



THE LAY EXPRESS

*"Living A Global Witness Ministry That
Transforms, Transcends and Liberates"*
Luke 4:18-19



Second Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

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



From
the desk
of

Penny S. Oliver, President

"If I am to be remembered, I hope it is for the honesty I try to demonstrate, the patience I try to live by, and the compassion I feel for others". —JoAnn Reed

Each of us hopes we are leaving a lasting, positive impression on those we befriend and maybe even those we encounter by chance. Having others speak well of us provides the strokes that are often necessary to our "keeping on" when difficulties surface. What we sometimes forget is that we are responsible for whatever lasting impression we leave. Our behavior does influence what another person carries away from our mutual experience.

We may have left unfavorable impressions. And each day we begin anew, with a clear slate and fresh opportunities to spread good cheer, to treat others with love and respect, to face head-on and with full honesty all situations drawing our attention and participation.

As I look forward to the end of my tenure, I will remember that I control my actions toward others. If I want to be remembered fondly, I must treat each person so.

I have been asked by many, what is next for me. Life is a process, one that is continuously changing. And with each change, we are offered unexpected opportunities for growth. Change is what fosters our development. It encourages us to risk new behavior and may even result in some mistakes. Fortunately, no mistakes can seriously hinder us. In fact, most mistakes give us an additional opportunity to learn.

From The Desk of The President, Continued

"I will not pass this way again," so the song says, which heightens the meaning of each encounter, every experience. Acknowledging that something can be gained each step along the way invites inspiration.

Inspiration moves us to new heights. I will be called to step beyond my present boundaries. Maybe today. Whenever the inspiration catches my attention, I can trust its invitation; I am ready for the challenge it offers. I need not let my narrow, personal expectations of an experience, a new situation perhaps, prevent me from being open to all the dynamic possibilities it offers.

I must be willing to let my whole self be moved, inspired. I must be willing to let each moment I experience be the only moment getting my attention.

Every day of our life is a new beginning, not just the first day of the year.

We can make Daily Resolutions, not just New Year Resolutions. Any day is suitable for making them. Regard every day as the beginning of a new, better, and happier life. Start every day of the year with feelings of happiness and with the anticipation that great and wonderful things are going to happen. Regardless of circumstances, begin every day of the year with a smile, hope and expectations. You are not cheating yourself, because this attitude, if you persevere with it, would make you a more positive and happy person.

Join us on January 8, 2022 at 10 am for the Virtual Western North Carolina Conference Lay Meeting. Registration is open <https://form.jotform.com/213356299297166>.

Thank you for your willingness to serve and **Happy New Year!**



In a memo Dr. Jeffrey Cooper, African Methodist Episcopal Church General Secretary, shared with us in a statement from the AMEC Council of Bishops “The Department of Retirement Services reported a material loss in the value of one or more of its departmental investments” (November 2021 Lay Express for the entire memo <http://www.wncclay.org>).

“In God we trust” is a motto so important to the American culture that it is printed on our currency. As a faith-based organization, this motto means even more, but there is another popular motto that church administrators should learn: “trust but verify”.

Churches run on trust – but we also know people are imperfect and can be tempted. But, trusting someone and allowing them unfettered access to church assets are two very different things. That’s why safeguarding the church’s finances, is an important part of ministry. So, who is responsible for financial oversight within faith-based organizations, and how stringent of oversight should be performed? We all are, laity, pastors and bishops.

Churches would not exist without the generous donations made by tithing members. These financial supporters make sacrifices to give to their church because it is a basic Christian principle. Tithing church members give out of their hearts and pocket books but have an unspoken expectation – for church leadership to manage and safeguard those donations.

Every time I read about fraud and embezzlement in the church I am amazed. I am amazed that a trusted church member could actually steal from their church; I’m amazed that church leadership is naive enough to have little or no financial controls; and I’m amazed at the amount of money that can be stolen without anyone even suspecting.

Church finances are church members business. We are to take our membership in the church seriously and part of that is participating in the church’s stewardship (both by giving and showing an interest in the church’s financial health). The manner in which a church manages its finances should be completely transparent. A church should always be ready to demonstrate that the funds God has provided are being stewarded wisely. We should feel comfortable to ask questions in our church meetings on the local, conference, district and episcopal levels.

Financial scandals have destroyed or damaged countless churches. And, in most of those cases, there has been a lack of accountability and transparency. We should be able to have utmost confidence in our leaders’ abilities to steward the church’s finances wisely. I must say after attending the General Board Meeting in December 2021, the confidence that I did have in leadership is sinking.

May the words of the Master motivate and guide us, “Money should be handled in such a way that is defensible against any accusation.” (2 Corinthians 8:21).

A Concern Member of the AMEC,
Penny S. Oliver



January 1, 2022

Greetings Laity!

I greet you in the Mighty and Matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

As we begin a new calendar year, it is time for us to collect 2022 conference lay dues.

Per the Discipline all AME churches are to have an Organized Lay Organization. Membership dues are \$6.00 a person, for each conference year. Lay membership runs from January to January. **Make the check payable to WNCC-LO, and mail the check and membership names to Treasurer, Woodrow Winchester, 912 Fairgreen Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410. Also, please add your membership on-line utilizing this link— <https://form.jotform.com/210155653545049>.**

NOTE: You cannot pay on-line! We highly encourage you to add membership names on-line and send the names, along with the check to Woodrow Winchester.

This is an election year for WNCC-LO Offices and for Delegates/Alternates to the SED-LO Lay Convention. We are requesting local lay presidents to complete lay membership on-line, for election of Delegates on or before February 27, 2022 and for the election of Offices on or before March 9, 2022

Laity, as I have stated many, many times, before, we need you. We need your vision, your courage, your good common sense, your creativity, your humor and your honesty. We need you, because without you we will not be complete. We will not be able to finish the great work that we have been given to do - the work of peace, of healing, of reconciliation, renewal, study, worship, fellowship and service at the local, conference, district and connectional levels. Our aim is to be Christ-centered and to strengthen the church. Our concern is for the total church and to maintain a happy working relationship between the pastor and lay.

Let's get in "good trouble". There are not as many of us as you might imagine, and the task is monumental. So, we need you to join the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization. So together, stand with the WNCC-LO and lift your voice with us and let us proclaim that we need one another, without exception. And as we do, let's bring many more people with us into the kingdom of Christ! Be safe! Remember to follow the three W's. **W**ear (a mask). **W**ait (6 feet apart). **W**ash (hands frequently) and get the Vaccine!

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Penny Oliver, WNCC-LO President

Jackie Kanipe, WNCC-LO Director of Lay Activities

Mary Royster-Harris, WNCC-LO Young Adult Representative

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

It is Election Year for the WNCCLO!

The Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization election will take place Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. **for the offices of the Lay Organization**

**Host Church: Bethel AMEC
200 North Regan St.
Greensboro, North Carolina**

If you are seeking an office in the WNCC-LO complete the *Letter of Intent*. The *Letter of Intent*, a copy of *Article VI NOMINATION and ELECTION PROCEDURES, sections 1- 8 and Article IV Membership* are on the website <http://www.wncclay.org/>.

Mail the *Letter of Intent* with the signature of the Local Church President to the nominating committee chair. The certified letter must be postmarked or received by the chair of the Nominating Committee no later than March 9, 2022 (1 month) prior to the convening of the Conference Meeting, April 9, 2022.

2021 Nominating Committee:

Sis. Jackie Kanipe

Sis. Shontea Smith

Bro. John Smith

Bro. Dale Wragg

**Sis. Gertrude Upperman: Chairperson Email- gjupper@aol.com
4509 Harvard Ave, Greensboro, N. C. 27407 Cell 336-337-5495**

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Sister Penny Oliver,
President WNCC-LO

Sis. Gertrude Upperman
Chairperson of 2021 Nominating Committee

Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization

2022 Election Year

LETTER OF INTENT

NAME: _____

I am a paid member in good and regular standing at: (see Article IV – Membership)

Name of Church: _____

I have attended at least (4) four Conference meetings of WNCC Lay Organization in the past (2) years: **Yes**____ **NO**____

1. ____ I am presently serving as the _____ of the WNCC-LO.

2. ____ I plan to seek the same office in the upcoming election in 2022. I have served in this position for ____ years beginning in _____. According to the Constitution and By-Laws, I cannot serve more than (8) eight Years.

3. ____ I do not plan to seek re-election to the position I have held.

4. ____ I wish to have my name placed in nomination for the position of:

Please complete the following information if you plan to seek an elective office.

Listed below are my qualifications for this position that responds to the requirements in the WNCC-LO Constitutions and By-Laws. (see the Constitution and By-Laws @ www.wncclay.org that list the requirements and qualifications for your elected office). Feel free to attach another sheet of paper, if needed, for more space.

Nominee Signature

Date

Print Nominee Name

Local Church President Signature

Date

Mail Letter of Intent to:

Gertrude Upperman

Or

Email to gjupper@aol.com

Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization

2022 Election Year

LETTER OF INTENT

NAME: _____ I
am a paid member in good and regular standing at: (see Article IV – Membership)

Name of Church: _____

I have attended at least (4) four Conference meetings of WNCC Lay Organization in the past
(2) years: **Yes** ___ **NO** ___

1. ___ I am presently serving as the _____
of the WNCC-LO.
2. ___ I plan to seek the same office in the upcoming election in 2022. I have served in this
position for ___ years beginning in _____. According to the Constitution and By-Laws, I
cannot serve more than (8) eight Years.
3. ___ I do not plan to seek re-election to the position I have held.
4. ___ I wish to have my name placed in nomination for the position of:

Please complete the following information if you plan to seek an elective office.

Listed below are my qualifications for this position that responds to the requirements in the
WNCCLO Constitutions and By-Laws. (see the Constitution and By-Laws @ www.wncclay.org that
list the requirements and qualifications for your elected office). Feel free to attach another sheet of
paper, if needed, for more space.

Nominee Signature

Date

Print Nominee Name

Local Church President Signature

Date

Mail Letter of Intent to:
Gertrude Upperman Or Email to gjupper@aol.com

FEED THE CHILDREN EVENT



The **Greater Bethel AME Church** located at 5232 The Plaza in Charlotte was a blessing to over 400 families on Tuesday, December 28th. Our pastor, **Rev. Abdue Knox**, led the charge.

The **Feed the Children** program dropped off pallets of food, toiletries and toys to be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

The **Carolina Cardinals Optimist Club** in conjunction with **New Covenant Church of Rock Hill, SC** donated 44 bicycles to be distributed at the event.

There were a host of volunteers and everyone had a good time bringing joy to those persons who drove through the parking lot. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success. See pictures and news releases attached.



Pastor Knox helping unload

[Charlotte church, volunteers expect to feed 400 families through 'No Hunger Holidays' program \(wbtv.com\)](#)

[Bethel AME Church hosts massive event to help hundreds of families in need – WSOC TV](#)



Pallets of items to be distributed



Pastor Knox with volunteers



The attached is a “Letter of Intent” form for Lay persons desiring to represent the Western North Conference Lay Organization as delegates/alternate to the **Second Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention. SEDLO Convention is scheduled for September 2022.** The AME Church and the SEDLO are trying to decide the best avenue to handle the Convention, in person, virtual, or hybrid. Please read the “Letter of Intent” form and follow all of the instructions, and adhering to the deadline date.

Please feel free to duplicate the form.

Our election will be held at the **March 12, 2022 meeting at 10:00 am.**

GUIDELINES FOR ELECTING DELEGATES TO THE SEDLO CONVENTION

Election of delegates to SEDLO Lay Convention for WNCC Lay Organization per Constitution and By-laws

To be elected as a Delegate or Alternate or District Delegate from the WNCC Lay Organization to the SEDLO Lay Convention are as follows:

- 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 the local lay organization).
 - Must have attended at least ½ of the official established meetings for the WNCC Lay and membership dues must be received by February 28, 2022 (Monday) to the Treasurer, Woodward Winchester.
 - Nominations for delegates/alternate will come from Letter of Intent of Delegates/Alternate to SEDLO Lay Convention received by February 27, (Sunday) 2022.

- There will be three (3) separate elections
 - Election for delegates for the SEDLO Lay Convention
 - Elect 6 adults, at least one (1) young adult (age 18-35)

Note: The WNCC-LO will therefore elect a total of eleven (11 (including one alternate and one district delegate)) to the SEDLO Convention.

- President, DOLA and YAR attend the Lay Convention by virtue of their office.

- Alternate Delegate: Election of one (1) alternate delegate for the SEDLO convention. (your President, DOLA and YAR are excluded as an alternate).
- District Delegate: Election of one (1) district delegate for the SEDLO convention. (your President, DOLA and YAR are excluded as an alternate).

Ballot:

- Secretary will prepare an electronic ballot based on Letter of Intent received names.
- B. Credential Representative-Shontea Smith
Sis. Shontea Smith will have reviewed the records on the said nominees from 3/2020 – 1/2022 to make sure all nominees have attended at least ½ of the **WNCC** lay meetings.

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 Lay Convention.

Mail Form To: Chairperson, Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee:
Shontea Smith
Florence Avery
Bobbi Hague, Chairperson

Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization

2022 SEDLO Convention

LETTER OF INTENT

NAME: _____

I am a paid member in good and regular standing at: (see Article IV – Membership)

Name of Church: _____

I have attended at least (4) four Conference meetings of WNCC Lay Organization in the past (2) years: **Yes** ___ **NO** ___

1. ___ I plan to run as a **DELEGATE** to SEDLO Convention
2. ___ I plan to run as a **YOUNG ADULT DELEGATE** (18-35) to SEDLO Convention.
3. ___ I plan to run as an **ALTERNATE** to SEDLO Convention
4. ___ I plan to run as a **DISTRICT DELEGATE** to SEDLO Biennial Lay Convention.

Nominee Signature _____ **Date** _____

Print Nominee Name _____

Local Church President Signature _____ **Date** _____

NOTE: Letter of Intent Form Must be Received or Postmarked No Later Than February 26, 2022

Mail Form To: Bobbi Hague - Chairperson, Nominating Committee
PO Box 1013 – Kannapolis, NC 28082
EMAIL: so-b-it1@hotmail.com

Nominating Committee:
Shontea Smith
Flo Avery
Bobbi Hague, Chairperson



From the Desk of the Director of Lay Activities

The Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal unveiled the new theme, associated logo, and Litany to be used for the next period. Included is an overview of the theme, a description of the artistic rendering and the litany or responsive reading that can accompany programs with the theme. This information has been supplied to us by the Connectional Director of Lay Activities, Sister Patricia Wright who was elected at the 37th Biennial session of the Connectional Lay Organization with the encouragement to share across the connectional church. In order to more fully understand the litany, logo, and theme, the Second Episcopal District Director of Lay Activities Sister Adrienne Warren shared with me that a training session will be held to fully explain the new theme, logo and so forth. As soon as we are aware of the date, this information will be shared with you.

CLO President Makiti has proposed a vision plan that is filled with opportunities for us to perform and respond with excellence as our mantra. As an organized Lay Organization, we serve with outcome of excellence as our goal. What is the higher calling---what is the next level to our excellence and unity? It is to Live a global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates!

The Litany or Responsive Reading penned by the CLO DOLA, Sister Patricia Wright, November 2021 is included.

Please note that there is only one logo for the Lay Organization. Though new themes have been introduced over the years, the graphic designs have been created with the artistic rendering to help visualize or support the theme. The newly developed logo does not take the place of the Lay Logo. This logo is to be used in order with Lay Programs if it reflects the new theme. “Living a Global Witness Ministry that **Transforms, Transcends and Liberates**” is the current theme.

Additional information will be given as a teaching moment at the Lay Meeting.

Jackie C. Kanipe

Director of Lay Activities
Western North Carolina Conference
Lay Organization (2012-2022)

CLO Theme

“Living A Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends and Liberates”

The Scriptural Reference: Luke 4: 18-19

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Living A Global Witness Ministry means that we intentionally, on purpose, in an unabashed way, in a public way, in a relational way, desire to bring witness that is different, daring, innovative, engaging and liberating.

We serve a church that spans 39 countries, 5 continents, speaks countless languages, is governed by democracy, aristocracy, monarchy amid a plethora of cultures and yet believes in **THE SAME GOD**. We are separated by miles, resources, agendas, political interests, and for the past 18 months we can add pandemic to the mix of reasons that we are apart. We have been kept together through the innovation of technology and the willingness to transform to a different way of thinking, worshiping and witnessing. We have had to transcend the usual way of doing things so that all could be privileged to a liberating gospel. We, as the Organized Lay Organization, have had to step up and be demonstrative of the outcomes we are desirous of seeing. In other words, Living A Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends and Liberates is where our mission rests.

Living A Global Witness Ministry **that Transforms** is real life ministry. Everybody seems to be using the word ‘transformation’ to describe the impact of what they are doing. There is transformational leadership, transformational management, transformational development, transformational business, transformational care, transformational learning, and even transformational marketing!

As we continue to use the term transformation to describe our Christian ministries, we should be clear about what we mean when we use it. The biblical concept of transformation flows from an intensely personal relationship with God. As shared by one Bible scholar, “It is a complete regeneration of our being, thinking, and doing that works itself out in our families and communities.” It is not something that is achieved by external force or theories of social change, but by a work of God in the heart.

God transforms from the inside out. As followers of Jesus, we have all experienced the transforming power of God at work in us – that quiet work of the Holy Spirit convicting us of wrongdoing, cleansing our hearts, shaping our character, changing our attitudes, and influencing our actions.

Living A Global Witness Ministry that **Transcends** goes beyond borders and boundaries. It is the charge and chance for us to extend ourselves beyond our comfort zones to communicate and create avenues that will reach generations, open minds and activate people to engage in a unifying work. Living A Global Witness Ministry that **Liberates** frees one to be liberal in praise, in service and witness. The gospel is a message of freedom and liberation — the ministry of Jesus was that of liberating captives.

The gospel tells us that it is through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that we can courageously go out of our comfort zones to preach and serve others just like Christ did in the synagogues. And so we shall, by **Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates**.

Graphic Design

There is ONLY ONE Logo for the Lay Organization.

With the introduction of new themes, there are graphic designs or artistic renderings created to help visually express or support the theme. Such is the case with our newly approved theme. It **does not** take the place of the Lay Logo. The use of the Lay Logo is always in order with Lay programs. The use of the thematic rendering is also in order, especially when representing the theme. One may use either the official lay logo or the thematic artistic rendering. When using an artistic rendering, it is important to make sure to use the one that reflects the current theme.



The graphic design that supports the theme of Living a Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates displays the Lay Logo with a golden bronze tinted cross and anvil that stand out. The cross, of course represents our faith while the anvil represents the longevity and durability of a church that has weathered many storms yet still maintains its shape and purpose. Undergirding and even enfolding the Lay Logo is the world. We are a global organization with a reach that is inter and intra connected. This design shows the link of the Lay Organization with the entire world. It is illustrative of a ministry that is both pervasive and invasive.

NOTE: A png file is attached to this email so that it may be used for programs and presentations.

The CLO President has proposed a Vision plan that is filled with opportunities for us to perform and respond with excellence as our mantra. As an Organized Lay Organization, we serve with the outcome of excellence as our goal. But what is the higher calling... what is the next level to our excellence and unity? I submit, it is to Live a Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates!

We are in sync! Praise the LORD!

President's Vision and CLO Theme

(Please see below excerpts from President Makiti's Vision)

President's Vision says...	How does the theme relate?
5....the Lay Organization needs to embrace unity and collaboration, diversity, equity and inclusion to achieve personal, collective and professional development of our members in a caring and prayerful manner.	<i>A Living Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates</i> connotes collaboration and diversity as it addresses these areas across the global church. It covers a broader range than does a single focused theme.
5. (2) We need to ensure that we provide support to Episcopal Districts 14- 20 , by embarking on programs that allow for diverse voices – because all the voices matter.	Living a Global Witness Ministry is an inclusive approach that requires and demands voices from the WHOLE Connectional Church
5. (4) Stakeholder Engagement --- The relationship between the Clergy and the CLO should be congealed and we will at all times seek the guidance and counsel of the Lay Commission Chair to direct this vision. We will also ensure that the CLO continues to have cordial relationships with other auxiliaries in the church to determine their training needs as well as embark on joint programs and sharing of training resources	With this theme we can ask our selves what are we presenting to the collective humanity? It is global witness that appeals to and crosses the component lines and denominational lines and bridges the clergy and laity gap. It is presenting living a global witness that transforms, transcends and liberates the world by living a life that is pleasing in the sight of the Lord.
5. (7) Unity, peace and collaboration- we need to be more unified and peaceful, whilst shouldering our individual responsibility for building a healthy environment in which God can bring in new members. Therefore, working collaboratively as CLO leaders will be for the betterment of the Lay Organization	Transcendent ministry speaks to go going above and beyond and doing things differently than before. It is a time to utilize the skills of the entire church to provide a witness . Unity and collaboration are attributes that compel us to go farther and beyond our current status.
5.(9)Embracing technology and enhancing the uptake on the utilization of technology as a means of business communication... assist each other in our endeavors to bridge the digital divide amongst Episcopal Districts.	Liberating ministry frees all to be invested, innovative and involved.

Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates

A litany (responsive reading) from the pen of CLODOLA P.H. Wright – 11/21

LEADER: We serve a church which spans 39 countries, 5 continents, speaks countless languages, resides in places governed by democracy, aristocracy, and monarchy amid a plethora of cultures and yet believes in **THE SAME GOD**.

People: We are separated by miles, resources, agendas, political interests and a pandemic. We have been kept TOGETHER through the innovation of technology, the willingness to transform to different ways of thinking, worshiping and witnessing and by the Grace of **THAT SAME GOD**.

LEADER: Living A Global Witness Ministry **that Transforms** is real life ministry. Reflective of a personal relationship with God, it is a complete renewal or shift of one's mindset, beliefs and entire way of being and behaving.

People: O LORD, we seek Transformation by the renewing of our minds and hearts so that we may prove what is Your good, acceptable and perfect will.

LEADER: Living A Global Witness Ministry **that Transcends** goes beyond borders and boundaries. It is the charge and chance for us to extend ourselves beyond our comfort zone to communicate and create avenues that will span generations, open minds and activate people to engage in an edifying work.

People: O LORD, our prayer is to execute a Transcendent mission that is unparalleled in commitment to any seen or yet to come.

LEADER: A Global Witness Ministry **that Liberates**, frees one to be liberal in praise, service and witness. In essence, it untethers us from dull traditions that bind our imagination, creativity and innovation, and conversely, loosens our proclivity for boundless greatness.

ALL: O LORD, we yearn for a Liberating gospel spread across the world so that all of humanity will come to know and exemplify Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

A Founder's Day Litany

Leader On this day, we pause to remember, reflect, reclaim, and recommit. We gather in your holy temple to worship you for your steadfast love and faithfulness to us, your children who bear witness under the banner of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

People **We give you thanks, O Lord, with our whole hearts.**

Leader With thankful hearts, we remember the life, ministry, and vision of the founder of our church, your servant, Bishop Richard Allen, born a slave yet his freedom bought by his will, determination, giftedness, and hard work. His spirit set free years before through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ and God's grace and mercy. *Whom the son sets free is free indeed.*

People **We remember and we give you thanks, O Lord, with our whole hearts.**

Leader While, we make no claim to be the one, true church, the best, or even the greatest, we give you thanks for this African Methodist Episcopal Church, a faithful part of the Church Universal founded by Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. We reflect on the rich legacy, which we have inherited from the leaders and countless dedicated members across the globe who you called to bear witness to your light and love. For the institutions, which they built, the lives, which they changed, the sacrifices, which they made, we are thankful. Reflecting on this heritage, which has been gifted to us, we worship you as the way making and miracle working God who is worthy of our praise and our service.

People **We reflect and give you thanks, O Lord, with our whole hearts.**

Leader Where we have strayed, God return us to the path of righteousness. When we falter, please hear our cries and increase our strength of soul. When we would hesitate, make excuse, or say no to your call, remind us that your call is not dependent on our worthiness but on our willingness. We reclaim the call to live lives worthy of the name, "A liberating and reconciling people."

People **We reclaim our name and give you thanks, O Lord, with our whole hearts.**

Leader God, all you have created you called "good." Yet sin and evil seek to contaminate and destroy. Haughtiness, greed, and the false belief that the creatures can be

the Creator have wreaked havoc in our communities, countries, in creation, and even in the church. We hear these words, "For though the Lord is high, God regards the lowly; but the haughty God perceives from far away." We also hear your call to us to holiness, both personal and social, that we might be partners with you in justice and peace, not because you need us; but, because you love us and have chosen us.

All **We recommit our whole selves to your purpose, knowing your purpose will be fulfilled. Your steadfast love endures forever. Your name be praised, hallelujah and Amen.**

By Rev. Garland F. Pierce, Executive Director, AMEC Department of Christian Education

Inspired by Psalm 138 (Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, Year C)



COLORS FOR THE AME CHRISTIAN YEAR

In the Christian year of our church, we recognize two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. Between each cycle follows an ordinary time of growth symbolized by the color green in the Seasons After the Epiphany and After Pentecost. Therefore, there is a sequence of seasons using purple, white, and green in that order twice each year.

PURPLE is a color of both penitence and royalty used during the preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent. Alternative colors of royal blue or violet may also be used during Advent.

WHITE and **GOLD** are joyous and festive colors used during the Christmas and Easter seasons (except on the Day of Pentecost) and in other seasons on festive days such as Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration, Trinity, All Saints, and Christ the King. White may also be used at weddings. At services of Holy Communion white linens on top of the Lord's Table are the tradition of the AME Church, and are used on the first Sunday, regardless of the Holy Season that is celebrated. Therefore, even if the first Sunday of the month is the first Sunday of Advent, the color used in the pulpit remains white.

GREEN is a color of growth used in the Seasons After the Epiphany and After Pentecost, except when special days call for white or red.

RED is a color of fire, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. It is used on the Day of Pentecost and at other times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. Red is also the color of blood - the blood of Christ and the blood of martyrs. Because of its intensity, red is most effective when used occasionally rather than continuously for a whole season. It is appropriate for evangelistic services, for ordinations and consecration, for church anniversaries and homecomings, Founder's Day, and for civil observances such as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving. It may be used during Holy Week, beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday, to symbolize the blood of Christ.

BLACK is a color of death used on Good Friday and Holy Saturday and for funerals. Gray is its alternative.

Although the use of these colors is based on broad ecumenical tradition, other colors have been and are being used in Christian churches. Creativity and use of alternates with colors bring new meaning to the worship experience. Examples include African prints or variations, pink during the third week of Advent and black on Good Friday.

It is always a good policy when in doubt, to seek guidance from a presiding elder, senior pastor, Christian education director, or other person designated by the pastor. These persons will be helpful in providing information on appropriate colors for preparing the sanctuary.

2021 LITURGICAL COLOR CALENDAR

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 th	25	26	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 rd	24 th	25	26	27	28	29

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

OCTOBER

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					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 th	25	26	27	28	29	30

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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For the past year, the A.M.E Church has used ZOOM and Facebook to facilitate the weekly Connectional Church School with teachers, lay and clergy, from around the A.M.E. Connection. This quarter's studies have been created by Rev. Dr. Linda Mouzon. Liberating Faith Studies: History, Justice, Law is the title for the lessons from December 5 - February 27, 2022.

Sunday, January 2, 2022, Presiding Prelate, Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr., was the facilitator for the lesson. As you know, he is a former Bishop of the Second Episcopal District and currently serves the 13th Episcopal District, Texas,

Visit website: www.iamame.org to find worship and study resources to empower us to enhance the life of the church.

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Church School begins at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning on ZOOM Meeting ID: 829 9325 1894 or join Facebook.





White Cross A.M.E. Church
Carrie McAdoo Lay Organization
Annual Lay Day Program



Sunday, January 16, 2022
10:00 A.M.
(IN-PERSON)

Speaker
Graig Meyer



North Carolina State Representative
Candidate North Carolina State Senate

**LOVE IS PATIENT AND
KIND; DOES NOT ENVY
OR BOAST; IT IS NOT
ARROGANT OR RUDE.
IT DOES NOT INSIST ON
ITS OWN WAY; IT IS
NOT IRRITABLE OR
RESENTFUL; IT DOES
NOT REJOICE AT
WRONG DOING, BUT
REJOICES WITH THE
TRUTH. LOVE BEARS
ALL THINGS, BELIEVES
ALL THINGS, HOPES
ALL THINGS, ENDURES
ALL THINGS. LOVE
NEVER ENDS.
1 CORINTHIANS 13: 4-8 ESV**



If it isn't common to all, it isn't common sense. Please read 1 Corinthians 5, 6, Psalm 1, Colossians 3: 16, 1 Peter 2: 2, 2 Peter 3: 14-18. thoughts.com/dabeyta

SAVE THE DATE

EVENTS

2022

Lay Meeting Link -<https://form.jotform.com/213356299297166>

WNCC-LO Lay Meeting (Virtual)

January 8

January 27

SEDLO Lay Master Class (Virtual)

SEDLO Officers' Training Session (Virtual)

January 29

Lay Meeting Link - <https://form.jotform.com/213356299297166>

March 12

WNCC-LO Lay Meeting (Virtual)

Lay Meeting Link -<https://form.jotform.com/213356299297166>

WNCC-LO Meeting Election (Virtual)

April 9

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

» *March* «



» *April* «



The Lay Newsletter will be published every other month.

Please submit information for
MARCH and APRIL by:
FEBRUARY 20th

DON'T FORGET

Email All Information to Penny Oliver ~ penny.oliver52@yahoo.com

Any Questions, email to Portia C. Holman ~ pcamille1@yahoo.com