



# THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE *Lay Organization* Annual Report 2010-2011



It is with gratitude that I make this my third report as Philadelphia Conference Lay President. This has been another year of tremendous blessings and for that I am grateful.

- We started by celebrating Lay Night for the Philadelphia Annual Conference in Lancaster, PA in May 2010. We had a wonderful evening with solos from lay and clergy and we thank First District Lay President, Sister Mary Mootoo for bringing the message.
- In June 2010, we had our Annual Meeting hosted by AME Union. It was an election year and we congratulate the officers elected to serve from 2010-2012. We also thank the officers, local presidents, and committee chairpersons who made their annual reports.
- In July, many of us attended the First District Lay Annual Meeting in Dover, DE.

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 Jones Tabernacle and our workshop consisted of reports from delegates to the First District Lay Meeting in Dover, DE. Delegate reports were thorough and informative.

*October*

We held our Annual Retreat hosted by Bethel, Willow Grove with a sermon by Rev. Paul Thomas and three wonderful workshops concentrating on a healthy mind, body and soul. Rev. Natalie Mitchem presented on "A Healthy Body", Sister Marian Spivey Sudler presented on "A Healthy Mind" and Rev. Trevor Woolridge presented on "A Healthy Spirit".

*November*

Our meeting was hosted by Bethany in Harrisburg and our workshop was presented by Brother Walter Jeffers on "Lay Leadership – Pieces of the Puzzle".

*December*

Our Christmas Celebration was hosted by Allen, Philadelphia. Rev. Wassetta Moses gave us our sermon during our Christmas Service. After the service, we had our fellowship luncheon. We gave a card shower to Brother David Ward.

*January*

Our meeting was hosted by Mother Bethel and our workshop was presented by Sister Juanita Bryant on the "Lay Electoral College". Following our meeting we held the first annual Education Service to benefit the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship.

*February*

Our meeting was hosted by Bethel, West Chester and our workshop in honor of Black History Month was presented by Sister Marion Bolton on "Notable AME's".

*March*

We had our Executive Committee Meeting in the morning and our regular monthly meeting in the afternoon. Our meeting was hosted by Zion and our workshop consisted of delegate reports from the Mid-Year Meeting in Troy, NY. Delegates did an excellent job informing us of business, workshops and worship.

*April*

Our meeting was hosted by Monumental, Steelton and our workshop was presented by Sister Anita Hanna-Mathews and members of their local church on "It Takes Teamwork to Make the Dream Work".

*May*

Our meeting was hosted by New Bethel, Germantown and our workshop was presented by Rev. Jay B. Broadnax on "All Pulling Together: A Comprehensive View of Christian Discipleship."

