

Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization

Celebrating



100 Years

of the

Connectional Lay Organization

Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Conference President
Ms. Cynthia Douse, Chairperson

Dr. Willie C. Glover, Connectional Lay President
Mrs. Mary Mootoo, First District Lay President

Mission

The mission of the Lay Organization is to provide teaching and training and to promote active involvement of the laity in studying the history of African Methodism, the African Methodist Episcopal Book of Discipline, Christian Stewardship, Evangelism and Parliamentary Procedures.

Purpose

The purpose of the Lay Organization is to organize and train the laity of the African Methodist Episcopal 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.

Theme

“Building on Our Global Legacy of Christ-Centered Leadership and Training”

Scriptural References:

Mark 16:15

Ephesians 4:11-13



First Episcopal District

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST DISTRICT PLAZA
3801 Market Street, Suite 300
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104
Office: (215) 662-0506
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RICHARD FRANKLIN NORRIS
Presiding Bishop

December 20, 2011

Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President
Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
African Methodist Episcopal Church
41 E. Eagle Road
Havertown PA 19083

Dear Mrs. Hopewell:

Congratulations to you and to the innovative and progressive members of the Philadelphia Annual Conference Lay Organization, on your decision to develop a Journal highlighting the contributions of the Organization over the last one hundred years.

You, of the Lay Organization in Philadelphia, have always provided exemplary and dedicated Christian service, and that in itself is noteworthy of commendation. Many of us are familiar with recent contributions, and they are many, but few if any of us know anything about those workers upon whose shoulders you now stand.

In these days when so much of our history has been forgotten or has been thrown away, it is really a credit to you to have undertaken such a mammoth and such an important task.

Thank you most sincerely for this major effort to honor, to lift up and to thank those who have gone before. Thank you, also, for this major effort to preserve your history; history, which it is hoped, will inspire others to even greater Christian service and witness.

As you continue in His service, my most fervent prayer is, that you will not rest on your laurels, nor will you think that you have done all that God has ordained for you to do; there is much, much more to be done. Rather, I pray that you will love one another, and work with one another and, thus, be divinely enabled to respond positively to the challenge, which has been put before the First Episcopal District, to "Reach, Reclaim, Engage, Empower."

Most Sincerely,

Richard F. Norris, Bishop

Conferences: Bermuda ■ New Jersey ■ Delaware ■ New York ■ New England ■ Philadelphia ■ Western New York

WEST MAINLINE DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
245 Horseshoe Road West Norriton, Pennsylvania 19403
Phone 610-630-8913 Fax 610-630-4447 Mobile 610-733-8739
Rev. Dr. Charles H. Lett, Sr., Presiding Elder
Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, Presiding Prelate

December 14, 2011

To my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus:

The West Mainline District of the Philadelphia Annual Conference would like to salute the organized Lay Organization on its 100 Year Anniversary. The African Methodist Episcopal Church has greatly changed since the inception of the Lay Organization. We live in an anti denomination environment and people are leaving our Zion. I truly believe that the only group that can save our Zion is a strong well trained laity. We need the laity to stand up and praise our denomination, our churches and our pastors. I thank God for the great leadership of the Philadelphia Lay Organization President, Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell for thinking outside the box and daring to make well needed changes in the way our Conference Lay Organization operates; to God be the glory.

Your humble servants in Christ,

Presiding Elder Charles H. Lett, Sr.
Mrs. Sylvia P. Lett, Consultant

The Healthy Spirited South District

Philadelphia Annual Conference
First Episcopal District-African Methodist Episcopal Church
5001 Baltimore Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. 19143
Phone (215) 476-3731 Fax (215) 476-3788
The Reverend James E. F. Lawrence, Presiding Elder

Kudos!

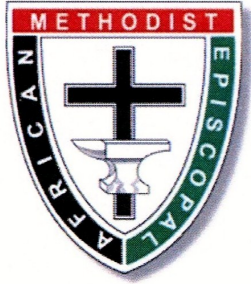
To the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization for their creative and insightful project of providing present and future generations a legacy of historical nature, i.e. the journey, travails, challenges, stewardship, advocacy, prayers, faith, joy, struggles, sorrows, blessings, and hope for things to come commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Organized Laity in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the historical genealogies of the churches which make up the Philadelphia Annual Conference.

I am honored to be included in the annals of African Methodism.

I salute and congratulate you on this great achievement.

Because of Him I am!

James E. F. Lawrence,
Presiding Elder



PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT
PHILADELPHIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

First Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Bishop Richard F. Norris, Presiding Prelate
Reverend Jocelyn Kahn Hart, Presiding Elder

THE PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT

Reverend Dr. Mark K. Tyler
Mother Bethel

Reverend Martha A. Lang
Mt. Tabor

Reverend Wassetta M. Moses
Allen

Reverend Paul Thomas
AME Union

Reverend Glenn Sheppard
Campbell

Reverend Keith Hayward
LaMott

Reverend Michael Sturdivant
Trinity

Reverend Dr. Esther L. Seales
Tyree

Reverend Cheryl Coleman
Waters Memorial

Reverend Dr. Vernon R. Ross, Jr.
Bethel, Pottstown

Reverend Paula M. Dredde
Bethel, Bristol

Reverend Anthony Booker
Disney

Reverend Jacqueline G. Capers
Ruffin Nichols

Reverend Natalie Mitchem
Calvary

Reverend Ethel Moore
Bethlehem

Reverend Arnold Evans
Bethany

Reverend William L. B. Gray
Arnett

Reverend Lugenure M. Jones
Bensalem

December 21, 2011

Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and
Members of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization

The Members of the Philadelphia District join me in congratulating you on 100 years of leadership and service to our Church. We are inspired by the history of the Lay Organization and its purpose to promote the general welfare of African Methodism. The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization exemplifies the meaning of the organization's mission as a vital force stimulating and educating the Laity in the total program of our Church.

