**WNCCLO MEETING**

**Union Bethel AMEC- 1716 Trade Street, Richard Allen Lane, Winston Salem, NC**

**Saturday, January 14, 2017**

The meeting was brought to order at 10:00 am, by President Penny Oliver.

**Devotion ….. Sister Jessie Cardwell, Chaplain**

Song: “*What a Fellowship”*

Prayer and Scripture: ***Psalm 19:7-14*** *– (This passage of Scripture t*ells us what to do, when we

d*o not k*now what to do.)

**Welcome …. Rev. Jasper Hemphill***, Pastor*

**Sister Belinda Jessup,** *Local Lay President*

Pastor Hemphill and Sister Jessup both extended warm expressions of welcome to the Lay Body which was well received. Invitation was extended to everyone to stay for lunch.

**Roll Call of Officers…. Sister Diane Foy, Secretary**

All of the Executive Board Members were present except for the following.

* Woodrow Winchester, Treasurer, (*Excused-under the weather, under doctor’s care).*
* Mary Royster-Harris, *Young Adult Representative, (Excused-she asked that we keep her in prayer; under doctor’s care-bedridden).*
* Dwight Patterson, *Ex-Officio, Excused*
* Mary McAdams, *Ex-Officio*, *Excused*

The **Minutes** from our last meeting were enclosed in the packets which were distributed and were also on our website. President Oliver entertained the question, are there any corrections/comments?

Sister Starr Battle referenced page 6 of the October 8, 2016 minutes regarding Delegates to the Lay Convention. She would like the Minutes to show that she did not authorize or give permission to anyone for volunteers to go to the Convention. President Oliver so stipulated the Secretary to show this correction in the Minutes.

**Officer’s Reports**

**Historiographer …. Sister Sonia Barbre**

As part of her presentation, Sister Barbre presented a display of pictures from Mid-year, held in Virginia, our last Lay Meeting, and the African American Museum that just newly opened. She invited those Lay Members that have already visited the museum to stand and encouraged others to go and take your Kleenex with you- “*it is a sight to behold!”*

Brother Jermaine Favor is collecting history regarding first time participants in our history similar to the movie and the lives of the ladies in “***Hidden Figures.”*** If so, please contact Sister Sonia Barbre, St. James AME Church, Winston Salem, NC.

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**Public Relations…. Sister Bobbi Hague**

Sister Hague made an appeal to all Lay Presidents that since she is a one-person reporter she needs assistance by having you to get a public relations person in your organization or designate your Lay Secretary to be responsible for reporting news items to her for the monthly ***Newsletter.*** This information should be in to your reporter by the 25th of month, so that Sister Hague may get the Newsletter out by the 1st of the month.

Sister Hague will be sending a copy of the ***Newsletter*** out to all Pastors, as she has had several to tell her they have never seen a copy of one.

The form for church address information will be sent out one more time, last appeal, in the ***Newsletter***. This info is needed to provide time for opening worship services, special programs, etc., so visitors will have access to this information.

**Corresponding Secretary …. Sister Barbara Smith**

The following correspondence was received:

* John Thomas, III, ***Christian Recorder –*** (Thank you for your vote/please register)
* Presiding Elder Goodwin Douglas Family – (Condolence/Thank You)
* Bishop Frank M. Reid & Family – (Merry Christmas; Thank You for Your Support)
* Norman S. Smith Family – (Sister Barbara Smith’s Husband Condolence/Thank You)
* Sister Niki Allen’s Mother Obituary/Program – (Available for Review)

**Treasurer’s Report …. Sister Mozell Weston,** *(in absentia of Brother Woodrow Winchester)*

A copy of the M&F Bank Statement was given to President Oliver and the Secretary, effective December 31, 2016. President Oliver verified that the Bank Balance on the Statement and the written balance on the reports distributed to the Lay Members, were confirmed.

Checks were returned since the Lay Institute was not held. If you wrote a check and have not received a refund, please contact Sister Mozell Weston. Questions were entertained.

