



THE LAY EXPRESS



Second Episcopal District ~ African Methodist Episcopal Church
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

Website: <http://wncclay.org/>

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

VOLUME VI

MAY 2020

ISSUE 5

I pray that this message finds you and your families and friends continuing to thrive and be well. These past few weeks have been difficult and stressful for all of us. Still, we know that in all things God has the ability to use it to draw us closer to him and as an opportunity to get the glory out of our lives.

From
the desk
of

Penny S. Oliver, President



As stressful as times are, they have provided an extraordinary opportunity in our Christian communities to reflect on our identity and mission as the church, and to imagine ways of being more connected than ever with our fellow church members and the communities where we serve. In "normal" times, it is easy for churches to fall into the trap of plowing forward without much reflection on identity and mission. Now that we have the God-given chance to do something new, I challenge the laity to take a little time individually and as part of the collective church to reflect on questions such as:

What is the church? A building? A particular gathering? A community?

What is worship? What really matters in a worship service?

What is my role?

Apostle Paul imagined churches as the body of Christ, a powerful metaphor of interactive communities in which there are no inessential members and in which everyone has a role to play. We are called to be active participants in our faith, not just passive consumers of religion.

This is a situation that none of us could have predicted. It has brought unprecedented changes to the way our congregations engage in worship and fellowship. It is tempting to spend our time trying to turn back the clock so that we can get back to our familiar practices within our churches. However, it is only reasonable to expect that we have entered a season of a "new normal" at least for the foreseeable future. How then do we respond? How do we capitalize on this moment to grow and strengthen instead of shrink and weaken?

Change is hard, and the idea of change can be scary, but all change does not have to be bad. This is a time of necessary change. I encourage you to enter this time with a spirit of anticipation and excitement about the new things that God is doing and will continue to do in our Zion. Trust God that the "new normal" can be better and brighter than anything we have experienced before.

From the Desk of the President, Continued



Trust God that as a church we will be positioned to reach more people, touch more lives, and impact more people with the good news of Jesus. In this season, we can become better. In this season, the nation and the world can become better. In this season, we all can continue to go in our relationship with Christ and our understanding of what is truly means to be “the church”.

We all have a role in this, and we can all row the boat together. We can all look at our problems, and look at them as situations, and create these opportunities that make this world better. Here’s the one thing. We all affect this, every single one of us have an impact of how we actually change the future of this nation.

God is reminding us that the church is not the building. The real church lives in the people. So, we are still the church whether we are gathered in a building or scattered in diverse places. We are the church no matter what. I think the challenge for all of us is to understand that our relationship with God is not dependent on physical gatherings and being in a structure. Our relationship with God is a spiritual relationship that has no geographical boundaries. Regardless of location, our faith is growing. We are being strengthened through this, and being better equipped to serve our community. In this time, we need to trust Him, and value life and the people who matter.

Every need in the world is an Open Door to share God's Love. That’s why we, as a family of believers, must respond to the COVID-19 crisis, not by panicking or hiding out of fear, but by serving the people who are most vulnerable. No matter how frustrating, confusing, or scary this opportunity gets, fear absolutely does not have the final say. "There is no fear in love, but perfect love cast out fear." 1 John 4:18.

We will all rejoice at the chance to gather once again in the church building, to fellowship and see each other’s face. Yet, while we are apart, remember the church lives on, thrives on, and is demonstrated through you. The church walls are not and should not be the limits of our ministries. God has entrusted us with the responsibility to be the carriers of the church to the whole world – “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”(Mk 16:15). Preach the gospel in the way that you love. Preach the gospel in the way that you care for the needy. Preach the gospel in the way that you demonstrate the never-failing, all-encompassing, heart of Jesus.

So you and I have been called to share that love with the world. This is what we call Evangelism. – ministering outside the walls of the building.

Thank you for your willingness to serve!



Happy Mother's Day

Mother's Day can bring a mix of emotions for many women. There are those anticipating the birth of their first child, step-moms wondering what their place is, those who have lost their mother and are faced with grieving on Mother's Day, there are moms who encounter feelings of hurt because their children have turned from God, and those overwhelmed with pain from the loss of a child. No matter what you face this Mother's Day, you can turn to God and experience peace and healing through prayer.