My prayer is that you will aspire to even greater Christian service, life and witness in the days and years to come.

May God continue to bless you as you move to higher heights in His service.

Yours in Christian Service,

Reverend Jocelyn K. Hart

Reverend Jocelyn K. Hart, Presiding Elder

Harrisburg District African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Churches

of the

Philadelphia Annual Conference of the First Episcopal District

The Rt. Reverend Richard Franklin Norris, Presiding Bishop

715 North 16th Street
Harrisburg, PA. 17103

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Reverend Lawrence C. Henryhand, Presiding Elder

December 20, 2011

Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President
Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
421 E. Eagle Road
Havertown, PA 19083

To the Organized Laity of the Philadelphia Conference:

Congratulations on celebrating one hundred years of being an organized body in the Lord's house, to God be the glory.

It is with great admiration that we join with other members of the Lord's house, to let you know how grateful we are for the time you shared with members of the Progressive Harrisburg District AME Churches. Members of the Harrisburg District seem to be more open to the activities of the Connectional church because of the training and information received through the laity.

Not only did you come to the Harrisburg District, you invited everyone to be a part of the activities you presented, including the Presiding Elder, Pastors and those who desired to learn about the church, and the responsibilities of the laity.

The members of the Progressive Harrisburg District would like to thank the laity for a job well done. We also pledge our assistance in trying to make the church a better place to do the work of the Lord. We are praying for you, and will continue to encourage you to be faithful to the calling which you have been called.

Sincerely,

Lawrence C. Henryhand

Lawrence C. Henryhand
Presiding Elder

***FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MARY MOOTOO, PRESIDENT***

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15

To President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization,

I greet you in the Precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. I congratulate you as you continue to fulfill the mission of Organizing and Teaching as you celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Connectional Lay Organization.

The Legacy of our great church is dependent on Faithful and informed Laity. We commend the Connectional Lay Organization of The African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Committee as they spear head the celebration of One Hundred Years of Service and we commend you as you join in the celebration. We are sincerely grateful for the Lay Leaders who paved the way for us and we are proud to serve.

Happy One Hundredth Birthday to the Connectional Lay Organization and thanks to the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization for celebrating this accomplishment with your commemorative journal.

May God continue to order our steps in His Word.

Mary Mootoo,
President of the First Episcopal District Lay Organization



**Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President
www.philadelphiaconferencelay.org**



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Presiding Prelate
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Gilroy Reid
3rd Vice President

Marian Spivey Sudler
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Brenda Watts
Asst. Recording Secretary

Carolyn Thomas-Kamara
Corresponding Secretary

Fern Wesley
Treasurer

Judith Beverly
Financial Secretary

Mamie Price
Chaplain

Cynthia Douse
Historiographer

Mary English
Parliamentarian

Juanita Bryant
Director of Lay Activities

Anita Hanna-Matthews
Director of Public Relations

Walter Jeffers
Young Adult Representative

This is a wonderful time in the life of the lay organization. It was 100 years ago (1912) that the Connectional Lay came into being, and we are still going strong. Whether we are operating on the Connectional, District, Conference or local level, we are all working for the common goal: building effective lay leaders for the Kingdom of God. We've been at it for 100 years and we're not going anywhere now. Although we are 100 years old, our purpose and objectives remain the same. The Discipline states:

The purpose of this organization shall be to organize and train the laity of the African Methodist Episcopal 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.

To accomplish this purpose, several objectives have been adopted. Some of them are:

To instill in the membership of the church a love for, and an appreciation of, the history, traditions, principles and development of African Methodism by encouraging, motivation, and educating all lay persons.

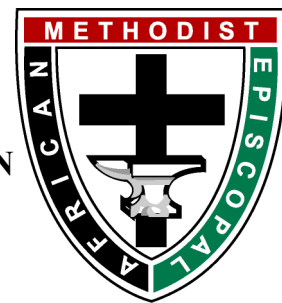
- *To keep forever alive the sacred memory of Richard Allen, our illustrious founder.
- *To advocate respect and loyalty at all times to constituted authority and leadership.
- *To encourage the laity to support the total program of the church in the local congregation, in the community, and throughout the Connection.
- *To foster a systematic and regular study of *The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church* and of parliamentary procedure... with the further purpose of encouraging lay members to participate more largely in the general functioning and supervision of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- *To foster, influence, and support all constructive and progressive legislation for the church that promotes the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- *To encourage development, recognition, and utilization of the most appropriate operational practices and modern technology in conducting the activities of the AME Church.
- *To promote the spread of personal evangelism through activities designed to prepare lay members for appropriately conveying God's Word.
- *To provide for the orderly and systematic training of lay persons, especially officers, in order that they might more effectively perform their service assignments.