* Kenneth Woods asked- Under *Use of Funds: Lay Convention - $750.00* expenditure –

This was a voucher covering expenditures for President Penny Oliver at Lay Convention.

* John Smith asked-Under *Source of Funds: Exchange - $150.00 –* Refund received.

With no further questions received, the report was accepted as information only, per President Oliver.

**Budget Update…. Brother Wilbert Hooker**

All Executive Officers with a line item in the budget, are asked to review the amounts indicated for the 2016 Budget year to see if the same figure will suffice for the next two years budget. This information must be submitted to him by **Founder’s Day, (February 9-11, 2017**), or the same amount shown for the 2016 budget year will remain for the 2017-18 Budget. Thank you.

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**Words from the President…. Sister Penny Oliver**

President Oliver again wished everyone a “Happy New Year and thanked them for their presence.” She asked the Lay Body, *“How many first timers do we have attending a Lay Conference Meeting, please stand, give your name, church you are a member of.”* They were;

* Dianna Drake, *St. James AMEC, W-Salem*, Local Lay President
* Gwendolyn Pryor, *Greater Bethel AMEC, Charlotte,* YAR
* Union Bethel AMEC, *W-Salem, a 1st time Member*

All Local Lay Presidents were recognized and asked to stand- several stood. Afterwards, all persons present between the ages of 18-35 were asked to raise their hands – two persons met the requirement and were recognized. She thanked them for serving and reminded everyone that we are commissioned to teach, train and empower our members for Lay ministry, global leadership and service following the belief of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

***Updates from 2016 Mid-Year*** (Financial Reports from 2nd Episcopal District) copies were distributed and only two meetings, (summer and winter) will be held. This will be our last stand-a-lone Founder’s Day), in February. Everyone is encouraged to attend the District meetings. This Bishop is sharing information that we have not heard before.

Founder’s Day Dates are February 9th-11th, information is in your package from the Bishop’s office.

***SEDLO Update*** – A breakfast will be held on Saturday morning between 8&10, February 11, at the Sheraton- Koury Center, Greensboro, NC. (We were given the option by the Bishop wither Thursday, February 9/Friday, February 10 and the executive board decided on Saturday. President Bell is mailing us 80 tickets; cost: $40 pp, please see Sister Jackie Kanipe to reserve your ticket. The speaker’s name is to be announced.

SEDLO received and approved two letters of intent for the Connectional election, at our

Biennial; Sister Starr Battle running for 3rd Vice President of Connectional and Sister Valerie Bell running for President of the Connectional. (A letter received from President Glover, *Connectional President,* regarding the Biennialwas read by Sister Diane Foy, Secretary).

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Updates from SED Lay Convention** – The following persons were delegates to the convention.

Sister Betty Parker Sister Kathryn Lightfoot

Brother Wilbert Hooker Sister Bettie Duell

Sister Sonia Barbre

Sister Barbre stated that these persons worked as a unit to capture the events of this convention and put the information on paper. This idea stemmed from the previous convention and was remembered as they implemented the reporting for this Convention. Sister Barbre recommended to President Oliver/Lay Body, for approval to submit this report for the members reading pleasure, on the website/for informational purposes. The Lay Body overwhelmingly agreed.

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**2017 Jack and Jill Update …. Brother Adam Johnston, *Assistant Chair***

This committee met via conference calls. The scheduled date for

*Jack and Jill- 2017 is April 8th (Saturday), at Saint James, Winston Salem, NC.*

Theme: *TBA*

Social Media was suggested as a means to get the word out to the younger people to get them interested in this program and attend. President Oliver added, “*We need to help in spreading the word to be in the house.”*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2017 Prayer Breakfast …. Sister Jackie Kanipe**

Two proposals were received to facilitate the Prayer Breakfast from Macedonia and Mount Zion, Hillsborough. However, Mount Zion can only accommodate 179 persons and our attendance has increased. The 2016 breakfast, approximately 200 persons attended and we need a facility that can seat 225 persons comfortably.

