



Annual Report 2008-2009



THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE *Lay Organization*

It is with gratitude that I make my first report as Philadelphia Conference Lay President. This has been a good year for us and God had truly blessed. We started in June with our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. We thank Rev. Winton Hill for conducting our election. In July, many of us were delegates and alternates to the 48th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference and we thank God that we helped elect Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, the 128th elected and consecrated bishop of the AME Church. In August, we took a break from the Lay with the exception of meeting with the three Vice Presidents to begin organizing for the conference year. We had a very productive meeting.

As Lay, we are charged with teaching and training lay members and we have done that well under the leadership of our Director of Lay Activities, Sister Juanita Bryant. Our workshops were as follows:

- September* We heard from delegates to the First District Lay Meeting in Dover, DE. Delegate reports were thorough and informative.
- October* Philadelphia Conference Lay Retreat led by Rev. Earl Jefferson on "Lay Leadership".
- November* "The Significance of the Bishop's Meetings" led by Sister Peggy Pinder, Director of Lay Activities for the First District Lay Organization.
- December* Christmas Fellowship with meditation given by Rev. James Baker of Morris Brown AME Church. Rev. Baker preached on the subject, "Going out on the Limb for the Lord".
- January* "The History of the Lay Organization" was given by Brother Frank Gilyard, Historiographer of the Connectional Lay Organization.
- February* "Worship Music" presented by Dr. Helen Jenkins-Earley, Music Chairperson for the First District Lay Organization.
- March* We heard from the delegates to the Mid-Year Meeting. They did an excellent job informing us of business, workshops and worship.
- April* "Duties of Trustees" presented by Brother James Slaughter, a Trustee at Jones Tabernacle AME Church.
- May* "Church Budgets" presented by Rev. Glenn Shepherd, pastor of First AME Church in Sharon Hill, PA.



Sis. Cheryl Hammond-Hopewell
President

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

- Galatians 6:9-10

Award Luncheon - October 2008





Elegant Evening - May 2009

Other Activities

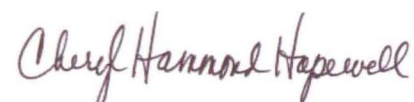
- On Saturday, October 4, 2008, we had our Annual Awards Luncheon where we honored our Lay Person of the Year and Unsung Heroes from the various churches. We congratulate Brother David Ward who was honored as Lay Person of the Year. Our Awards Luncheon was a huge success with over 800 persons in attendance and we thank Chairperson, Sister Shirley Moore-Harris and Co-Chair, Sister Carolyn Jones.
- On February 16, 2009, the Conference Lay President was invited to be on the panel for the AME Preacher's Founder's Day Celebration. It was at that celebration that the AME Preacher's Meeting vowed to work hand in hand with the Lay Organization. Rev. Terrence Hensford has agreed to have the clergy be a part of our Retreat this October. We look forward to that venture.
- February 26-28, 2009, many of us traveled to Princeton, NJ for the First District Lay Mid-Year Meeting. We salute Sister Peggy Pinder, First District Lay Director of Lay Activities who was in charge of the workshops and the service.
- On Friday, May 1, 2009, we embarked on a new venture and had an Elegant Evening. We thank Sister Wanda Ringgold for chairing this event. All who attended had a wonderful time. We thank those members of clergy and their spouses who came out to lend support and enjoy a lovely evening with us.
- We look forward to Lay Night at the Philadelphia Annual Conference where our lay speaker will be Brother, Richard Norris, II. We are expecting about 80 laypersons from around the First Episcopal District to visit us on lay night including our First District Lay President, Sister Mary Mootoo.

Accomplishments

- Purchased a new Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Banner.
- The President distributes copies of "The Catechism of the AME Church" to all new members who join at various lay days.
- We instituted the Calling Post System and have been using it for notifications for sickness and deaths for members of the Conference Lay and their immediate family members.
- We have an email distribution list and things that come up between meetings are sent out via email to those on email. Also, our monthly letter is now sent via email to those who use email. We know everyone is not there, so we still send paper copies to those who need them.
- Our monthly letters besides being sent to our Bishop are now also being sent to our Presiding Elders and to the President of the AME Preacher's Meeting to keep the clergy informed of what we are doing, to let them know they are welcome to our meetings, and whenever possible to avoid conflicts in scheduling. We thank those Presiding Elders who have paid us a visit.
- Under the leadership of our Membership Chairperson, Sister Marion Bolton, we have started our Mentoring Program. We still have a ways to go to get it to be effective, but we have taken the steps to get it up and running and we will continue to take it to the next level.
- We have a new Membership Directory and we thank Sister Cheryl L. Ford, Assistant Secretary of the Philadelphia Conference Lay for chairing this project.
- We have reinstated our Newsletter and we thank Sister Anita Hanna-Matthews our Director or Public Relations for being our Editor-in-Chief.
- Each person who came to our January meeting was given a gift from the President and we proudly use our Philadelphia Conference Lay bags.
- The Conference Lay President made all the Annual Conferences except for Bermuda. We want to make sure that this Conference Lay is represented wherever it needs to be. We thank the members who also travel.

We have had a busy year but we have kept our faith in God and he has brought us through. As you can see, we have done a lot but we are not stopping there because there is still more to do. We will continue to do all we can, in the best way that we can, with the help of the Lord, to make the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization the best it can be. To God Be the Glory for the great things he has done and will continue to do.

In his service,



Sis. Cheryl Hammond-Hopewell, President