If we as lay will be true to our purpose and objectives, we know that we still have much work to do. I say without hesitation that we can do it with God being our helper and working together in love and harmony with clergy and each other. We are building on the legacy of those who came before us as we honor the past, celebrate the present and leave our legacy for future generations of lay leaders. It is our prayer that in 100 years, as our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren celebrate the 200 years of the Lay Organization, they will be able to say that we too, left a wonderful legacy that they will be able to build on for years to come. **THE WORK IS ALL DIVINE!**

Cheryl Hammond Hopewell



**PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CYNTHIA DOUSE, HISTORIOGRAPHER**



As we embark upon the bicentenary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church I am truly honored to serve as the Historiographer of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization at such a time as this! I would like to thank President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell for her vision and her confidence in me to bring her vision full circle. Thank you to Frank Gilyard for his assistance and to Cheryl L. Ford for putting it all together. To the members of this great organization for the gathering of histories and testimonies of our Philadelphia Conference local lay organization, I thank you. Through the contributions of each local, the pages will tell our story of advocacy, prayer, social activist and power from our God.

We, the members of The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization are able to celebrate 100 years of Laymen working for God because of what HE has done, is doing and will continue to do in our Zion. Today we say: Together, we lend our voices in African Methodism to the 100 Year Celebration of the Connection Lay Organization. Together, we demonstrate an active presence in the Mother Conference of Our Zion. Together, we can look back at our rich history and then walk boldly into the future. We invite you to join in the Connectional praise and celebrate! TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

CYNTHIA DOUSE
Chairperson

JOSEPH W. WALKER
1st President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
1948 to 1952



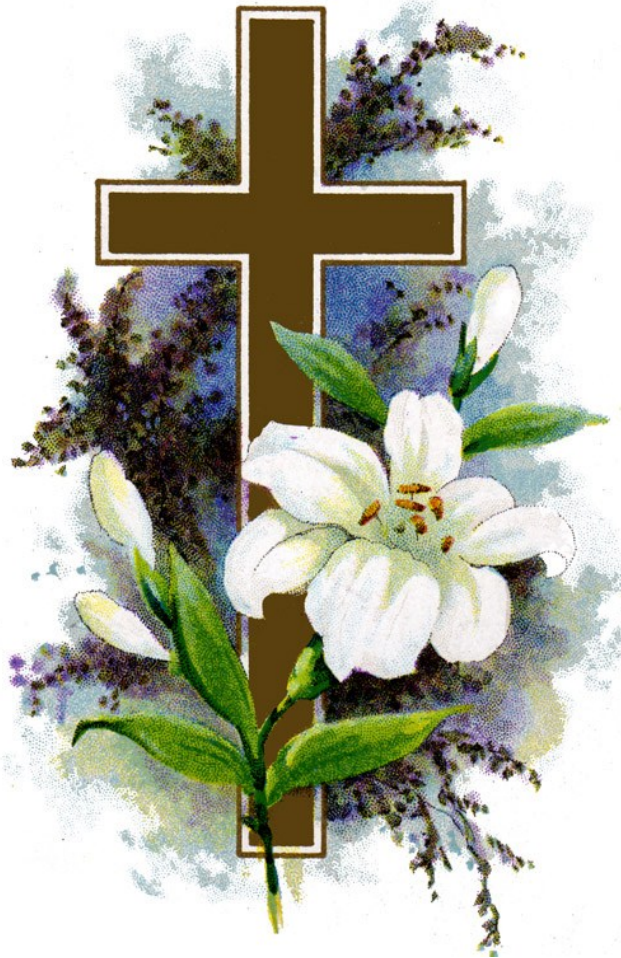
The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization began in the late 1940's. Mr. Joseph W. Walker, a member of Mount Pisgah AME Church, PA was the first president. Mr. Walker, a progressive president, was known by many as "Mr. Layman." He was a strong leader, the type of man needed in the early days of the organization.

The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization held their meeting on Wednesday nights in the homes of the members. This became a problem because Bible Study and Prayer Meeting, in most churches, was held on Wednesday night.

In the late 1960's, the meetings were changed to Saturdays. Mr. Walker's term began in 1948 and ended in 1952. He loved traveling throughout the Connectional Church to major events.