***Any church may submit a proposal for your church fellowship hall***, preferably, or be responsible for another facility ***where you would be willing to host***, at least ***225 persons comfortably!***

Again, proposals are available, contact Sister Jackie Kanipe. A message will be sent out to our Lay Presidents, and other organizations to obtain other offers, in an effort to compile a report! **Deadline: March 1st, 2017 at Mount Zion, Greensboro.**

**Date of Breakfast: 2nd Saturday – September 9, 2017**

**Delegates to Lay Biennial (March election) …. Constitution & Bylaws Committee Members**

The written committee report meeting of Tuesday, November 15, 2016, by Conference call, was read by **Sister Betty Parker, Chair.** (See attached report)

**IMPORTANT!!! ALL LAY PRESIDENT’S - MEMBERSHIP DUES MUST BE**

**RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 17, 2017 to the membership chair**

**Niki Allen: 2913 Ashwell Court, Raleigh, NC 27603**

Much discussion followed concerning payment of the dues.

President Oliver entertained a motion by Brother John Smith, seconded by Brother Wilbur Hooker to accept the report as read; so moved. The election of the delegates will be held at the ***March 11th meeting at Mount Zion, Greensboro.*** President Oliver requested that the Election be held first and a short Business session following. So moved by Brother John Smith; seconded by Sister Emma Devine; the motion carried.

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**Laity Teaching Moment …. Sister Starr L. Battle*. 3rd VP CLO***

Sister Battle was Introduction/Presentation by President Oliver. Afterwards she gave a hearty hello and Happy New Year! We listened to the song, *“Let the Church Say Amen!”* Sister Battle explained *Amen* means “so be it; so shall it be.” Sister Battle led us in Prayer.

Our Module title for today’s teaching moment: “***Love, Honor, and Respect”***

***Disciples in Intergenerational Work, Organizations and Ministry***

The Teaching Moment was very positive, informative and the Lay Members interacted well in the exercises provided. Sister Starr’s comments were well received!

**Membership Update …. Sister Theresa Watson, *(in absentia of Niki Allen)***

We have 57 participants - $286.00

**For Your Information …. Sister Penny Oliver**

Sister Oliver informed the Lay Body that she wrote a letter to the two (2) Presiding Elders, as a member of the AME Church. She was concerned about the 2016 General Conference Sustentation. When the General Conference took place last time, there was quite a bit of difference in the amounts that the delegates from the East received, in comparison to what the delegates from the West received……why were they not the same? Will this situation be rectified before the next General Conference? *“I wanted you to know that I embarked upon this question as a member of the AME Church--not as President of the Lay Organization.” Thank you.*

***Praise Reports/Prayer Requests******& Announcements-*** were received from the following persons.

Brother Wilbert Hooker – thanked God one year ago today, in the hospital.

Brother Lamont Upperman – thanked God and his wife for his recovery and for standing by him.

He thanked everyone for their numerous cards and prayers.

Sister Emma Devine – requested prayer for her family; we need to pray for one another.

Sister Barbara Smith - requested prayer for Sister Joyce Corpening, St. Paul, Lenoir in hospital.

Brother Adolphus Kelly- requests prayer (osteoarthritis).

Requesting Prayer for the Family of Sister Michelle Dent-Johns, *St. James, W-Salem*

Sister Theresa Watson – announced College Fair/St. Matthew, 10-1, Raleigh, NC will be on web.

Sister Jackie Kanipe, lead us *in closing prayer*; singing of *Lay Benediction* led by Sister Diane Foy and *Blessing of Meal by* Brother Wilbert Hooker.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:35 pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Diane T. Foy**

**Attachment (1)**

**Constitution & By-Laws Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 15, 2016**

**Conference call @ 9:00PM**

**Committee Members:**

**Sis. Betty Parker --- Chair**

**Bro. Adam Johnston (present)**

**Bro. John N. Smith (present)**

**Sis. Emma Devine (present)**

**Sis. Jessie Cardwell (present)**

**Sis. Starr Battle (present)**

**Sis. Jackie Kanipe (absent)**

**Meeting opened by the chair, Betty Parker and prayer by Sis. Jessie Caldwell.**

**Topic for discussion: Election of delegates to Biennial for WNCC Lay**

**After a brief discussion, the consensus was that the criteria, to be elected as a delegate from the WNCC Lay Organization to the Biennial, are as follows:**

