



THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE *Lay Organization*



Annual Report 2009-2010

It is with gratitude that I make my second report as Philadelphia Conference Lay President for the 2009-2010 Conference Year. This has been a good year for us and God had truly blessed.

- We started by celebrating Lay Night for the Philadelphia Annual Conference at Hickman Temple in May 2009. We had a wonderful evening and we thank Brother Richard Norris II for enlightening us with his message.
- In June 2009, we had our Annual Meeting hosted by Mt. Pisgah. We thank the elected officers and local presidents who came prepared to make their annual reports.
- In July 2009, many of our lay members attended the First District Lay Mid-Year Meeting in Wilmington, DE and the Connectional Lay Biennial in Little Rock, Arkansas. This was an election year for the First District Lay and the Philadelphia Conference Lay President was also elected First VP of the First District Lay Organization.

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



Sis. Cheryl Hammond-Hopewell
President

- September* We had our Executive Committee Meeting in the morning and our regular monthly meeting in the afternoon. Our meeting was hosted by St. Paul, Elmwood. Our workshop consisted of reports from delegates to the First District Lay Meeting in Wilmington, DE. Delegate reports were thorough and informative.
- October* We had our Annual Retreat hosted by First AME, Sharon Hill. In the morning, we were blessed with a sermon by Rev. Harvey H. B. Sparkman, III and had our first workshop entitled, "Empowered by our History" presented by Rev. Dr. Mark K. Tyler. After lunch, we had our second workshop entitled, "Empowered by the Holy Spirit and presented by Rev. Paul J. Thomas.
- November* Our meeting was hosted by Bethel, Harrisburg and we had a review of the new Connectional Lay Theme, "Building on our Global Legacy of Christ-Centered Leadership and Training" by Sister Peggy Pinder, Director of Lay Activities for the First District Lay Organization. Also at this meeting after much work, we passed changes to our "Constitution and By-Laws" led by Sister Louise Coursey and her Committee.
- December* Our Christmas Celebration was hosted by Greater Mt. Olive. Rev. Larry Thompson gave us our meditation during our Christmas Service. After the service, we had our fellowship luncheon in the dining room. During this time, we gave a card shower to one of our sick and shut-in lay members, Brother Theodore Brandon.
- January* Our meeting was hosted by Ward and our workshop was on "The 2010 Census" and was presented by Rev. Marguerite Handy and Sister Constance Smith.
- February* Our meeting was hosted by Bethel, Pottstown and our workshop was on "The Role of Stewards" presented by Sister Wanda Ringgold of Morris Brown.
- March* We had our Executive Committee Meeting in the morning and our regular monthly meeting in the afternoon. Our meeting was hosted by Bethel, Lansdowne and our workshop consisted of delegate reports to the Mid-Year Meeting in East Elmhurst, NY. Delegates did an excellent job informing us of business, workshops and worship.
- April* Our meeting was hosted by Bethel, Carlisle and our workshop was "The Role of Class Leaders" presented by Sister Mildred Gilyard of Bethel, Reading.
- May* Our meeting was hosted by Lamott, and our workshop was on "Parliamentary Procedures" presented by Sister Mary English of Lamott.

"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 2009





NEW JERSEY
NEW YORK
NEW ENGLAND
DELAWARE
BERMUDA
WESTERN YORK

SARY
EXIT

NEW

2009-2010 Highlights

The President's Other Activities

- In June 2009, I attended the 100th birthday celebration of Mother Ida Patterson.
- In August 2009, I visited the Delaware Conference Lay for their 5th Sunday Lay Worship Service at St. Georges, Lewes, DE.
- In September 2009, I attended the funeral of Sister Harriet Truman at New Bethel, Germantown and the First District Missionary Luncheon at First District Plaza.
- In October 2009, I attended the celebration for Presiding Elder & Mrs. James E. F. Lawrence at Zion AME. Also in October, I attended the AME Preacher's Meeting Installation Service, the AME Preacher's Meeting Revival, the West/Mainline District Conference, the Philadelphia District Conference and the historic combined service of Mother Bethel and St. Georges Methodist Church at St. Georges Methodist Church.
- In November, I was the morning lay speaker for the Lay Day at Monumental, Steelton. I attended the Fall Convocation services and meetings. I also attended the Appreciation Service for Presiding Elder and Mrs. Vernard Leak at Mother Bethel.
- In December, I attended the Philadelphia District Christmas Fellowship at Mother Bethel, the South District Christmas Fellowship at Morris Brown, the Philadelphia Conference Branch WMS Christmas Fellowship at Mt. Tabor, the Philadelphia Conference Advent Service at St. Matthew and the West/Mainline District Christmas Fellowship at Mt. Zion, Devon.
- In January, I attended the 165th Anniversary Banquet for Zion, the funeral of Sister Gertrude Jeffers at Hickman Temple, and a Pre-Annual Conference Meeting at Bethel, Lancaster.
- In February, I attended the funeral of Sister Pauline Cash at Metropolitan in NYC, Founder's Day services and meetings and the First District Lay Mid-Year Meeting in East Elmhurst, NY where I presented one of the workshops at this meeting, entitled "The Use of Technology in Communication".
- In March, I attended the West/Mainline District Heritage Night at Mt. Pisgah, the funeral of Sister Mabel Prileau at Zion, and the Delaware Conference Lay Night at Asbury in Chester, PA.
- In April, I attended the 80th Birthday Celebration for Brother Frank Gilyard at Bethel, Reading. Also in April, I attended the New Jersey Conference Lay Night in Cherry Hill, NJ and the New York Conference Lay Night at Emmanuel in New York City. In April, I was also the morning worship service lay speaker for Lay Day at Morris Brown.
- We look forward to Lay Night for this Annual Conference where our lay speaker will be Sister Mary Mootoo, the President of the First Episcopal District Lay Organization. We look forward to receiving our guest from the various conferences.

Accomplishments

- On Saturday, October 3, 2009, we had our Annual Awards Luncheon at First District Plaza where we honored our Lay Person of the Year, Brother Hosea Jackson of Bethel, Bryn Mawr and Unsung Heroes from the various churches. Our Awards Luncheon was a huge success with over 800 persons in attendance. We thank Chairperson, Sister Rosalie Jackson and Co-Chair, Sister Cheryl L. Ford for a job well done.
- Our monthly letters continue to be mailed to our Bishop, Presiding Elders, the President of the AME Preacher's Meeting, and the host pastors. We have several pastors who have asked to be added to our email distribution list and we have done that. We thank the Presiding Elders who have all paid us a visit during this conference year. We also had a visit from the President of the AME Preacher's meeting and several pastors during the year. Clergy are always welcome at our meetings because we truly believe that it takes clergy and lay working together for this thing to be successful. We thank God for your presence.
- Our Newsletter is now printed every quarter and we thank Sister Anita Hanna-Matthews our Director or Public Relations for being our Editor-in-Chief. We now give lay members one copy free of charge. Additional copies may be purchased.
- Each person who came to our December Christmas Fellowship was given a gift from the President. This year it was a small note pad and pen.
- We have been faithful in representing the Philadelphia Conference Lay at various lay days (giving gifts to new members who join), worship services, annual conferences, meetings and unfortunately funerals.
- Last but not least, we started a Philadelphia Conference Lay Scholarship, named in my honor, which we look forward to giving to our first recipient during Lay Night.

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 there is still more work to do. We will continue to do all we can, in the best way that we can, with the help of the Lord, and the good people of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization to do great things in His name. To God Be the Glory for the great things he has done and will continue to do. Please pray for my strength in the Lord.

In his service,

Cheryl Hammond Hopewell

Sis. Cheryl Hammond-Hopewell, President