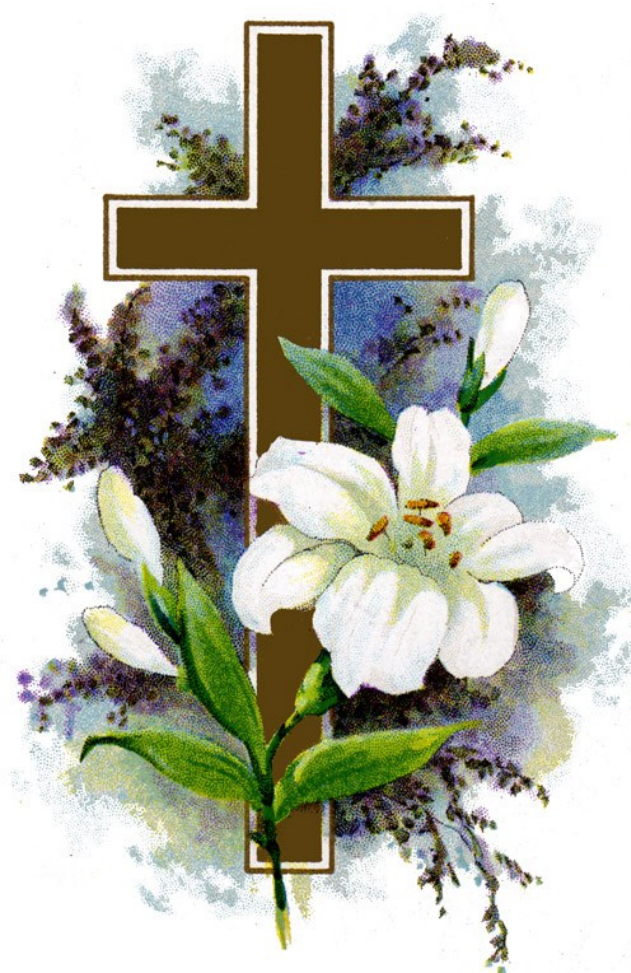
Mr. Walker loved his church and served as vice-chairman of the Trustee Board. Mrs. Joanne Walker, his wife, was also a faithful and active member of Mount Pisgah AME Church. Mrs. Walker was a lay member and held offices in the District Lay.

TIMOTHY JOHNSON
2nd President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
1952 to 1964



Mr. Timothy J. Johnson served as President during the years 1952 to 1964. an active member of Saint Matthew AME Church, Philadelphia, PA. Mr. Johnson was the Sunday school Superintendent, a member of the Board of Trustees and a Class Leader. He held offices in the First Episcopal District Lay Organization and served as Chaplain for the Connectional Lay Organization for seven years. It is said that the Conference Lay Organization began to move under his presidency.

JOSEPH BOLDEN
3rd President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
1964 to 1966



Mr. Joseph Bolden was President from 1964 to 1966. He was a member of Bethel AME Church, Bristol, PA. He was a Trustee and later became a Steward.

ROBERT N. BROWN
4th President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
1966 to 1968



Robert N. Brown was a native of South Carolina and was an A.M.E. from early childhood. He joined Ward A.M. E. Church in 1933 and remained an active and faithful member until his illness and then his death in December 1982.

Robert, known as Bob, served in Ward as a Sunday School Teacher, a class leader, a member of the Men's Usher Board, the Junior Choir, the Male Chorus, a Trustee, and was a Steward for over forty years. However, even with all of that, Bob was an active member of the Lay Organization. His love for the Lay Organization led him to become the 4th President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization from 1966 to 1968. Although he only served for two years, he was a major force and had a great impact in the Lay Movement.

Bob also served as a delegate to the General Conference in 1964, 1968, and in 1976. In 1976, he also served as a member of the Episcopal Committee.

Bob was a devoted husband and father, and his love and devotion to his family and friends was paralleled only by his uncanny desire to serve his God and his church.

JOSEPH B. INABINET
5th President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
1968 to 1978



Mr. Joseph B. Inabinet, a member of Jones Tabernacle AME Church, Philadelphia, PA was elected President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization in 1968 and served until 1978. He has served as the Local Lay President of his local church. Mr. Inabinet also served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and as an usher. He held the position of President of the First Episcopal District Lay Organization for eight years. Mr. Inabinet was also a Conference Trustee and a member of the General Board. He had been a delegate to the General Conference of the AME Church numerous times.

Under the leadership of Mr. Inabinet, the Conference Lay Organization continued to grow. Many local churches were added to the conference. As the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization expanded, it's voice became stronger and the laity began to gain more respect and recognition. He was a skilled administrator. He worked hard at organizing and growth.

DR. GEORGE MCLEAN
6th President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
1978 to 1984

Dr. George C. McLean served as President from 1978 to 1984. He taught in the Philadelphia Public School System for forty-five years. Dr. McLean was a member of Saint Matthew AME Church, Philadelphia, PA. He was a member of the Board of Stewards, a Class Leader, a Sunday School teacher and a member of the choir. He loved the music of the church.

As an educator, he believed in what this organization is about - to teach and to train. He too became President of the First Episcopal District Lay Organization. He was elected as Chaplain of the Connectional lay Organization in 1993. He was also Director of the Lay Choir.

COLONEL FRED LEVEN

7th President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization 1984 to 1992



Fred Leven, Jr., the son of the late Fred Leven, Sr. and the late Vera Lee Martin Leven, was born on August 26, 1923 in Jenkinsville, South Carolina. Colonel Leven's devotion to God began early in his life with his membership in the A.M.E. church co-founded by his family, Bethel A.M.E. Church in Branchville, SC.

Colonel Leven received his primary education in Branchville, SC, but completed his secondary education graduating from Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia, SC in 1939. Colonel Leven attended South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, SC graduating with A Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture in 1943. While attending State College, Colonel Leven became a lifetime member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. After completing undergraduate studies, Colonel Leven attended Michigan State University, graduating with a Masters Degree in Economics in 1946. Col. Leven also attended the U. S. Army War

College in Gettysburg, PA.