Dear Father, we approach your throne on behalf of the mothers whom you have entrusted with the care of your most precious little ones. We thank you for creating each mom with a unique combination of gifts and talents. We thank you for the sacrifice of self each mom gives for her children. For the late nights spent rocking a colicky infant. For the hands calloused from washing, wiping, scrubbing, mixing, baking, stirring, hugging, patting, disciplining, holding, writing, erasing, painting, and pouring.

We thank you for the gift of time moms give for their kids, whether it's stay-at-home moms, working moms, and moms who have some combination of the two. We thank you for the flexibility of moms, for their tirelessness, their perseverance, and their devotion.

We pray you give each mom strength. Help her to see in every mundane task the eternal, cosmic significance that you place on motherhood. Help her to understand that the most radical, world-changing events may be happening anonymously in her home. Help her to forgive those who undermine her significance.

We especially pray for single moms, who must lean solely on you for the fathering of their children. We thank you that you're big arms surround children who may never know their earthly father. We also pray for mother who never had the honor of bearing children, but whose nurturing extends to the many poor and needy who cross the threshold of their lives.

We ask you to be the daily bread of tired mothers. We ask you to be their living water. We ask you to be their source of spiritual and physical strength. We pray that the same grace that flowed from Father to Son to us in salvation will flow from mothers to their children. We pray that each mother rejects perfectionism and instead embraces the goodness of the gospel. We pray the rhythms of repentance and forgiveness shape every home.

Lord, give each mother a worshipful reverence of you, the Creator and Sustainer of life. Help each mother to rest in the knowledge that they are but stewards of your children and that only your Spirit can produce change into the hearts of each boy and girl. May each mother find rest in you.

Most of all, Lord, on this day in which we honor mothers, may we love and cherish the special women who have born us, who have nurtured us, and who have prayed for our well-being. May our hearts overflow with gratitude to you, who formed and knitted each of us in a mother's womb.



**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION
OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**



May 1, 2020

To: Members of the Western North Carolina Conference

I pray that this message finds you and your families and friends continuing to thrive and be well. These past few weeks have been trying times for all of us. Nevertheless, we know that in all things God has the ability to use it to draw us closer to him and as an opportunity to get the glory out of our lives.

The 2nd District Commission on Social Action has been working really hard to raise awareness about Census 2020. We now need the help of pastors and laity to engage around completing the Census.

Census results have an impact on planning and funding for health clinics and highways, fire departments and disaster response, education programs such as Head Start and college tuition assistance, and so much more.

We can inspire others. Tell everyone—your friends and family, neighbors and co-workers—that you will complete the census, and that they should respond now, too!

Households will receive an invitation in the **mail** to complete the **2020 Census** online, by phone, or by **mail**. You can complete the **2020 Census** online at my2020census.gov. An enclosed envelope to **mail** back a completed paper questionnaire would be addressed to Jeffersonville, IN, or Phoenix, AZ. It takes less than 5 minutes to complete online.

To Complete Census 2020 online:

- 1) Log on to my2020census.gov*
- 2) Select “Start Questionnaire”*
- 3) Enter their Census ID (found on their mailer) or click “I do not have a Census ID” to move forward with the questionnaire*
- 4) Answer all the questions until you get to the Confirmation page!*

Thank you in advance for your assistance on helping us advance this initiative to get our people counted.

Sincerely,

Penny S. Oliver

Penny S. Oliver, WNCC-LO President
Barbara Myers, WNCC-LO Social Action Chair

Penny S. Oliver, President

Betty Parker, 1st Vice President

Diane Foy, Recording

SUNDAY MAY 3 2020
2PM **PST** • 4PM **CST** • 5PM **EST**



AME CHURCH CALL TO PRAYER:

T H E R O A D T O

Pentecost

FEATURING THE
COUNCIL OF BISHOPS



TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
FULL VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE,
PLEASE GO TO [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/AMEMAY](https://tinyurl.com/amemay)
TO REGISTER

CLASS
of
2020

Calling our 2020 High School & College Graduates:

We would like to honor and celebrate you for your academic accomplishments and your resilience during this pandemic.

Please forward the following information to Sister Betty Parker, WNCC Lay Organization 1st Vice President at purple22@comporium.net.

Graduate's Name
Recent Picture
High School/College Attended
Parents' Names
Church Name and City
Pastor's Name

Deadline: May 29, 2020

DAVIS/M^cKINNEY SCHOLARSHIP

DEADLINE: TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020

CONTACT: Dr. V. Susie Oliphant

Ph. (301) 559-9488 ~ vsfo@verizon.net



DR. JAMES C. JOHNSON LAY SCHOLARSHIP

Second Episcopal District ~ Western North Carolina Conference

DEADLINE: TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2020

CONTACT: Mrs. Sonia P. Barbre, WNCC Lay Scholarship Chair

Ph. (336) 768-4822 ~ sparbre@hotmail.com

KITTRELL-ALLEN-ADAMS SCHOLARSHIP

Second Episcopal District

DEADLINE: MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020

CONTACT: Mrs. Gail P. Radcliff

Ph. (301) 870-8492

(Applications via email will not be accepted)



**Scholarship instructions and applications are located on the
WNCC Lay Organization website: <http://wnccclay.org/>**

Entitlement is a real battle for children in today's world. It's challenging to protect them from feeling that they deserve everything they want, but there's a simple antidote to entitlement: service. It's never too early to help children look outside of themselves and discover what it is like to share their love with others. Love on them, listen to them and ALWAYS continue to spend quality time with them.



PRAYER: Protect our children, Father God, each and every day. Be their shield and their fortress. Let no bad influence corrupt their precious minds. Let no accidents fall on them. Allow no physical harm to touch their bodies. Keep them away from illness.

In the name of Jesus. Amen

Mt. Pisgah AME Church
Christian Education



Connectional Lay Organization

EVANGELISM SUNDAY

Sunday, May 31, 2020

Theme: G.R.O.W. ~ "GIVE RADICAL OUTREACH WORK"

Acts 2:38—Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

We are in our **Evangelism Season**, this is a great time to evangelize. Simply tell others about Jesus! **Local Presidents** please let us know what your church is doing to bring others to Christ.

Please send pictures to President Penny Oliver and/or 3rd Vice President Barbara Myers.

Penny.oliver52@yahoo.com
babsgurls@gmail.com

"Thank You" boxed lunches for Wake EMS 1st Responders and City Bus Drivers. Masks made and distributed to nursing & senior facilities and VA Hospital. ~ St. Paul AME Church, Raleigh





DR. JEFFERY COOPER
AME GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear Members:

Please find below an announcement from the AME Church General Conference Commission regarding the 51st Quadrennial General Conference:



Today, the General Conference Commission voted to reschedule the 51st Quadrennial General Conference to July 2021. The Conference will open on July 6, 2021.

For those who have already registered and reserved their hotel reservations for the General Conference, you will be contacted by email with further instructions within the next three weeks. Thank you for your patience while we work through these details.

Observer registration for the Conference remains open. The discounted registration of \$120 (with Member Card) has been extended until December 31, 2020. Register now at <https://www.ame-church.com/>.

With the move of General Conference to 2021, the 37th Biennial of the Connectional Lay Organization will also be moved and held in Orlando following the General Conference. The planning team is working to finalize new contracts with the hotels and Orange County Convention Center. Once completed, more details will be released.

Peace,
Rev. Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper
General Secretary/CIO
African Methodist Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 331028 - 1720 Scovel Street - Nashville, TN 37208
Office: 615-254-0911 - Fax: 615-254-0912 - cio@ame-church.com

TAKE ACTION



The health crisis in our state reaffirms what we already knew: Our health and our futures are always interconnected.

That's why the North Carolina General Assembly must act NOW to expand Medicaid.

3 WAYS TO TAKE ACTION!

Add your name! Sign the petition asking the NCGA to expand Medicaid!

bit.ly/expandmedicaidNC »

Get your friends involved! Share this email or post our petition on your social media.

bit.ly/Medicaidpetition»

Share your healthcare story. Help your lawmakers understand who we are and why we need help.

bit.ly/healthcarestorytelling»

Connect With Down Home:

Facebook

Twitter

Find Your Local Chapter:

[Get Involved Locally](#)

Frontline workers-- cashiers, childcare workers, gas station attendants-- are doing the essential work to keep our economy going during this public health crisis.

These same workers desperately need health insurance coverage as they work to make sure that we are taken care of. When people are uninsured, they are less likely to seek care, jeopardizing their own health and unintentionally risking others.

Now, more than ever, North Carolina needs to expand Medicaid as both an economic boost and as a public health intervention to provide North Carolinians with the coverage they need to protect their health and financial well-being.

A clean expansion of Medicaid in North Carolina is the fastest and most effective way to ensure that North Carolina families, our economy, our healthcare system, and our communities can survive this crisis and stay strong into the future.

TELL THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT WE NEED CLEAN MEDICAID EXPANSION NOW!

ADD YOUR NAME!

[Sign the Petition](#)

In this pandemic, churches are offering several ways to experience worship service. Some are utilizing :



Facebook Live



Some churches are providing the "Drive-in Worship Experience."



*Allen Chapel AME Church - Roxboro, , North Carolina
Reverend Larry McDonald, Pastor*

*“At the Table – The Journey Forward – Guided by the Light”
Black History Presentation by the St. James AME Church, Raleigh, NC
Reverend Phyllis T. Royal, Pastor*

Jesus has invited individuals (Guests) to His table and is examining them as to their purpose in life: 1) Why do you think you or your presentative was invited to my table, 2) Why you or your representative was created – 3) What is your purpose in life, and finally 4) How has your life impacted religious and civil rights.



Each Guests answered the questions Jesus posed to them and those responses were received and accepted by Jesus. We shared this presentation with Lt. Colonel Kevin Brown of Millbrook High School ROTC; Colonel Glenn M. McNeill, Commander



of the NC Highway Patrol, Presiding Elder Anita Thompson, WNCC/Eastern District; Dr. Erroll Royal, husband of the Reverend Phyllis T. Royal, Pastor/Saint James AME Church, and The Revered Royal. Three other Guests were invited but because of things beyond their control, were unable to attend. They were: The Honorable Vince Rozier, Wake County Superior Court (Our Go To Person – He always help us out when able,) The Reverend Patti Thompson Frazier, daughter of the Presiding Elder Thompson and Direct Lorena McDowell, Wake County Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization; all of whom will be invited to share with us at another time.



Each Guest was presented a Kente Covered Water Bottle and Matching Lapel Pin and the Presiding Elder Anita Thompson, and The Reverend Phyllis T. Royal were also presented with plaques celebrating their success of being the first, female presiding elder in the WNCC 2nd Episcopal District of the Western North Carolina Conference, and the first Female Pastor of the Historic St. James AME Church located in Raleigh, NC (earlier known as Slab Town and Method.)



Please join me in giving a BIG SHOUT OUT to Sister Angela Elam. Thank you, Angela, for two and half years of service as Director of Public Relations for the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization. We applaud you for your work, creativity, and dedication especially on the monthly newsletter, THE LAY EXPRESS . You, along with Sister Shontae Smith, kept our conference informed and connected. You will be missed!

THANK YOU!

Congratulations to Brother Kenneth Woods. On Saturday, April 25, 2020, Brother Woods was elected to the State Senatorial Executive Committee District 23 of North Carolina.

	<i>THE LAY EXPRESS</i> =0 =0	
Second Episcopal District – African Methodist Episcopal Church WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION Website: http://wncclay.org/		
"Laily walking humbly with God to do justice and to love kindness" Micah 6:8 (ESV)		
VOLUME VI	MONTH /YEAR	ISSUE 0
Dear Reader,		
First off, I thank you for taking time out of your day to process the jumble of words I display every month. I realize the competition for your time is epic! The fact that 218 plus readers view me every month is the ultimate compliment. Second, thank you for passing me along, via email, Facebook, and print to others so they are also informed.		
Third, as we come to the end of the conference year, please note I will be on a hiatus in June. Hey! Everyone needs a little time off! 😊 However, do not fret because I will resume in <u>JULY</u> .		
Lastly, if you happen to miss me, you can find years of my work archived on the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization website http://wncclay.org/ under the "Lay Minutes" tab.		
Until we meet again,		
<i>The Lay Express</i>		