

**Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization
Virtual Meeting - April 21, 2023**

President Barbara R. Myers, Presiding

The WNCCL Lay Organization Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Barbara R. Myers.

Devotion/Word of Encouragement **Sis. Carol Davenport, WNCCLO Chaplain**

Today's scripture comes from James 1: 2 - 4. The Holy Spirit teaches us we must consider our trials to be fruit producing blessings. When we are going through trials our response to the trials is God is preparing us for something important in our lives and in the lives of others. We have to make sure we have the right focus, so many times we focus on the trials and that is all we can see. The Holy Spirit teaches us the word to count it all joy when we face trials. After devotion Sis. Davenport led us in prayer.

Welcome **Sis. Barbara Myers, WNCCLO President**

The lay body received a very warm welcome from President Myers, as she welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

Agenda*(in the packet)*

President Myers called for the approval of the agenda as printed in today's meeting packet. Sis. Gearld Logan made a motion to accept the agenda as printed 2nd by Sis. Emma Devine, motion carried.

Roll Call **Bro. Brandon Owens, WNCCLO Recording Secretary**

Present

Sis. Barbara Myers, President
Sis. Gearld Logan, 3rd Vice President
Bro. Brandon Owens, Recording Secretary
Sis. Joy Grandy, Asst. Recording Secretary
Sis. Charmayne Morrison, Corresponding Secretary
Sis. Dorothy Jeffreys, Treasurer
Sis. Bettie Duell, Financial Secretary
Sis. Carol Davenport, Chaplain
Sis. Bobbi Hague, Parliamentarian
Sis. Danita Thompson, Historiographer
Sis. Azzie Conley, Director of Lay Activities
Sis. Gertrude Upperman, Ex. Officio Officer

Absent

Sis. Betty Parker, 1st Vice President
Sis. Marry Harris, 2nd Vice President
Sis. Bobbi Hague, Parliamentarian
Sis. Portia Holman, Director of Public Relations
Bro. Kenneth Woods, Eastern District Coord. **E**
Sis. Sonia Barbre, Western District Coord. **E**
Bro. Adam Johnston, SED YAR
Bro. Woodrow Winchester, Ex-Officio Officer
Bro. Dwight Patterson, Ex-Officio Officer

Minutes*(in the packet)*

Bro. Brandon Owens, Recording Secretary read minutes from our March 2023 meeting, with no corrections or additions mentioned. Sis. Emma Devine made a motion to accept the minutes as read, 2nd by Sis. Mary Roseboro motion carried.

Correspondence **Sis. Charmayne Morrison, WNCCLO Corresponding Secretary**

Sis. Morrison gave information on events around the Connectional Church.

Financial Reports **Sis. Dorothy Jeffreys, WNCCLO Treasurer**
 Sis. Bettie Duell, WNCCLO Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary report was given by Sis. Duell with the following information given: 60 registered for today's meeting total amount raised \$300.00. Membership information: 35 churches reported, 703 adults, 38 youths with a total membership of 741 members, total amount raised for membership \$4,365.00. Sis. Duell informed the body that 47 more churches need to report for the 2023 annual conference year. Sis. Duell also expressed membership dues to the WNCCLO is still in the amount of \$6.00. She is asking both coordinators to please follow up with your churches. Lastly, Sis. Duell informed the body the treasurer's report will be different due to persons who pre paid and outstanding checks.

Sis. Dorothy Jeffreys read the treasurer's report which was received as information only and can be found in today's meeting packet.

Conference Officers Report

3rd Vice President, Sis Gearld Logan

Sis. Logan gave information on Evangelism Sunday which will be held May 28, 2023. During the executive board meeting Sis. Logan expressed a lot of our churches are already doing evangelism at the local church level. If anyone is having an Evangelism Sunday Service please send her bulletins, name of speaker, pictures, etc. to share with the Connectional 3rd Vice President.

Director of Lay Activities, Sis Azzie Conley

Sis. Conley went over save the date information which is found in our meeting packet. The 138th Session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference will be held Thursday, June 08 - Saturday, June 10 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Durham with lodging at \$139.00 + tax per night.

CLO Legislation Update

Sis. Oliver informed the body the outstanding lay person from the Western North Carolina Conference is Sis. Bettie Duell.

Sis. Oliver communicated to the body all updates to the proposed legislation are posted on the connectional lay organization website. She also mentioned there will be a link provided to access all proposed legislation for the upcoming general conference. Lastly, Sis. Oliver mentioned there will be webinars before the June meeting in Louisiana.

Old Business

Conference Office Vacancies

YAR

Conference Committee Vacancies

In the process of organizing committees.

SED NAACP Membership Challenge

President Myers informed the body the SED is continuing to move forward with the membership initiative for the SED. President Myers is acting to please work through our churches to reach this goal. The WNCC has a total of 572 members.

Outstanding Lay Person/YAR Committee

Scholarships

President Myers is asking those interested in the scholarship information please review the March minutes that states qualifications and deadlines.

President's Report

President Myers mentioned she has reached out to individuals about the CLO t-shirts and as of today's meeting she hasn't received any correspondence.

President Myers also informed us she has completed the template report for the upcoming annual conference which will be in the business session booklet. She mentioned looking at membership becoming a priority, not only increasing our numbers but increasing our knowledge, engagement, and involvement across the church. It is the prayer of the president when we reassemble in August we will be able to move the needle further.

New Business

Annual Conference Lay Worship Service

Sis. Conley mentioned to the body the Annual Lay Witness Service will be held Friday, June 09, at 6:30 p.m. at the seat of the annual conference guest keynote speaker will be SEDLO President Bro. Matthew Douglas, flyers will be forwarded to churches once approved. Sis. Conley stated a dance group from Greater Bethel AME Church, Charlotte will be ministering through dance. Lastly, more information will be forthcoming about the offering amount, and if we will be utilizing the conference choir.

Budget and Finance Committee

President Myers sent out a meeting invite for the budget and finance committee on May 09 as well as a meeting invite for the local lay presidents on May 11.

2023-2024 WNCCLO Conference Meetings & Locations

President Myers mentioned to the body during the executive committee meeting it was discussed about returning to in person meetings for conference meetings and other activities. During the executive committee meeting majority felt we should move in the direction of in person meetings and also felt this would be something that needed to be brought to the body for discussion. President Myers mentioned she has created a poll to see if the body wanted to move forward with in person meetings or stay current with virtual meetings, to see if a centralized location would work for hosting meetings or different locations, and hosting our prayer breakfast in person or virtual. President Myers also stated during the executive committee meeting possibly do our January meeting virtually depending on weather. President Myers asked if any officer on the call would like

to correct anything that was stated. Bro. Brandon Owens agreed with President Myers with the items that were discussed during the executive committee meeting.

During the vote on the first poll, Bro. Ernest Dark asked were these the only two options to vote on, he mentioned could we do hybrid meetings. President Myers stated these are the only two recommendations that came from the executive committee meeting in person meetings or virtual. President Myers also mentioned that going hybrid may limit where we would go in terms of who has the technology to be able to support a hybrid meeting. Lastly, President Myers stated to Bro. Dark hybrid wasn't one of the options discussed during the executive committee meeting. Sis. Florence Avery asked if we would consider hybrid meetings, for which may increase awareness, and participation. President Myers asked the body, how would we want to proceed if hybrid became the paramount option that is supported by the conference. After lengthy discussion of the matter President Myers mentioned she will meet with the executive committee to discuss future action as well as local presidents.

Poll One Return To In-Person Meetings

72% voted yes to return to in person meetings beginning in August 2023.

28% voted to continue with the virtual meetings.

Poll Two Centralized Locations or Different Locations

55% voted Yes to rotate to different churches throughout the conference.

45% voted for centralized sites TBD.

2023-2024 Annual Conference Lay Breakfast

Poll Three To Return To In-Person Lay Breakfast or Remain Vitrual

93% voted to return to in person Lay breakfast.

2% voted no to return to in person Lay breakfast.

Praise Reports/Announcements

Bro. Brandon Owens thanked everyone for their love, support, and prayers during the recent organ transplant surgery of his daughter Kennedy.

President Myers thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. Bro. Paul Williams led us in closing prayer, and Sis. Carol Davenport led us in the Lay Benediction.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon Owens

Brandon Owens, Recording Secretary