Colonel Leven's first professional job was as an instructor at Tuskegee Institute for two years, prior to his enlistment in the Army in 1948. Colonel Leven's military career spanned 28 years serving our country in the occupation of Japan, and in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Colonel Leven received many commendations including the Meritorious Service and Bronze Star Medals.

Colonel Leven and Doris Banks Leven were married in 1951. Doris traveled with Colonel Leven wherever possible during his military career. They have one son, Daryl who currently lives with his family in Memphis, TN. In the late sixties, Colonel Leven and his wife moved to Blue Bell, PA where they soon joined Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in Norristown. Colonel Leven quickly became very active in the church, serving as Church School Superintendent for more than 30 years and Church Treasurer for 26 years. He was also a Trustee, Class Leader and member of the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

In 1970, the Local lay Organization was organized under the leadership of Colonel Leven. He was installed as President by Mr. Joseph B. Inabinet, President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. He served as President for 30 years.

In addition to his local church, Colonel Leven was very active in the Philadelphia Conference, the First Episcopal District and at the Connectional level. On the Conference level, Colonel Leven served in several positions, including 3rd Vice President, 1st Vice President, Director of Lay Activities, Treasurer, and served as President for eight years. At the First District level, Colonel Leven held the position of treasurer for eight years, financial secretary for eight years and 2nd Vice President for six years. On the Connectional level, Colonel Leven served on the General Conference Commission and was a delegate to the General Conference from 1972 to 2004.

Early in the new millennium, Colonel Leven moved back to his home state and took up residence in Columbia, SC. He and his wife soon joined Bethel A.M.E. Church under the pastorate of the Rev. Ronnie Brailsford. He immediately became involved in the Lay Organization and the Church School.

Colonel Leven was also active in the community wherever he lived. He was a member of the International Association of Lions Clubs where he served two terms as District Governor. He was a member of the NAACP, and a life member of both the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Retired Officers Association.

Colonel Leven passed away in September 2008, but his legacy shall continue to live on.

REVERDY R. GARRETT
8th President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
1992 to 2000



Reverdy Ransom Garrett served as the President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization from 1992 through 2000. His work and vibrant leadership was far reaching and effective as he brought dedication, commitment and quality service to laity on all levels of the Church. He had a solid and extensive background in African Methodism as a lifelong member of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, where he effectively served in numerous and vital leadership roles, including the office of Local Lay President.

Brother Garrett had a great love for the AME Church and was much involved in the progressive movement of the Church. Under his leadership, he was consistent in emphasizing the importance of the laity to be informed regarding laws, doctrine and discipline of the Church. His dedication, performance and concern for the growth of our great Church were evident by his visibility and innovation on the local, district and connectional levels.

During Brother Garrett's tenure as President, the following programs were initiated:

- Annual Lay Founder's Day Program at Mother Bethel AME Church
- Annual Awards Breakfast
- Annual Dinner Theater
- Lifetime Membership in the NAACP

SHIRLEY WASHINGTON
9th President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
2000 to 2002



Shirley C. Washington was a native of Philadelphia and was a longtime member of Campbell A.M.E. Church, in the Frankford section of Philadelphia. She was a dedicated and faithful member until her illness and then her death in December, 2003.

She was very active in her local church, serving on the Trustee Board, Finance Commission, Historic Committee, Women's Day Chairperson, Floral Club and president of the Lay Organization. She loved her Lay Organization and it was her goal to get every lay member of the church to become a part of the organized laity. She would be happy to know that we now have 102 members in the Campbell Church Lay Organization.

In June 2000 she was elected the 9th president of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, being the first female to serve in that position. She served as an alternate to the 1988 General Conference and a delegate to the 1992, 1996 and 2000 General Conference.

DAVID WARD
10th President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
2002 to 2008



Brother David Ward joined Mother Bethel AME in September 1977, and was an active participant in the local A.M.E church. He later served as President of the Mother Bethel Corporation and Trustee Board for almost 11 years. Throughout all of his church assignments Mr. Ward was an active Class Leader and Vice Chair of the Senior Board of Stewards until his retirement in 2010. On the Connectional level Brother Ward served in the capacity of Lay President and later as the Director of Connectional Lay Economic Development Program. Brother Ward was selected as the “Outstanding Lay Person” at the 2001 Connectional Lay Biennial. He received the Gerald I. Phillips Award for community service for providing leadership in incorporating, restoring and enlarging the Richard Allen Museum. He also served as President of the United Way of Camden, Board of Trustees in 2001, and served in the capacity of Chair of the Youth Committee of Camden, New Jersey, as a member of Kiwanis.

CHERYL HAMMOND HOPEWELL
11th President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
2008 to present



Cheryl Hammond Hopewell was born in Philadelphia and is a life-long member of Mt. Pisgah AME Church in Philadelphia. In her local church she serves as President Emeritus of the Lay Organization (served as president for 11 years), Finance Manager, member of Commission on Stewardship and Finance, Financial Secretary of the Church School, Treasurer of the Greater Works Ministry, and member of the Excelsior Choir.