1. **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).**
2. **Must have attended at least ½ of the official established meetings for the WNCC Lay and membership dues must be received by February 17, 2017 to the membership chair Nikki Allen.**
3. **Nominations for delegates will come from the floor.**
4. **There will be two (2) separate elections**
5. **Election for delegates for the Biennial**
6. **Elect 6 adults, at least one (1) young adult (age 18-35)**

**Note: The WNCC will therefore will send ten (10) delegates to**

**the Biennial. With the WNCC being financial responsible for (9)**

**delegates.**

1. **President, DOLA and YAR attend the Biennial by virtue of their office.**
2. **Election of the District Delegate:**

**Only one person from the WNCC Lay will represent the District.**

**This person cannot be an elected delegate or an alternate delegate.**

1. **Alternate Delegates: Election of alternate delegates for the Biennial will consist of 6 (at least one should be a young adult) adult members (same number of delegates elected for the Biennial), your President, DOLA and YAR are excluded as an alternate.**

**3. Ballot:**

**A. Secretary will prepare a handwritten ballot based on said names.**

**Copies will be made of the ballot and given to all voting members**

**B. Credential Representative-Niki Allen**

**Sis. Niki Allen will be prepared to review her records on the said nominees from 8/2015 – 2/2016 to make sure all nominees have attended at least ½ of the conference lay meetings. Will ask for another assistant to aid in verifying records. In addition, will ask President, Sis. Oliver to allow time for verification of records.**

**Note: If you do not have a local Church Lay organization but paid your membership dues to the Conference membership Chair and have attended at least ½ of the conference lay meetings, you are eligible to vote and or run for delegate to the Biennial.**

**Boundaries:**

**Will separate voting and non-voting members.**

**Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned by a prayer by Bro. John Smith**

**Reference: Please refer to Constitutional By-Laws Amendment IV & XV**

**Respectfully submitted; Betty Parker, Constitution & By-Laws Chair**

**Attachment (2)**

**“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. ~“Ephesians 4:16**

**Greetings In the Name of the Most High God:**

**We the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization invite all participants and laity to join us for “Empowering Our Young: Turning Passion Into Action! On April 8, 2017 at St. James A.M.E. Church Winston–**

**Salem, NC.**

**Registration will begin at 9:00 am and our day will begin with a workshop entitled: “Engage, Retain and Grow”. The workshop is centered around our 18-35 age group and how to not only involve them, but grow and keep them within our churches. We will have a presenter from the Laity and one from the Clergy. We will then proceed to kick start our annual Jack and Jill with a baby contest for infant up to 5 years old. Next, we will crown Jack and Jill where participants can be 5-35 years old and present a talent of his/her choice. The categories are endless! Baby Contest and Jack and Jill participants will need to arrive no later than 11:15 am to ensure accurate**

**and timely reporting of funds raised. Please complete the form attached with this letter to confirm participation.**

**Church registration can be mailed in prior to the event day even if your church does not have anyone participating in**

**the baby contest or competing for the Jack and Jill crown. This program is fundamental in the awarding of scholarships. We are requesting the support of every church in the Western North Carolina Conference (Example: A Churches**

**- $300, B Churches- $200, C Churches- $100).**

**We will conclude our afternoon with a soul-stirring Empowerment Message to Recharge, Refuel and Recommit ourselves as Laity Fulfilling the Great Commission.**

**Thanking you in advance.**

**Yours In Christ and Christian Love,**

**Mary Royster Harris**

**Young Adult Representative, Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization**

**Adam Johnston**

**3rd Vice President, Western North Carolina Conference and Program Co-Chair**

**Penny Oliver**

**President, Western North Carolina Conference**

**“LAITY FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION”**