated that in in January *Lay Express* she wrote a note addressing the missing money as a concern member of the AMEC. In the note she stated “Lay pays the Pastors Assessment and the bills and we need to know what is going on in our church”. Local Presidents and the members of the Lay we have to ask questions. We have to speak up with love and understanding. We must make a difference. We must work together as a team with our pastors and seek to be informed. Sis. Emma Devine stated that the Christian Recorder puts out a lot of information. Sis. Bobbie Hague asked that we please read the Christian Recorder as it puts out a lot of information. It had already published the Annuity information. Please make sure you’re reading the information don’t just scroll through it. President Oliver stated that we pay our pastors annuity and we need to know. The AME Church is the Lay and the pastors and we need to work together. Sis. Starr Battle assured the body that there is an internal and external investigation into the matter. She asked that we be in prayer and mindful of our situations. The Commission on Annuities and a Task Force that the Bishops have put together is working on it and new policies and procedures are being put into place. Sis. Danita shared that we can seek other investments for our Pastors annuity. Sis. Emma stated that the Stewards have a great responsibility. This investigation could filter down to the local churches. We need to know our role and duties as Stewards and our duty to the Pastor. Bro. Woodrow Winchester stated that if our Stewards are not Lay members they don’t know what’s going on. President Oliver stated that it is the Local Presidents responsibility to share information with the people of the church.

Local Lay Organizations

It's our responsibility, our mission to share the information with the people. We are the teaching arm of the church. We give the information to the members and what happens after we share it is out of our hands.

In Lay elections-if there is a full slate except for the President, then the 1st Vice President needs to step into that position until that slot is filled. 2nd Vice President will move up. "We all have a duty but why does no one want to be in leadership?" The Executive Board will work with you, you're not in this alone.

SEDLO Save the Date-Bro. Adam Johnston-2nd Vice President

SEDLO Business Meeting and Officers Training Virtual Workshop January 29, 2022 for Leadership Team and Presidents of the Conferences. President Oliver asked that we join this meeting.

Founder's Day Litany (see pkg)-President Oliver

The new Litany is found in your packet. The Mid-Winter Meeting (Founder's Day) is usually the 2nd weekend in February. No information has been received for the District Founder's Day dates.

Teaching Moment-Sis. Jackie Kanipe-DOLA

We have a new Theme, Graphic Logo and new Lay Litany. The new Theme is: "Living A Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends and Liberates." The Scripture reference is Luke 4:18-19. (information is in your packet and in the newsletter).

We have only one logo for the Lay Organization (Cross and Anvil). We will from time to time have a graphic design to correspond with various themes. If there is a doubt about what to use always go with the Connectional Logo and theme. You can use the graphic design with the corresponding theme but not with the previously used theme. The new Litany corresponds with the theme written by Sis. Patricia Wright. The litany can be used as a Litany or a Responsive Reading. Remember we live in 39 countries on 5 continents governed by democracy but under one God.

President Oliver stated that this is a perfect Theme for such a time as this!

Annual Conference Lay Program-Sis. Jackie Kanipe-DOLA

The Committee has not met but plans to meet on Monday night at 7:00PM. President Oliver asked if anyone would like to be on this Committee to let her or Sis. Jackie know so they can be on the meeting on Monday.

Annual Conference will be May 18-21

Praise Reports

Please add Sis. Diane Foy to the Prayer List, pray for families who have endured COVID.

President Oliver-father said he is tired of doctor's appointments.

Bro. Woodrow Winchester-celebrated another birthday.

Sis. Gertrude Upperman-prayers requested for her upcoming surgery on 1/21/22.

Sis. Jackie Kanipe-asked for prayers for Bro. Wesley Hendrix.

Sis. Laura Smith-prayers for Bro. Adam Johnston in the loss of his mother.

Sis. Emma Devine-reports the recovery from COVID of her son and his family. She asked for prayers for her granddaughter and for all of us as we go through something.

Bro. Adam Johnston-thanked all for their prayers, cards and support in the passing of his mother, especially Bro. Winchester.

Sis. Carol Davenport-thanked all for their prayers, love and support especially Pres. Oliver in the passing of her sister.

Sis. Azzie Conley-asked Bro. Adam Johnston to share his good news.

Bro. Adam Johnston-shared that he and his wife are expecting a baby girl and his mother was aware that she would be a grandmother prior to her passing.

Sis. Mary Roseboro-it's a praise report that we are all still alive. It may be dark around us in our nation but look for the little things. God has not forgotten about us. He never leaves his people and though he doesn't speak as loud all the time, he speaks softly and sometimes quietly and we must train yourself and your ears to listen train your eyes to see the little things and above all remember that God is in control. Nobody can take that control from Him. Keep praying, stay prayed up, hold on to your faith and trust in God, keep looking up because God is not dead. He is still working and you can see him in the little things.

Sis. Charmayne Morrison-blessed to see 60th Birthday on 1/3/22.

President Oliver-Pray for one another, that person on drugs who needs drug treatment, that person who thought about taking their life.

President Oliver thanked everyone for attending this meeting!

Closing Prayer Bro. Kenneth Woods-SEDLO Chaplain

Lay Benediction-In Unison