Cheryl's love for the work of the church and encouragement from then local president, Sister Eleanor Cogdell, led her to join the local lay organization in 1985. It was not long before Cheryl was going to Conference, District and Connectional Meetings. Cheryl has served the Philadelphia Conference Lay as Historiographer, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Finance Chairperson, Ticket Chairperson, First Vice President and in 2008 she was elected the 11th president and the second woman to hold this position. Cheryl was selected as Philadelphia Conference Lay Person of the Year in 1999.

Cheryl has brought new energy to the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. Accomplishments under her leadership include: a new lay banner was designed and purchased, the Calling Post communication system was set up, email distribution list for lay and clergy, a Facebook group page, a bi-annual Elegant Affair, a scholarship fund which was named after her, an annual Education Service, an annual picnic, a mentoring program, the quarterly newsletter has been restarted, gifts to all new lay members at local annual days, Christmas gifts to all, a written Annual Report to clergy and delegates at the Annual Conference, an informative website and the 100-year celebrative journal.

Cheryl has served as a delegate to the 2000, 2004 and 2008 General Conferences. She has been elected a delegate to the 2012 General Conference. Cheryl also serves as a Philadelphia Conference Trustee.

For the First Episcopal District Lay Organization, Cheryl serves as First Vice President, on the Budget Committee and on the Frank Cumming Scholarship Committee. She formally served as Third Vice President. Cheryl has been an active lay speaker throughout the Philadelphia Conference and the other conferences throughout the First Episcopal District. She has also spoken for several Youth Sundays. Cheryl was honored to be the Lay Night Speaker for the Philadelphia Annual Conference Lay Night in May 2006 and was honored to speak in the Eleventh Episcopal District in March 2009.

Cheryl is a devoted wife, mother, mother-in-law, daughter, sister and caregiver who truly loves her God, her family, and the AME Church.

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION HISTORY

Organized in the late 1940's with Mr. Joseph W. Walker as the First President.

Mr. Joseph Walker served as President until 1952.

Meetings were held on Wednesday nights in the homes of the members. Meetings were later changed to Saturdays to allow everyone to attend Bible Study and/or Prayer Meetings that were held on Wednesday nights.

Other Presidents served as follows:

Mr. Timothy Johnson – 1952 to 1964 (2nd President)

Mr. Joseph Bolden – 1964 to 1966 (3rd President)

Mr. Robert Brown – 1966 to 1968 (4th President)

Mr. Joseph B. Inabinet – 1968 to 1978 (5th President)

Dr. George McLean – 1978 to 1984 (6th President)

Colonel Fred Leven – 1984 to 1992 (7th President)

Mr. Reverdy R. Garrett – 1992 to 2000 (8th President)

All of these men contributed much to the growth of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization for over 50 years and then in June 2000 HISTORY was made when we elected the FIRST WOMAN as president of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization.

Presidents continued:

Ms. Shirley Washington – 2000 to 2002 (9th President)

Mr. David Ward – 2002 to 2008 (10th President)

HISTORY was made again when in June 2008 when Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell was elected the SECOND WOMAN and the 11th President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. Cheryl is also the youngest person to serve in this position.

The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization meets on the third Saturday of the month and a workshop is given during each meeting so that we can keep our focus on TEACHING and TRAINING to allow us to serve our Zion efficiently.

The meetings are held at various churches throughout the Philadelphia Conference which consists of the West/Mainline District, the South District, the Philadelphia District, and the Harrisburg District.

Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church

5901 Larchwood Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19143

History of the Lay Organization

The Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church Laymen's Organization (then named) was organized in the early 1970's. Mr. Flournoy Drake and his wife Louise, were the members of the Allen Lay Organization who traveled to the various meetings. Some of the pioneers of the organization were: Isaac Peyton, Edward Pressley, Ballard Fultz, Martha Fultz, and Catherine Christy to name a few. Sadly they are all deceased.

In 1976, the Reverend William H. Smallwood, pastor, reorganized the lay Organization of Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church, naming Ethel L. Wilkes Butler president.

On Sunday, November 28, 1976 Allen had its First Annual Day. Mr. George McLean of St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church was the speaker. That date has not changed over the years.

Since 1976, the Allen Lay Organization has had representation at conference meetings, district meeting, and connectional meetings.

The presidents through the years have been Ethel L. Wilkes Butler (deceased), Jessie Godwin (deceased), and Mildred Collier. They all served more than one term.

The current president is Fern C. Wesley, who also serves on the conference level as treasurer and prior to that as financial secretary. Peggy Pinder, Director of Lay Activities for Allen is also Director of Lay Activities for the First Episcopal District, this is district level.

Allen is blessed to have dedicated members to carry on the legacy of the Lay Organization.

History oft times repeats itself and therefore we must know where we have been to determine where we are going.

A.M.E. Union Church
1600 W. Jefferson Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19121

History of the Lay Organization

Organized September 1974 under the pastorate of Reverend L. Marshall Watts. The original officers were:

Frances G. Archer, President
Howard H. Fields, 1st Vice President
Harriet Harris, Secretary
Estelle Ivey, Assistant Secretary
Cherryl Dorsey, Corresponding Secretary
Clara Blake, Treasurer
Carl Ivey, 3rd, Parliamentarian
Geraldine Ball, Historiographer
Grace Masten, Chaplain

Frances Archer served as president for 20 years.

Other presidents to serve AME Union are:

Lawrence Buckner	term expired 2001
Ethel M. Wanner	2001- 2006
Valarie Barr	2006 - 2011
Ethel M. Wanner	2011

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

163 Sheldon Lane

Ardmore, Pennsylvania 19003

Reverend Albert Johnson, Pastor

The former Reverend E. J. Jones, pastor of Bethel AME Church, Ardmore in 1966 saw the need for a Lay Organization. During a visit to the Coursey residence, Rev. Jones asked Ms. Louise Coursey to take either one of two positions - Lay Organization president or secretary of the Steward Board. Knowing nothing about the local lay organization, Ms. Coursey accepted the challenge of president of Bethel, Ardmore Church local lay. The newly formed organization membership consisted of the stewards, trustees, and other officers appointed by Red. Jones.

Bethel Ardmore's lay organization was greatly encouraged by the Philadelphia Conference Lay President, Mr. Robert M. Brown. His kindness and assistance lead the organization to become an established organization within the Philadelphia Conference. Mr. Joseph Inabinet, lay supporter, encouraged Ms. Coursey to bring other local embers to the conference lay meetings. In turn, this strengthened bethel's organization to become a thriving part of the conference. Since its formation, God has led Bethel Ardmore to remain current both financially and in conference attendance.

Lay membership in 1978 included Mrs. Dorothy Caldwell, Mrs. Helen Williams, Mrs. Anna McDaniel, Mrs. Gladys Pennington, Ms. Louise Coursey, Mrs. J. Coursey, Mrs. Gladys McLendon, Mrs. Maude Raines, Mrs. Anna Collick, Mrs. Blanche Hill, Ms. Edith Gibbs, Mr. Arthur Washington, Mrs. Edith Dennis, and Ms. Barbara Allen. Ms. Coursey and Mrs. Raines, were members of the original organization and remain active members today.

Our two major yearly events are our annual Lay Day and Founder's Day celebrations. The emphasis of the Founders' Day celebration is to have the entire church congregation involved with memorable re-enactments of AME History. The re-enactments captured the interest of several persons in the congregation and led them to join the local lay organization. Hence, our membership has grown more within the last five years than ever before.

Throughout the years, the organization has purchased Bibles, Hymnals, and AME literature to further enhance the spiritual life and physical appearance of the church. In 1973, Bethel AME Ardmore was struck by fire. In 1976, Bethel Ardmore was able to once again open its doors for worship. In 1977, from the proceeds of the Founders' Day celebration, the Lay organization spearheaded the establishment of the Bishops Gallery honoring the bishops who had longest tenure of the AME Church.

In 2010, Bethel Ardmore's Lay Organization published our first quarterly newsletter. It was well received both on the local and conference level. At Bethel Ardmore, the lay organization is looked upon as a communication hub. We have members participating in the training and course outline for the New Members Class. We take every opportunity to teach and relay church information to the congregation.

The local lay organization is grateful to God who continues to lead us on this wonderful journey. We thank the Philadelphia Conference for the tools and training to assist us throughout the years.

Bethel Ardmore lay organization salutes our president, Sister Louise Coursey for her long years of service and training. Her ability to lead for such a long time with a loving spirit is a true gift. Her love for the AME Church drives her to strive for perfection and she is always eager to help. She shows great concern for the youth of the AME Church and realized they are our future. Although she seems never to tire of serving, we know her physical edifice may fail even when the heart tells her to push on thus we accept God's will and look forward to receiving a new president in the conference year 2012-2013.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

254 Wood Street

Bristol, Pennsylvania 19007

The Reverend Paula M. Dredde, Pastor

History of the Lay Organization

The Laymen's Organization date of inception is undetermined it may have begun during 1950's or 60's. Possibly under the pastorate of any of the following ministers: Rev. J. L. Brown; Rev. S.B. Brown; Rev. E.S. Dennis; Rev. C. H. Carter; Rev. H.M. Satterfield('62); Rev. M. M. Ward('62-'63); Rev. C. P. Boswell('63-'69); Rev. Archibald Allen('69-72); Rev. Clifford Daniels('72-'75); Rev. W. Wayman Clark('75-?); Rev. Leon J. Burnham('79-'81); or Rev. J. Leroy Jones('81-'86).

It was learned the first president of Bethel's Laymen's Organization was Brother Joseph Bolden. Also, Brother Bolden briefly served as president of the Philadelphia Conference Laymen's Organization. No further information is available about the earlier group.

Later, the Lay Organization was re-established in the fall of 1987 under the pastorate of the Reverend Calvin Ward Jackson (1986-1991). Brother Ed Lovelace was elected president and has remained in position. The other elected officers and members were:

Officers:

Sister Elizabeth Ferrell	Secretary
Brother Martin P. Armstrong*	Treasurer
Sister Marrilee Long	Chaplain
Sister Lillie M. Morris*	Director Lay Activities

Members:

Sister Luressa Armstrong	Sister Drucilla B. VanWright*
Sister Virginia Brown	Sister Sandra Williams

Colonel (Ret.) Fred Leven was Conference President.** Brother Joseph Inabinet was First District President. They were instrumental in the growth and development of our group. The Conference theme was "Press On To Go On".

Meetings were held monthly on the second Saturday at 2pm. All meetings were conducted in accordance with the Philadelphia Conference Constitution and By-Laws. However, meetings, etc. had to be suspended due to member illnesses and Transitions to Heaven. Effective Sunday, August 17, 2008. On Saturday, September 17, 2011 at Calvary AME Church, Philadelphia. I resumed our commitment at the Conference level. Prayerfully by God's Grace and His Strength. We will successfully reorganize the Lay Organization at Bethel. The goal will be to serve Him and this Zion by instructing members to becoming informed church persons. But more importantly our desire is to **WIN SOULS FOR CHRIST.** **Proverbs 11:30** "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."

Historical Highlights:

January 14, 1990 at 3:30pm - First Annual Lay Day. - Dr. Katherine Brown, Connectional Lay President; Dr. George C. McLean, First Lay President; Col. (Ret.) Fred Leven, Philadelphia Conference President; Brother Ed Lovelace, Local Lay President. Theme: "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah" RECOGNIZING SPIRITUAL GIFTS: II Timothy 1:6-7. The Speaker was Brother John Fisher.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
(The Oldest Black Church on the Original Main Line-Founded 1878)
50 South Merion Avenue Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania 19010

Church Office (610) 527-6674 Church Fax (610) 527-8391
Church Website: www.BethelBrynMawr.com

Our Church Theme:
From Religion to Relationship!
Acts 9

The Reverend Carlos D. Bounds, M. DIV., Pastor



1972 - 2011



**Bethel, Bryn Mawr Lay Organization
History**

The Bethel Bryn Mawr Lay Organization was reactivated in 1972, under the pastorate of Reverend Arnold T. Evans. In 1972 Rev. Evans appointed Hosea Jackson to the Bethel Steward Board, and requested of Bro. Jackson that he lead the reactivation of the Bethel Lay Organization as part of his stewardship—using his gifts to serve others as a faithful steward.

Since 1972 the Bethel Lay Organization has grown in both membership and service. Today it organized and active, holding monthly meetings, hosts an Annual Lay Day yearly, and is in good standing with the Connectional Lay. Most notably, the Bethel Lay is one of the largest participating Lay Organizations in the 1st Episcopal District's Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Awards Luncheon honoring local Unsung Heroes.

Furthermore, Bro. Jackson became President of the West District Lay Organization under the late Presiding Elder Carl D. Ogden. Under his leadership the West/Main Line District Connectional Lay Organization has also grown in both membership and service. Today 17 of the 19 connectional churches have an active Lay Organization. And efforts are underway for strengthening and improving our District's Lay participation in all 17 churches, as well as converting the last two.

Bethel A.M.E. Church of Bryn Mawr has served God and mankind with unending love since its beginning. That tradition and heritage continues. Taken from the 9th chapter of the book of Acts, with the help of the Lord, our church Lay has grown and flourished to meet the needs of our congregants and families as well as those living within our community. Just as the Apostle Paul had a miraculous conversion on the road to Damascus, under the Rev. Carlos D. Bounds our present Pastoral leadership, the Bethel Bryn Mawr Lay Organization has progressed in moving **“from religion to relationship!”**

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

131 East Pomfret Street

Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013

Reverend Bruce D. Points, Sr., Pastor

Brother Carl W. Bell, III, President

History of the Lay Organization

The Lay Organization at Bethel, Carlisle was started in the late 1970's under the pastorate of Rev. Robert O. Bailey. Since the AME Discipline mandates that each local church have an organized Lay Organization, the pastor and membership worked diligently together to comply. Brother Samuel J. Scott was the first elected President of Bethel's organized Lay and was active at both the local and conference levels. The new formation was not popular at first and the membership did not catch on quickly, so the Lay Organization became dormant for several years.

It was not until 2006, under the pastorate of Rev. Dwight D. Edwards, that the Lay Organization at Bethel found their voice and realized how beneficial it could be. At that time, Sister Anita Hanna-Matthews and Mary McCullough were appointed by Presiding Elder Lawrence C. Henryhand as the Harrisburg District Liaison. The two individuals met with the membership of Bethel, Carlisle to advise and support them. A local meeting was then held wherein the Lay was again organized and Sister Carla Pratt was elected President. Sister Pratt resigned after a few weeks and Sister Robin Bell served as the President. During her second year in office she became ill and Sister Wanda K. Hunter stepped in as the interim President. The following year Brother Carl W. Bell, III was elected President.

Under the leadership of Brother Bell, the Lay Organization has annually marched in support of the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and in conjunction with our current Pastor, Rev. Bruce D. Points, Sr., has assumed a positive, educational role within the congregation, including monthly presentations on the topics of AME history and Black history during the morning worship service.

Most recently we have enjoyed the encouragement of the following persons as our Annual Lay Day speakers: Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Sister Anita Matthews, Rev. Paul Thomas and the late Brother Reverdy R. Garrett. The Bethel Lay Organization participates in informative workshops and is active and visible on the Harrisburg District and Philadelphia Annual Conference levels.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

301 E. Linden Street
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania 19348

History of the Lay Organization

In July 2004, David Ward, