

**Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization Meeting**  
**Saturday, October 13, 2018 -10:00 a.m.**  
**Saint James AMEC, Winston Salem, NC**

The meeting was called to order by our First Vice President, Betty Parker, in training by President Penny Oliver. Everyone received a hearty welcome.

Bro. Kenneth Woods was asked to lead the **Devotion** in absentia of Sis. Jessie Cardwell, Chaplain. The Lay Body stood and sung, “*Victory is Mine,*” afterwards Bro. Woods prayed and read scripture from *Micah 6:8*. Upon completion of the Devotion, President Oliver brought it to the attention of the Lay Body in the registration packets the *Lay Litany* is included, please replace your *church name* in the place of Western NC Conference Lay Organization and song, for your Lay Witness Sunday Program.

Reverend Shelton Miles, Pastor was recognized and gave a very warm welcome, as well as, Mrs. Miles for her presence with us this morning. Bro. Bryon Barbre, Local Lay President made us feel at home and made us aware of the conveniences of the church.

**Roll Call of Officers: Sis. Diane Foy, Secretary**

(Present) – Penny Oliver, President  
(Present) – Betty Parker, First Vice President  
(Present) – Adam Johnston, Second Vice President  
(Present) – Barbara Myers, Third Vice President  
(Present) – Diane Foy, Recording Secretary  
(Present) - Joy Grandy, Asst. Recording Secretary  
(Present) – Barbara Smith, Corresponding Secretary  
(Present) - Woodrow Winchester, Treasurer  
(Present) – Mozell Weston, Financial Secretary  
(Present) – Bobbi L. Hague, Parliamentarian  
(Excused) – Jessie Cardwell, Chaplain  
(Excused) - Melissa Roberts, Historiographer  
(Present) - Jacqueline C. Kanipe, Director of Lay Activities  
(Present) – Mary R. Harris, Young Adult Representative  
(Present) – Bettie Duell, Eastern District Coordinator  
(Present) – Sonia P. Barbre, Western District Coordinator  
(Present) – Angela Elam, Director of Public Relations  
(Present) – Shontea Smith, Credentials/Membership Chair

**Ex-officio Officers:**

(Excused) – Mary Dasher McAdams  
(Excused) - Starr Battle  
(Present) - Dwight Patterson  
(Present) - Gertrude Upperman

President Oliver asked each officer to stand and remain standing until each name was called. Afterwards, they were presented as the **WNCC Lay Officers for 2018-2020**.

The registration packet contains the **Minutes** from our last meeting, (August 11, 2018), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Parker asked the Body to review the minutes for any correction/additions. There were three spelling corrections. Bro. Dwight Patterson moved that the Minutes be approved with correction of the three names being spelled correctly; seconded by Sis. Bettie Duell, the motion was so moved.

### **Officers Written Reports:**

#### **Sis. Angela Elam, Director of Public Relations**

Handouts were distributed to the Lay Body. A total of three fliers have been created for various occasions, in regard to our Newsletter, which has proven to be beneficial and worthwhile. We are being mimicked in other states for our Newsletter—the layout and style, has been complimented and they are using our layout as a model, which is a good thing.

#### **Sis. Sonia Barbre, Western District Coordinator**

All of the Western NC Conference Representatives were asked to stand, since Sis. Barbre was not familiar with all of the churches in her region yet. At the conclusion of this meeting, she is asking the Reps, to please come by and fill out a form on the church you represent, for her records.

The Scholarship Committee was asked to stand, as well. Dates will be forthcoming of any deadline dates for scholarships.

#### **Bro. Woodrow Winchester, Treasurer**

Copies of the financial report were distributed. Bro. Winchester requested 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Betty Parker to confirm the bank balance for September 28, 2018. A review was done of the report and he proceeded to answer any questions the Lay Body had. Afterwards, the report was accepted as information only, per Sis. Betty Parker.

#### **Delegates Report:**

Bro. Kenneth Woods was a part of the Rules Committee at the convention held at the Marriott Hotel in Newport News, VA. This Committee was responsible for the guidelines for this convention to operate.

Sis. Bettie Duell directed the Lay Body to their packets for the template that allows anyone to request a change to an already established constitution/law. More details of her report are attached.

(Please see attached Delegate Reports.)

The **next meeting for Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization is: Saturday, November 10, 2018, “LAY INSTITUTE” at Mount Zion, Greensboro.** See the 2018-2019 Meeting Locations, (**in the packet**), under **“SAVE-THE-DATES”**.

#### **2018 Prayer Breakfast – Sis. Jackie Kanipe & Committee**

At the next meeting, this committee will be taking proposals for the next location that will accommodate 250+ persons for the Prayer Breakfast.

The **2018 Lay Institute Program Draft Outline** form was distributed to be held on the **10<sup>th</sup> of November, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** **Pre-registration is by church-\$10.00 per participant, due by November 1, 2018; \$15.00 on site.** There will be Clergy, as well as, Lay Teaching with various topics. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. Items to be discussed for Institute are the Lay Electoral College.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Social Action – Sis. Barbara Meyers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**

Included in our registration packet was a section on **NC Voter Guide** and Sis. Meyers reiterated the importance of each person being registered and make sure you vote! This is a crucial time. She emphasized, “if you are not sure what to vote for, please seek help/information, before making a selection that could hurt rather than help.” Be very careful when voting on the amendments to the Constitution....read the fine print.

### **Young Adult Rep - Sis. Mary R. Harris & Committee**

This group covers the age group 18 – 35 years of age, an overview of next year’s plans were outlined. This committee petitioned our help and is opened to ideas.

**Delegates to 2019 Biennial Convention:** Election will be held at our March 2019 meeting. This Convention will be held in Bellevue, Washington, June 30-July at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue, Washington. This announcement was emphasized by President Oliver.

### **Laity Teaching Moment - Sis. Jackie Kanipe, DOLA**

Sis. Kanipe emphasized the importance of more training for Parliamentary Procedures and adhering to them. In the upcoming future, we, as a Lay Body will concentrate more on those rules, what we should/should not be doing.

Sis. Kanipe reminded us to be careful of the logo we use on our program for Lay Emphasis Day; the theme has changed and it would be fine to use the regular church Lay Logo, (as printed on the enclosed packet top page).

### **Membership Update - Sis. Shontea Smith, Membership Coordinator**

Sis. Smith reported that there were 58 in attendance for today’s meeting and a total of \$270.00 was collected. Thank you.

### **Remarks - President Penny Oliver**

President Oliver thanked 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Betty Parker for her willing spirit and willingness to participate and function as President of the Lay, for the day. President Oliver further stated that next time she will tap the next officer in line, until all have had an opportunity to have had some training in this capacity.

### **Announcements:**

- Mid-Winter Meeting (February 21-23) Portsmouth, Virginia, (\$119.00/Rm.)
- (Bobbi Hague) – Membership starts over in January.

With no further business, the Lay Body joined hands and was led in prayer by Bro Woodrow Winchester, afterwards the Laymen’s song, led by Sis. Parker.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane T. Foy,  
WNCCLO Recording Secretary

## **DELEGATE REPORTS**

### **AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL REPORT**

#### **SECOND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION**

**17<sup>th</sup> Lay Convention**

**September 27-29, 2018**

**Newport News, VA**

**I would like to thank President Oliver and the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization for allowing me to represent the conference at the 17<sup>th</sup> SED Convention.**

**The President of the SED Lay Organization asked me to chair the Rules Committee. We met by way of conference call on 2 separate occasions before we arrived at Newport News. Members of the Rules Committee were, Kenneth Woods of the Western North Carolina, Chair, Larry Rhodes represented the North Carolina Conference, Clara Neal represented the Washington Conference, Joan Wilson represented the Virginia Conference, and Carolyn Wilkerson represented the Baltimore Conference. The Rules Committee met Wednesday afternoon, September 26 at 5:00pm inside the Marriott Hotel Newport News and later that evening to Finalized our report.**

**The report of the rules committee was presented to the Delegates of the Second Episcopal District Lay organization Thursday afternoon, September 27 at 3:45pm the report was adopted by the SED Lay Organization delegates.**

**The preached word was awesome, Thursday Morning Rev. William Lamar, Pastor of Metropolitan AMEC Washington, DC and Friday evening Presiding Elder Gregory Edmond Northern District of the North Carolina Conference.**

**Thursday Afternoon September 27 at 12:30pm, recognition was given to the outstanding lay persons from each conference, President of the WNCCLO, Penny Oliver and Adam Johnston represented the Western North Carolina Conference.**

**Thursday evening at 7:00pm a Reception was given Honoring CLO President, Valerie Bell Friday afternoon September 27, CLO President Valerie Bell orchestrated the election of officers of the SEDLO for 2018-2022.**

**The Election Results, Matthew Douglas, President, Florence Warren, First Vice President, Jean Richie, Second Vice President, Yvonne Davis, Third Vice President, Valerie Terry, Financial Secretary, Kenneth Woods, Chaplain, Darwin Curry, Historiographer, Larry Rhodes, Parliamentarian, Adrienne Warren, Director of Lay Activities Bishop James Davis administered the oath of office.**

**Kenneth Woods, Delegate**

**African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Second Episcopal District Lay Organization  
17<sup>th</sup> Lay Convention  
Marriott Hotel, Newport News, VA  
September 27-29. 2018**



Our Theme was Social Justice: Empowering The People  
“Laity walking humbly with God to do justice and to love kindness” Micah 6:8 (ESV)

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Registration & Kit Distribution was done by our Registration Team from 9:00-11:30 am

Sister Pamela Jones- Walford, Chaplain opened devotion.

President Dwight Patterson opened the Convention and Ms. Adrienne Warren, DOLA and Mr. Dontae Foote, YAR gave welcomes to the Convention and the General Session was opened. Recognition was given YARs and First Timers.

Our Morning Meditation was opened to the public and Rev. William Lamar, Pastor of Metropolitan AME Church in Washington DC was the speaker for the morning. His scripture came from Amos 5:21-24 and was entitled: “The Church That God Can’t Stand”. It was a very powerful message. We are Partners in the work God has called us to do. God will find you-you don’t have to search for work to do.

At 12:30, the Awards Luncheon with Ms. Azzie Conley, Chair was held.

**Business Session I** convened at 3:30pm with President Patterson presiding.

The seating of the Delegates by Annual Conference followed by the Presentation of the Proposed Agenda,

Roll call of Officers , Reports of the Rules Committee, Preliminary Report of the Registration Committee and Preliminary Report of the Credentials Committee. Each Delegate was assigned to a Committee.

We were greeted by Bishop James L. Davis, Presiding Prelate.

Mr. Ronald Flamer, Presiding 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President presented President Dwight Patterson and President Patterson gave his President’s Address.

Ms. Adrienne Warren gave her Director of Lay Activities' Report followed by Mr. Dontae Foote giving the Young Adult Representative's Report.

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The Financial Report was given by Dr. Delaphine R. Green, Treasurer and Mrs. Valerie Terry, Financial Secretary.

At 7:00 pm, a reception was held honoring CLO President Valerie Gary Bell  
Friday September 28, 2018

Registration was from 7:00-9:00 am.

Devotion with Sister Pamela Jones- Walford, Chaplain

**Business Session II** with Mr. Woodrow Winchester, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Presiding  
Candidates' Forum 9:15am-11:00am. Each Candidate was given questions to answer.  
The forum was followed by Lay Leadership 101 Training and Mirroring Project

### **Break**

Box lunches were provided and the business session continued with a working lunch.

### **Business Session III**

Seating of the Delegation by Annual Conference

President Patterson then presented Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell, Connectional Lay President  
Report of the Nominating Committee, Final Report of the Registration Committee and Final  
Report of the Credential Committee were received.

Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell, CLO President presided over the Election of Officers for 2018-2022 and  
the final election results were given.

### **Business Session IV**

Mrs. Florence Warren, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President presided over this Session.

Reports were given by the Executive Officers' Reports, Proposed Budget Committee Report  
(2019-2020), Proposed Legislation Committee Report (I was assigned to this Committee),  
Report of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee and Report of Social Action Committee.  
The YAR did not give a report, but will give one at a later date.

A report was given by the Evaluations Committee.

Unfinished Convention Business was given by President Patterson.

Memorial for our deceased was held by Chaplain Pamela Jones-Watford with each Conference  
reading their deceased names.

The Convention ended with the Circle of Love, closing prayer and the Lay Benediction.

With a grateful heart, I thank the Western North Carolina Conference for the opportunity to have served.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettie B. Duell



**Second Episcopal District Lay Organization  
17<sup>th</sup> Lay Convention  
September 27-29, 2018  
Newport News Marriott at City Center  
Newport News, Virginia**

**Theme: Social Justice: EMPOWERING THE PEOPLE**

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

**Thursday, October 27, 2017:**

The atmosphere in the conference arena was charged with excitement and the spirit of the Lord filled the air. The morning service was something that every lay person, pastor, minister, etc needs to hear. The preached word “The Church that God Can’t Stand”.

Text taken from Amos: 5:21-24 (MSG Bible). Presented by Rev. William Lamar, Pastor, Metropolitan AMEC, Washington, D.C.

Some items of important from the text:

- Amos the kind of person people would not approve.
- Amos was a regular person, nothing special
- Be careful of people and prophets that want you to know they are preachers/prophets. Be weary of those who want you to know that God called them.
- Be careful of preachers who think they are above the Laity. A preacher cannot get where he is without laity.

- “Don’t trust anyone that do not smell like sheep” If we do God’s work we will all smell like sheep.
- God called a herdsman to get the word out. God’s word not always found in the church, you must go outside the church.

**Amos was an ordinary man called by God. God gives you a word and he wants you to “standup” and do what he called you to do. We all should be like Amos. When people reject you remember this song: “A Charge to Keep I Have”.**

### **Noonday Luncheon:**

The SED Episcopal Church Lay Organization Celebrates The “Ties That Binds”. Blessed Be the Ties that Binds. The tie that binds (or the ties that bind) is the shared belief and other factors that link people (the SEDLO) together.

It was very well attended and what a celebration. Our DOLA’s and YAR’s from all five (5) conferences were honored. Our own Sis. Penny Oliver and Adam Johnson were recognized for the work they contributed to the WNCC Lay and the community.

### **After the luncheon we went into our Business Session 1, President Dwight Patterson,**

#### **Presiding:**

- Seating of the Delegates by Annual Conference
- Report of the Rules Committee
- Preliminary Report of the Registration Committee
- Preliminary Report of the Credentials Committee
- Presentation of the Bishop and the Bishop’s Greeting
- Presentation of the President by 3<sup>rd</sup> VP of SEDLO
- President address: Mr. Dwight Patterson
- Director of Lay Activities SEDLO: Ms. Adrienne Warren  
Laity Workshop Topic: “Lay Leadership 101”-Discussion Friday Business Session II
- Young Adult Representative Report: Mr. Dontae Foote  
Mr. Foote submitted his report and one of the items that stood out, he attended all the five conferences annual conference. His committee is in the process of implementing the Lay Organization Network (LON). This will be a networking and mentoring program. As students leave their home Districts for college we will connect them with families in other Episcopal Districts that can reach out to for support and connect with an AME church.



**Evening Service: Reception Honoring CLO President, Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell**

**The reception was spirit filled and overpowering. Mrs. Bell deserved all the accolades that were bestowed upon during her tenure as President of the Second Episcopal District.**

**Friday, September 28, 2018**

**Business Session II: Presiding, Woodrow Winchester, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Candidates Forum: Members running for SEDLO office were submitted: Each candidate had to tell something about their self and why they want the office they are running for. In addition, questions were submitted from the delegates for the candidates that were opposed.

- \* President: Matthew Douglas and Edna Watson
- \* 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Florence Warren
- \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Jean Richie and Marie Wallace
- \* 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President: Yvonne Davis
- \* Director of Lay Activities: Adrienne Warren
- \* Financial Secretary: Valerie Terry
- \* Chaplin: Kenneth Woods
- \* Historiographer: Darvin Curry
- \* Parliamentarian: Larry Rhodes

**Lay Leadership 101 Training: Ms. Adrienne Warren, DOLA**

The number one #1 thing we are all called to do is to Serve  
(Lay Leadership 101 is designed to increase the understanding of what it means to be a Servant Leader (to serve others and Promote an Agenda that Glorifies God) and Inspire Change Agents in the African Methodist Episcopal Church)

The 12 Principles of Servant Leadership were discussed: Listening, Empathy, Healing, Awareness, Persuasion, Conceptualization, Foresight, Stewardship, Growth, Building Community, Calling and Nurturing the Spirt-Joy

**Mirroring Project: Mrs. Penny Oliver**

Mrs. Oliver stated, the results from the Mirroring Project will be shared with everyone at the Mid-Winter Meeting. The deadline was September 1, 2018. Some reports from churches Have not been turned in. Please complete your reports so it will be on file at the Mid-Winter Meeting. You don't want to have a no report before the Bishop.

Report on files are:

- WNCC Churches (84) 68 reports completed
- Baltimore Churches (58) 31 completed reports
- VA Churches 28 completed
- NC Churches (87) 54 completed
- Washington Churches-no report

Presentation of the Connectional Lay President: Mr. Dwight Patterson, President

Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell per page #474 of the Discipline holds the election of District Officers

President Bell asked for the following reports:

- Nominating Committee: Mrs. Arlene Lawson, Chairperson: Slate of officers approved, and open positions are: Recording Secretary, Treasury and Young Adult Representative Wanda Shire was appointed and is a Certified Parliamentarian.
- Registration Committee: Mrs. Jacqueline Kanipe, Chairperson  
Final Reports from all 5 conferences given with a total of 233 registered
- Final Report of Credentials Committee: Ms. D. Faye Conley, Chairperson  
Balti-(26), Wash-(78), VA-(31), NC-(33), WNC-(30)

**Final total of 198 delegates who are eligible to vote**

**Your new Officers for 2018-2022 are:**

Pres: Matthew Douglas

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Florence Warren

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Jean Richie

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President: Yvonne Davis

Director of Lay Activities: Adrienne Warren

Financial Secretary: Valerie Terry

Chaplin: Kenneth Woods

Historiographer: Darvin Curry

Parliamentarian: Larry Rhodes

Other reports approved and submitted are: Proposed Budget Committee Report (2019-2020) with a few corrections, Proposed Legislation Committee Report, Report of Social Action Committee.

The Report of Constitution & Bylaws Committee: Mrs. Starr L. Battle, JD Chairperson and 3<sup>rd</sup> VP of CLO

We received a full copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the SED Lay Organization. Changes were made and discussed. Suggestions on different topics were made and the committee will take those suggestions under review and re-submit to the SEDLO.

Other covered activities included: Memorial Service-The names of all lay members that passed within the last year from all five (5) conferences were read. We completed the Circle of Love and had a Closing Prayer. At the end all five (5) conferences took pictures.



**Evening Worship Service, Friday, September 28, 2018**

Our own Adam Johnston, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the WNCC Lay introduced our guest speaker, Presiding Elder Gregory Edmond, Northern District, North Carolina Conference, SED

Elder Edmond Topic: “Meeting God in Your Storm”, Mark 6:45-51

Special message I received, “God is always there, he is always in your storm, just lean and have faith in him.”

**Humbly submitted: Betty Parker, Delegate for Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization**

## **YAR MEETING**

The young adults held 2 informal events after each night of the Lay Convention. The 1st event was a gathering of 8 young adults that focused on getting to know one another and ways to improve the church within the 2nd Episcopal District. Our newly elected President, Matthew Douglas, in coordination with our current conference YAR Dontae Foote laid down the foundation of what they envisioned. Matthew emphasized wanting each conference to engage in its own version of Ted Talks to keep the conferences in tune with one another while reducing the amount of meetings we had. Dontae asked each young adult present from the various conferences how he could expand on the work they are already doing within their home conference as the transition takes place for the next conference YAR. The second night was a celebration of Matthew, as officially being elected the new President of the 2nd Episcopal District and coordinating efficient ways to help pay for the Lay Biennial in July.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Johnston, YAR

The 17<sup>th</sup> Lay Convention  
Of  
The Second Episcopal District  
September 27-29, 2018  
Delegates Report

The Convention was held at the Marriott Hotel in Newport News, VA.

THEME: Social Justice: Empowering People

The meeting was called to order by President Dwight Patterson, opening Worship was done by Rev. William Lamar. His subject: The Church God Can't Stand. Scripture: Amos 5: 21-24.

God saw every gathering for fest, meeting and offering of praise as a praise to God with their lips and not their heart. But where was Amos? Amos would not have fared well in the AME Churches. Amos was not of the profession of Prophets; he was a herdsman.

The Pastors and Lay persons must work more closely together. God's work is not North or South issues, we should all be working to build up God's Kingdom. God hates the way the church is and the things we are doing.

We will not speak the truth because we worry about offending someone. In this instance where is Amos? We have a charge to keep and a God to glorify. We must be Godly like Amos and not like everyone else. Amos told the truth as God had given it to him. He told Israel that God would no longer have their melody of viols of worship. We must be an "Amos" in our time and let Justice roll down like a mighty river!

Reception was a dress affair that honored Sister Valerie Bell, Conventional President and the outstanding Lay Persons of the year from each Conference. The persons from Western North Carolina Conference were President Penny Oliver and Brother Adam Johnston; they received a Medallion.

Elected delegates were assigned to serve on a Committee. I serve on the Constitution and Bylaws Committees. The majority of the changes

were grammatical. The major change was "Article XI" voting privileges. Section 2: Absentee voting shall be permitted in emergency situations, i.e. Natural Disasters and Terrorist Attacks, which impact the ability and accessibility to render a vote.

Thanks to President Penny Oliver and Members of the Western North Carolina Conference for electing me to serve as a Delegate to the SED Convention.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emma Devine

Monday, Oct-15-18

**Second Episcopal District Lay Organization 17<sup>th</sup> Convention**  
**Social Justice: Empowering The People**  
**“Laity walking humbly with God to do justice**  
**and to love kindness” Micah 6:8**

To our Western North Carolina Lay Organization members, I am submitting this report of service as an elected alternate-delegate to this convention.

The convention was held at the Marriott Hotel in Newport News, Va. on September 27-29, 2018. Our delegation consisted of twenty people who cast votes for electing new officers for 2019-2020.

Our Connectional Chaplin, Sister Pamela Jones-Watford ushered us into our Worship experiences with songs – This is the Day and Hallelujah – This Praise Belongs to You. Our welcome and administrative business enabled us to settle down and hear what GOD was saying in the preached word. With power and boldness, Pastor William LeMar (Metropolitan AME, Washington, NC) used the Message Version of Amos 5:21-24 to cry out loud a message of “The Church That GOD Can’t Stand”. Rev. LeMar reflected and challenged us to use heads and hearts to examine how we as present day folks go through, by habit and ritual, the planned and unplanned business; i.e. making sure the church, official board, quarterly conferences are held; annual conferences with pomp and circumstance, etc.

These activities represent a people concerned more about order, time, and assignment than what God’s will and purpose is for HIS people. He said, Amos, a herdsman, was used by God to speak truth to power – reminding people of their self-conceitedness. Rev. LeMar, also shared when he visited each Annual Conference this past year he could not find an Amos with the message Amos was concerned about many ages ago.

He reminded us today beware of e-mails, cell phones, cross wearing medals, be careful of preachers and prophets who have to tell us who they are, stay away from people who fight, compete, and argue about stuff while looking for the big church appointment; don’t trust people or preachers who don’t smell like sheep. His reminder cautioned the Laity to remain true to our GOD ... and be real!

Remember Amos was GOD's offering to the church for serving the sheep. We are on assignment for an appointment to be radically independent of the church to say what is right. We must stand tall and bold, not accepting status quo mentality; and step out to speak about justice in doing what the Lord commands.

His closing statement was follow the spirit's lead with strong resolve of "A Charge to Keep and I have a GOD to glorify! ... Help me Lord to watch and pray and on you rely!

All of the planned activities – Registration, Credential, Candidates' forum, Election of District Officers, Constitution-By Laws, Awards' Activities for Connectional Leader Valerie Gary-Bell and 2<sup>nd</sup> Episcopal Leaders, Social Action, etc. were completed with success.

Votes were cast by 196 delegates to congratulate ...

Matthew Douglas as President  
Florence Warren (1<sup>st</sup> Vice)  
Jean Ritchie (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice)  
Yvonne Davis (3<sup>rd</sup> Vice)  
Valerie Terry (Financial Sec.)  
Kenneth Woods (Chaplain)  
Darwin Curry (Historiographer)  
Larry Rhoades (Parliamentarian)  
Adrienne Warren (Director of Lay Activities)

Congratulation to Our Own ...

Sister Penny Oliver Lay of the Year (WNCC)  
Brother Adam Johnston YAR of the Year (WNCC)  
Sister Adrienne Warren 2<sup>nd</sup> Episcopal Lay Person of 2018

Another Closing Message was delivered by Presiding Elder Rev. Gregory Edmond from the NC conference. He preached and shared his personal journey from May 2018 - through September 2018. Experiencing a fall and a broken arm positioned him to get more information about his body. So, to God be the Glory, we fall down and we get back up.



We were encouraged to stay the storms that come in situations and circumstances. Remember GOD will meet you where you are and show up when doctors say no. Then you say – but GOD!!

With greater resolve in such a time as this for us to walk ... do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our GOD. Such a time for us to trust and obey!

Thank you Western NC Conference Lay Members for this opportunity to serve.

In HIS Service,

*Jessie Womack Cardwell*

Jessie Womack Cardwell