



THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE *Lay Organization*



Annual Report 2011-2012

It is with gratitude that I make this my fourth report as Philadelphia Conference Lay President. We are proud to report on the following Conference Lay meetings, workshops, events, services and activities:



Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell
President

May 2011

Lay Night at the Philadelphia Annual Conference at St. Matthew. We started our year-long kick-off of the 100th Anniversary of the Lay Organization with a celebratory praise service through song, dance, and instruments. We awarded two students with the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship in the amount of \$500 each.

June 2011

Philadelphia Conference Lay Annual Meeting at Mt. Tabor where officers, local presidents, and committee chairpersons gave reports of their stewardship for the conference year.

July 2011

First District Lay Annual Meeting in Wilmington, DE.

August 2011

Philadelphia Conference Lay first Annual cookout at Salisbury Park in Gap, PA. Connectional Lay Biennial in Detroit, MI. Connectional Lay Organization 100th Anniversary Kick-off Luncheon.

September 2011

Executive Committee Meeting and regular monthly meeting at Calvary. Workshop consisted of reports from delegates to the First District Lay Meeting in Wilmington, DE and Connectional Lay Biennial in Detroit, MI.

October 2011

Awards Luncheon at First District Plaza where we honored Lay Person of the Year, Fred Bearden and Unsung Heroes from various churches. Annual Retreat at St. Matthew on "Evangelism-A Shared Ministry" presented by Rev. James P. Baker.

November 2011

Monthly meeting at Ebenezer in Middletown. Workshop was on "Effective Lay Leadership" presented by Juanita Bryant.

December 2011

Christmas Celebration at Morris Brown. Group photo taken of all lay members in attendance. Advent message by Rev. James Baker and fellowship luncheon followed service. Card shower was collected for Frances Hairston. 100th Anniversary commemorative magnets were distributed.

January 2012

Monthly meeting at Mt. Pisgah. Workshop was on "Health Issues-General Conference Best Practices" presented by Rev. Dr. Miriam Burnett. Education Service to benefit the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship followed the meeting. Rev. Jay B. Broadnax was the preacher. President Hopewell received a Proclamation from Congressman Chaka Fattah for her service and in honor of the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship. Despite the one snowstorm this winter falling on this day, it was still a great day.

February 2012

Monthly meeting at Bethel, Bryn Mawr. Workshop was on "Celebrating 100 years of Lay Ministry" led by Juanita Bryant and members from each Presiding Elder District. 100th anniversary commemorative journal was distributed. President Hopewell received a Celebratory Document from Senator Vincent Hughes for her service and in honor of the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship.

March 2012

First District Lay Mid-Year meeting in Bermuda. Monthly meeting hosted by Greater Mt. Olive at Metropolitan. Workshop consisted of reports from the delegates to the First District Mid-Year Meeting in Bermuda.

April 2012

Monthly meeting at Bethel, Harrisburg. Workshop was on "Connectional Lay Organization Legislation for the General Conference" presented by Brother Walter Jeffers. Filmed Louise Coursey, James Lake, E. Catherine Shepard and Frank Gilyard for the 100th Anniversary commemorative video.

May 2012

Monthly meeting at Metropolitan, Lansdowne. Workshop was presented by Dr. Paul Reginald Siles on "Financial Leverage: Tools for Success".

"And he gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"

- Ephesians 4:11-13

Lay Night
May 2011

Annual Cookout
August 2011

Awards Luncheon
October 2011

Christmas Fellowship
December 2011



Education Service
January 2012

New York Conference Lay Night
April 2012



Connectional Lay Biennial August 2011



Various Activities

2011-2012



The Lay Organization is 100 years old: 1912-2012

This year we have been celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Connectional Lay Organization. To celebrate this momentous occasion, the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization:

- Had a special praise service for our Lay Night in May 2011
- Linked our website to the Connectional Lay Organization 100 Website
- Presented a 100th Anniversary workshop with a special brochure of history
- Distributed 100th Anniversary refrigerator magnets
- Published a 100th Anniversary Commemorative Journal
- Produced a 100th Anniversary Commemorative Video

The President's Travel and Activities

- In June, I attended two lay days, was the lay speaker at Mt. Tabor, attended the Morris Brown 130th Church Anniversary at the Crown Plaza, presided over the Philadelphia Conference Lay Annual Meeting at Mt. Tabor, attended the First District Planning Meeting at First District Plaza, the First District Lay Executive Committee Meeting, and the West/Mainline Church School Convention at Grimes, Phoenixville.

- In July, I attended two lay days, presented a workshop on "The AME Church and The Lay Organization" at New Bethel, Willow Grove, attended the First District Lay Annual Meeting in Wilmington, DE and the trial sermon for Richard Norris III.

- In August, I attended the first annual PCLO cookout in Gap, PA, and the Connectional Lay Biennial in Detroit, MI including the CLO 100th Anniversary Kick-off Luncheon.

- In September, I attended three lay days, was the lay speaker at Campbell, Frankford, attended the funeral of Charles Mootoo in NYC, attended the funeral of Betty Spivey at St. Matthew, presided over the PCLO Executive Committee Meeting and monthly meeting at Calvary, attended the First District Women's Missionary Society Luncheon at First District Plaza and Family and Friends Day at Zion.

- In October, I attended six lay days, was the lay speaker at Greater Mt. Zion in Trenton, NJ, attended the Philadelphia Conference Lay Awards Luncheon at First District Plaza, the AME Minister's Alliance Installation Service at Morris Brown, the AME Minister's Alliance Revival at St. Matthew, the Connectional Lay Organization Regional Worship Service in Wilmington, DE, the 50th Birthday Celebration for Rev. Jacqueline Capers, the Retirement Celebration for Dr. Suzzette Abdul-Hakim, the West/Mainline District Conference at Mt. Pisgah, the PCLO Retreat at St. Matthew, the Welcome Service for Rev. Kahlil James at New Bethel, Germantown, the Delaware Conference Lay 5th Sunday Worship Service at Elizabeth AME in Newark, DE, and presented a workshop on "Money Management" at Ward.

- In November, I attended six lay days, was the lay speaker at St. John, Lebanon, was the lay speaker at Mt. Sinai, Harrisburg, attended Fall Convocation and the First District Lay Executive Committee Meeting at First District Plaza, the funeral of Toby Ward at Mother Bethel, the 80th church anniversary for Mt. Tabor at the Hilton, and presided over the PCLO meeting at Ebenezer, Middleton.

- In December, I attended one lay day, was the lay speaker at Asbury, Chester, attended the South District Christmas Celebration at Morris Brown, the Philadelphia Conference Branch WMS Christmas Fellowship at First District Plaza, the PCLO Christmas Fellowship at Morris Brown, the Philadelphia Conference Advent Service at Zion, the West/Mainline District Christmas Celebration at Mt. Zion, Devon and the funeral of John Gadson at Morris Brown.

- In January, I attended one lay day, the funeral of Maude Raines at Bethel, Ardmore, presided over the PCLO monthly meeting at Mt. Pisgah and attended the 2nd Annual Philadelphia Conference Lay Education Service at Mt. Pisgah.

- In February, I attended one lay day, was the lay speaker at LaMott, Cheltenham, attended Founders Day at the First District Plaza, was the lay speaker at the 100th Anniversary Lay celebration service at Mt. Pisgah, attended the AME Minister's Alliance Founder's Day Service at Mother Bethel and presided over the PCLO monthly meeting at Bethel, Bryn Mawr.

- In March, I attended two lay days, the First District Lay Mid-Year Meeting in Bermuda, the funeral of Magdalene Brown at Ward, presided over the PCLO monthly meeting hosted by Greater Mt. Olive at Metropolitan, and attended the Delaware Conference Lay Night at Asbury in Chester, PA.

- In April, I attended five lay days, was the lay speaker at Grimes, Phoenixville, was the lay speaker at Morris Brown, presided over the PCLO monthly meeting at Bethel, Harrisburg, attended the New Jersey Conference Lay Night at the Sheraton in Atlantic City, NJ and was the lay speaker for the New York Annual Conference Lay Night at Bridge Street in Brooklyn, NY.

- In May, I attended the sixth Pastoral Anniversary Service for Rev. Trevor Woolridge at Bethel, Lansdowne, and presided over the PCLO monthly meeting at Metropolitan, Lansdowne. We look forward to our Lay Night which will culminate the Philadelphia Conference Lay Centennial Celebrations.

We thank God for Bishop and Mother Norris, for the Presiding Elders who have all paid us at least one visit during the conference year, for the Pastors who have been so supportive and have participated in our services, visited our meetings, came to our Education Service and came to have fun and fellowship with us at our cookout. We continue to work to improve the relationship between clergy and lay because we truly believe we are all in this together and it takes us all. We thank God for the wonderful support of the Philadelphia Conference Lay who without them, none of this would be possible. We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength. To God be the Glory for the great things he has done, is doing now, and will continue to do. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Visit our website: www.philadelphiaconferencelay.org.

In his service,

Cheryl Hammond Hopewell

Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell
President, Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"

- Mark 16:15