

# ANNUAL REPORT

June 19 – 20, 2017

# GENERAL BOARD AND COUNCIL OF BISHOPS MEETINGS

Hilton Airport Hotel Los Angeles, California



## **"LAITY FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION**

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, President of the General Board Bishop McKinley Young, Senior Bishop Bishop Clement Willie Fugh, Host and President of the Council of Bishops Bishop E. Earl McCloud Jr., Chairperson of the Lay Commission Dr. Willie C. Glover, President, Connectional Lay Organization Mr. Darwin K. Eldridge, Treasurer, Connectional Lay Organization Mr. Richard L. Bowden, Financial Secretary, Connectional Lay Organization



Greeting in the victorious Name of Jesus the Christ!

"O taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the person that trust in Him" Ps. 34:8

It is my commencement of eight years of service as the Global President of the Connectional Lay Organization. Two of the major thrusts of my tenure has been truly to make the Lay Organization more Christ Centered and global in representation.

It is with pride that all our audit reports to the General Board and organization have been rated as unqualified, a term in accounting meaning outstanding. I am also excited to report the Connectional Lay Organization is well and alive- vibrant, visible and vital in the life of our Church. I repeat this verse from a previous report:

"Our Church, the greatest on God's earth, Founded through tears and strife And woe that men might under God be free, That they may have true liberty. Allen, Our founder, preached God's grace That we might see the Savior's face".

At the close of the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference we welcomed Bishop E. Earl McCloud Jr. as the Chairperson of the Lay Commission. His interventions and judicious counsel in this first year has meant much to the laity and myself. His eagerness and accessibility is greatly appreciated.

I must include a statement that the Executive Board has worked diligently in promoting the organization. Special kudos to our budget chair, Ms. Arlene Lawson for her commitment in fulfilling focus fiduciary integrity in seeing that the organization is budget driven. My deep gratitude to two hard working officers Richard Bowden, financial secretary and Darwin Eldridge, treasurer for their integrity and transparency in being stewards of the organization's financial funds and records. A shout out to the chair persons of standing committees who made it possible for such a banner year. A special thank you to my wife Karen, Office secretary and Lyndia Mayo, assistant secretary, you kept us focused and organized.

As I come to the close of eight exciting years of service it is with gratefulness to God and laity for allowing me to carry on the legacy of our founders and leave to the next administration a strong and durable organization.

### In Memoriam

"Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep, from which none ever wakes to weep! A calm and undisturbed repose, unbroken by last of foes". Several unsung stalwart laypersons joined that crowd of witnesses in the heavenly body since our last report. I lift up Brother David Ward who served so faithfully as the first Director of the Connectional Lay Economic Development Corporation. We know to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. We thank God for this visionary Lay leader and for sharing him and other faithful laypersons.

### **Overview of the Work**

The Lay Organization has been very active on all levels this past year. We have had presence at all connectional meetings and participated in several ecumenical meetings.

- Continued to interface with sister denominations including the World Council of Churches. At their convention in Houston several officers attended and were very active.
- Lay delegates to the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference were actively involved and present at all business sessions.
- The Global Development Council held in Johannesburg, South Africa was represent by the First Vice President, Gloria T. Byrd. Several Lay candidates seeking offices at the upcoming Biennial were also in attendance.
- We anticipate the largest delegation from Episcopal Districts 14 20 at the 35<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization. Over 100 have registered at this printing.
- Several donations were awarded since our last Biennial. They include \$5000 to the 20<sup>th</sup> District to assist in mud slides and flooding and provide the Lay office basic equipment.
  \$5000 to the work of SADA especially for the work in Haiti. \$10,000 to Bishop Byfield to construct a house in Haiti for displaced persons due to the Hurricane and flooding. We also made a contribution to the 8<sup>th</sup> District to assist in the recovery from devastating flooding in the District.
- We plan to donate \$50,000 to AME University in Monrovia, Liberia at the 35<sup>th</sup> Biennial.
- It was my honor to visit all the Episcopal Districts with the exceptions of 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Districts. My plans were made to visit the 14<sup>th</sup> but Ebola struck and all trips there were cancelled. During my visits I facilitated workshops, conducted elections and/or was the principle speaker at worship, banquets, conventions and Annual Conferences. I am grateful for all the experiences. To God be the glory!

### **Upcoming Event**

We are excited about the 35<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization being held in the exciting and busy city of Columbus, Ohio August 7 – 10, 2017. You are cordially invited to this historic convention. Pre-activities are planned for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Election of officers is scheduled for the opening day after the keynoter. Additional information may be obtained by visiting our website, <u>www.connectionallay-ame.org</u> or from each Episcopal District Lay Presidents.

Karen and I have truly been blessed to serve the Church and the thousands of laypersons in this high office. I gave all I had to be a faithful servant. More importantly, I hope God, our Savior was pleased, that in all my ways, I sought His guidance and I know He directed my path. I thank Him for favor. May God continue to bless the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Lay Organization at all levels.

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that work in us, Unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen". Eph. 3:20-21.

Humbly and gratefully submitted,

Willie C. Glover, Ph. D. Global President Connectional Lay Organization



### CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS 2013 - 2017 Executive Board Connectional Lay Organization

Bishop E. Earl McCloud Jr., Dr. Willie C. Glover Ms. Gloria T. Byrd Mr. Matikane Abednego Makiti Mrs. Starr L. Battle Mrs. Gloria DeVeaux Cobb Mrs. Doris M. Bell Mrs. Ada Groff Mr. Richard L. Bowden Mr. Darwin K. Eldridge Mrs. Alice Belden Mrs. Edith Bartley Cartledge Mr. Walter Jeffers Mrs. Virginia Henderson, RP Mrs. Pamela F. Tilley Ms. Felicia Commodore \*Deceased

**Chairperson Lay Commission** President 1st Vice President 2nd Vice President **3rd Vice President** Recording Secretary Assistant Recording Secretary **Corresponding Secretary** Financial Secretary Treasurer Chaplain **Director of Lay Activities Director of Public Relations** Parliamentarian Historiographer Young Adult Representative

Third Episcopal District Sixth Episcopal District Nineteenth Episcopal District Second Episcopal District Seventh Episcopal District Thirteenth Episcopal District Fifth Episcopal District Ninth Episcopal District Thirteenth Episcopal District Fourth Episcopal District First Episcopal District First Episcopal District Sixth Episcopal District Tenth Episcopal District Second Episcopal District

### **EPISCOPAL DISTRICT PRESIDENTS**

FIRST DISTRICT Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell

SECOND DISTRICT Mrs. Valerie Bell

THIRD DISTRICT Mr. Mark E. Mayo, Sr

FOURTH DISTRICT Mr. Jerry Turner

FIFTH DISTRICT Mr. Simeon P. Rhoden Jr

SIXTH DISTRICT Mr. Michael Brown

SEVENTH DISTRICT Mr. Roger Cleckley

EIGHT DISTRICT Mr. Melvin Davis

NINTH DISTRICT Ms. Bernnella Knight Rose

TENTH DISTRICT Mr. Larry Hollie ELEVENTH DISTRICT Ms. Patricia Wright

TWELFTH DISTRICT Dr. Dorothy Henderson

THIRTEEN DISTRICT Mrs. Dorothy L. Ealy

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT Mr. Garfield Mason

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT Mr. Mzwake "Chris" Qwane

SIXTEENTH DISTRICT Ms. Maylene Loncke

SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT Mr. Martin Lombe

EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT Mr. Edwin Lehasa

NINETEENTH DISTRICT Mr. Simon Letsoko

TWENTIETH DISTRICT Mr. Sailles Gulule

#### PAST AND CURRENT PRESIDENTS

(1985 - Present)

Dr. Kathryn M. Brown\* Mr. James L. Williams \*\* Mr. Arthur L. Brown\* Mr. Jesse L. Burns, Jr. Dr. Willie C. Glover 1985 - 1993 1993 - 2001

1993 - 2001

2001 - 2003

2003 - 2009 2009 - Present

\*Deceased

\*\*President Emeritus

### Advisors to the President

(Selected and Appointed by the President) Ms. Felicia Commodore Mr. Norman L. Deas Mrs. Billie D. Irving Dr. Richard A. Lewis Mrs. Beverly Nutall

#### **Connectional Lay Economic Development Corporation (CLEDC)**

Mr. Tyrone L. Presley Dr. Verda Bradley Mr. Larry Hollie Board Chairperson Director Treasurer Connectional Lay Organization of A.M.E.

**Financial Statements** 

# Audit Report

March 31, 2017 and 2016

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION March 31, 2017

#### ASSETS

Current Assets		
Checking - General Fund	\$ 277	
Checking - Convention Account	48,461	
Checking - General Funds II	237,265	
Total Current Assets		\$ 286,003
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	2,410	
Less Accumulated depreciation	(2,410)	
Net Fixed Assets		
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 286,003

The footnotes are an integral part of the financial statements. Page 2

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION March 31, 2017

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities Accounts Payable		\$ -	
Total Current Liabilities			\$-
Long-Term Liabilities			
Total Liabilities			-
NET ASSETS		070 405	
Unrestricted Restricted		276,435 9,568	
Total Net Assets			286,003
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSET	ſS		\$ 286,003

The footnotes are an integral part of the financial statements. Page 3

#### STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

		onths Ended
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
General Fund Revenues		
AMEC Allocation	\$	194,964
Disaster Relief	\$	2,747
Ex Bd Registration		19,700
Miscellaneous		193
We Speak Subscription		50
Recruitment Manauls		2,095
Study Guide		28,085
Reimbursement		400
Offering		2,486
By Laws		45
CLO Breakfast		95,266
Pins	-	133
Total Unrestricted Revenues	\$	346,164
General Fund Expenditures		
AME - Valert		5,000
Printing		1,794
Stipends		56,120
YAR Expenses		422
Executive Board Expenses/Travel		85,870
General Board Travel		25,561
General Conf Registration		
Training Travel		1,535
Secretarial Expense		-
Audit Fees		1,250
Disaster Relief		20,000
CLO Breakfast		39,146
Donation		12,650
We Speak Expense		19,439
Biennial Expense		14,000
Bank Fees		266
President's Expense		7,821
Miscellaneous travel		2,024
Convention Planner		1,500
Web Maintenance		1,370
The footnotes are an integral part of the financial state	ments.	

The footnotes are an integral part of the financial statements.

#### STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Rent	1,380
Surety Bond	257
Supplies	-
Recruitment Manual	2,207
Budget Team Travel	4,484
Depreciation Expense	345
Study Guide	 -
Total General Expenditures	\$ 304,441
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$ 41,723

The footnotes are an integral part of the financial statements.

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#### STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

	12 Months Ended <u>Mar. 31, 2017</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	\$ 41,223
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD	244,282
PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT	498
NET ASSETS AT END OF PERIOD	\$ 286,003

The footnotes are an integral part of the financial statements. Page 6

#### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the Twelve Months Ended March 31, 2017

### CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Net income (loss)	\$ 41,223
Adjustment to reconcile net income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities: Depreciation Prior Year Adjustments Change in assets and liabilities : Accounts payable	345 498 
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities	42,066
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	42,066
Cash at beginning of period	243,937
CASH AT END OF YEAR	286,003

The footnotes are an integral part of the financial statements. Page 7

#### CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### NOTE A - NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT POLICIES

#### Nature of Activities

The Connectional Lay Organization (CLO) is a department of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (a nonprofit organization). Its purpose is to organize and train the laity of the African Methodist Church so that each lay person may utilize to the maximum the abilities and skills granted by God, in assisting with the improvement and extension of God's kingdom, and creating happiness, peace, and harmony among its members. The CLO is supported primarily through contributions from the AME Church, biennial convention registration fees, and various other sources of income.

#### Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the CLO have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables, payables, and other liabilities.

#### Basis of Presentation

Financial statement presentation follows the recommendations of the Financial Accounting Standards Board in the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SAS) No. 117, *Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations*. Under SFAS 117, the church is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets.

#### Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that effect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Property and Equipment

Acquisitions of property and equipment in excess of \$500 are capitalized. Property and equipment are carried at cost or, if donated, at the approximate fair value at the date of donation. Depreciation is computed using primarily the straight-line method.

#### Revenue Recognition

Contributions received are recorded as increases in unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted net assets, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions.

#### CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

All donor-restricted contributions are reported as increases in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets, depending on the nature of the restriction. When a restriction expires (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

#### Contributed Services

The CLO receives various amounts of services donated by its members in carrying out the CLO's ministry. No amounts have been reflected in the financial statements for those services since they do not meet the criteria for recognition under SFAS No. 116, *Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made*.

#### Income Taxes

The AME Church, including all of its components, is exempt from federal and state income taxes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 ©(3).

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include all monies in banks and highly liquid investments with maturity dates of less than three months. The carrying value of cash and cash equivalents approximates fair value because of the short maturities of those financial instruments.

NOTE B – CASH

The total cash held by the CLO at March 31, 2017 was \$286,003. All of the monies invested by the CLO were insured provided by the federal government.

NOTE C – RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Temporarily restricted net assets were comprised of \$9,568 held on behalf of the AME V-Alert.

NOTE D - CONCENTRATIONS

The CLO receives greater than 56% of its annual operational revenues from the Connectional Church of the AME.

#### NOTE E – RELATED PARTY

The CLO is a department of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Each year the CLO is allocated \$194,964 by the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

#### CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

NOTE F - DEPRECIATION

The depreciation expense for the period was \$345.00.

#### NOTE G - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Company has evaluated events subsequent to the balance sheet date for items requiring recording or disclosure in the financial statements. The evaluation was performed through May 15, 2017, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. Based upon this review, the Company has determined that there were no events which took place that would have a material impact on its financial statements.

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION For the Years Ended March 31,2017 and March 31, 2016

### ASSETS

	2017	2016
Current Assets	*)	
Checking - General Fund	\$ 277	\$ 277
Checking - Convention Account	48,461	57,481
Checking - General Fund II	237,265	186,179
Total Current Assets	\$ 286,003	243,937
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	2410	2,410
Less accumulated depreciation	(2,410)	(2,065)
Net Fixed Assets	0	345
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 286,003	\$ 244,282

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION For the Years Ended March 31, 2017 and March 31, 2016

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

	2017	2016
Current Liabilities Accounts Payable Total Current Liabilities	\$	<u>\$</u>
Long-Term Liabilities		
Total Liabilities		-
NET ASSETS Unrestricted Restricted	276,435 9,568	234,714 9,568
Total Net Assets	286,003	244,282
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 286,003	\$ 244,282

### STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

	12 Months Ended		onths Ended
	Mar. 31, 2017	Ma	r. 31, 2016
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS			
General Fund Revenues			
AMEC Allocation	\$ 194,964	\$	194,964
CLO Breakfast	95,266		
Ex Bd Registration	19,700		15,000
Miscellaneous	193		647
We Speak Subscription	50		300
Biennial Income	-		565,748
Disaster Relief	2,747		2,264
YAR Retreat	=		-
Pins	133		-
Reimbursement	400		2,036
Offering	2,486		3,061
By Laws	45		
Study Guides	28,085		4,620
Recruiting Manuals	2,095		-
Total Unrestricted Revenues	\$ 346,164	\$	788,640
General Fund Expenditures			
V - Alert	\$ 5,000	\$	-
Printing	1,794		2,492
Stipends	56,120		49,560
YAR Expenses	422		790
Executive Board Expenses/Travel	85,870		74,895
General Conf Registration			2,200
Training Travel	1,535		1,217
Secretarial Expense	-		3,175
Audit Fees	1,250		2,509
Disaster Relief	20,000		5,000
Dola Expense	-		2,151
Donation	12,650		10,806
CLO Breakfast	39,146		-
We Speak Expense	19,439		22,940
Biennial Expense	14,000		599,015
Bank Fees	266		50
President's Expense	7,821		13,442
Postage	5 <b>.</b>		
Dir of Lay Expense	-		-
See accountant	s report		

See accountant's report

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### STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

1	2 Months Ended <u>Mar. 31, 2017</u>	12 Months Ended <u>Mar. 31, 2016</u>
Gem Board travel	25,561	1,118
Honorarium	7	-
Refunds	2	( <u>+</u> )
Miscellaneous travel	2,024	3,449
Convention Planner	1,500	2,000
Contributions/Donations	0.00	-
Miscellaneous	-	-
Web Maintenance	1,370	542
Equipment	20 21	1,806
Transfer	<b>H</b>	-
Rent	1,380	6,334
Surety Bond	257	257
Supplies	憲	405
Recuritment Manual	2,207	-
Budget Team Travel	4,484	-
Biennial Expense (Current Year Paid)	5	
Study Guide	<u>_</u>	20,622
Depreciation Expense	345	344
Total General Expenditures	304,441	827,119
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$ 41,723	\$ (38,479)

#### STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

	12 Months Ended Mar. 31, 2017	10000	nths Ended <u>31, 2016</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	\$ 41,223	\$	(38,479)
PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT	498		1,383
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD	244,282		281,378
NET ASSETS AT END OF PERIOD	\$ 286,003	\$	244,282

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Twelve Months Ended March 31, 2017 and March 31, 2016

	2017	2016
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income (loss)	41,223	(38,479)
Adjustment to reconcile net income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation	345	344
Prior Year Adjustments	498	1,383
Change in assets and liabilities :	-	a. 193
Accounts payable		
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities	42,066	(36,752)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchases of fixed assets		
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	42,066	(36,752)
Cash at beginning of period	243,937	280,689
CASH AT END OF YEAR	\$ 286,003	\$ 243,937

#### EDWARD RICHARDSON, JR., C.P.A.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT 15565 Northland Drive, Suite 508 West Southfield, Michigan 48075

MEMBER: MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CPAs AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CPAs

(248) 559-4514 (248) 559-0015 Fax:

May 17, 2017

#### **Independent Auditor's Report**

Connectional Lay Organization African Methodist Episcopal Church 3200 NW 67<sup>th</sup> Place Gainsville, FL 32653

I have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Connectional Lay Organization African Methodist Episcopal Church as of March 31, 2017, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the supplementary information, which is presented for supplementary analysis purposes only. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Connectional Lay Organization's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with auditing standards generally in the United States of America. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material aspects, the statement of financial position of Connectional Lay Organization African Methodist Episcopal Church as of March 31, 2017, and the statement of activities and cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Edward Richardson J. C.P.A.

Accountant's audit report Page 1

### EDWARD RICHARDSON, JR., C.P.A.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT 15565 Northland Drive, Suite 508 West Southfield, Michigan 48075

MEMBER: MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CPAs AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CPAs (248) 559-4514 Fax: (248) 559-0015

May 17, 2017

Dr. Willie Glover Connectional Lay Organization of the A.M.E. 217 Brassic Way Columbus, OH 43213-7614

Dear Dr. Glover:

The Connectional Lay Organization of the A.M.E. Church received an "unqualified opinion" on the audit of the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2017. The condition of the records was good throughout the last several years; however, the last twelve months of the year the records were impeccable.

It was a pleasure serving you.

Sincerely,

Edward Richardson Je CPA

Edward Richardson Jr., CPA