"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











## *The President's Travel and Activities*

- In June 2010, I attended two lay days, the First District Planning Meeting, the First District Lay Executive Committee Meeting and the West/Mainline Church School Convention.
- In July 2010, I attended two lay days, the Ushers Annual Sermon at Bethel, Pottstown, represented the lay at the Monday night service at the Christian Education Congress in Dover, DE, attended the Retirement Service for Rev. David Randolph at Zion, the First District Lay Annual Meeting in Dover, DE and the Retirement Banquet for Rev. George Beachum in Exton, PA.
- In August 2010, I attended the worship services for the WIM Connectional Conference and attended the Delaware Conference Lay Worship Service at Macedonia in Seaford, DE.
- In September 2010, I attended four lay days, and the First District WMS Annual Luncheon at First District Headquarters.
- In October 2010, I attended five lay days, the Philadelphia Conference Lay Awards Luncheon, was the Lay Speaker at Bethel Ardmore, was the Lay Speaker at First AME, Sharon Hill, attended the West/Mainline District Conference at Ward where I was given an award from Presiding Elder Charles Lett, attended the First District Church School Seminar at Mt. Tabor, the service honoring Rev. Stephen Lewis for 15 years in the ministry and 10 years being a pastor, and the Delaware Conference Lay Worship Service at Mt. Hebron in Linwood, PA.
- In November, I attended five lay days, was the lay speaker at Ebenezer in Middletown, PA, was the lay speaker at Zion, Philadelphia, was the lay speaker at Emmanuel in Hartley, DE, attended the Fall Convocation at First District Plaza, presided over the First District Lay Executive Committee Meeting, and attended the 50th wedding anniversary celebration for Rev. & Mrs. Earl Jefferson.
- In December, I attended the South District Christmas Fellowship at Hickman Temple, the Philadelphia Conference Branch WMS Christmas Fellowship at Morris Brown, the Philadelphia Conference Advent Service at Mt. Tabor, and the West/Mainline District Christmas Fellowship at Bethel, Bryn Mawr.
- In January, I attended one lay day, the funeral of Brother Reverdy Garrett at St. Matthew, the funeral for the granddaughter of Sister Cheryl L. Ford at the Terry Funeral Home, and the Philadelphia Conference Education Service at Mother Bethel.
- In February I attended two lay days, the funeral of Sister Maefield Inabinet at Jones Tabernacle, the funeral of Sister Millicent Turner in Milford, DE, the funeral of Brother Vaughn O. Ward at St. Matthew, Founder's Day at First District Plaza, and the appreciation for Brother David Ward at Mother Bethel.
- In March, I attended three lay days, NJ Conference Lay Night in Newark, NJ and the Lutheran Seminar, Preaching with Power at Mt. Pisgah.
- In April, I attended four lay days, the NE Conference Lay Night in Boston, MA, the DE Conference Lay Night in Wilmington, DE and the AME Preacher's Meeting Revival at Hickman Temple.
- In May, I attended one lay day, the Philadelphia Conference Lay Elegant Evening, the NY Conference Lay Night in NY city and Grimes AME Gala in Phoenixville. We look forward to our Lay Night where this year we will have a celebration service.

## *Accomplishments*

- Our Annual Awards Luncheon was again a great affair where we honored our Lay Person of the Year, Sister Juanita Bryant and Unsung Heroes from the various churches. We had almost 700 persons in attendance. We thank Chairperson, Sister Cheryl L. Ford and Co-Chair, Sister Rosalie Jackson 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. Our monthly letters are also emailed and our email distribution list continues to grow with lay and clergy. 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 members of clergy. Clergy are always welcome at our meetings.
- Our Newsletter is printed every quarter and it has now been expanded to include photos. Lay members receive free copies and copies are mailed to our Bishop and Presiding Elders. We thank Sister Anita Hanna-Matthews our Director of Public Relations and Editor-in-Chief.
- Each person who came to our December Christmas Fellowship was given a gift from the President. This year it was a luggage tag with the lay logo.
- We continue to give gifts to new members who join at the various lay days.
- We had our first Annual Education Service to benefit the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship and it was a huge success under the leadership of our Education Chairperson, Sister Marian Spivey Sudler. Bishop Jeffrey Leath brought the message. We thank all the clergy and lay who supported this effort.
- We had our second Elegant Evening and we had 160 persons in attendance. It was a wonderful fellowship with great food and fun. We thank our chairperson, Sister Marie Butler.
- We continue to be faithful in representing this Conference Lay Organization at worship services, conferences, celebrations, meetings and unfortunately funerals.
- Last but not least, we have our Philadelphia Conference Lay website up and running. Thanks for the support of Brother Walter Jeffers who was instrumental in this task being done. We are very proud of it and invite you to visit us at [www.philadelphiaconferencelay.org](http://www.philadelphiaconferencelay.org).

We had a very busy year but our faith in God has brought us through. We continue to work to improve the relationship between clergy and lay and continue to include clergy in all we 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. We can do great things in His name because we believe that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. To God Be the Glory for the great things he has done and will continue to do. Please pray my strength in the Lord.

In his service,



Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell  
President, Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization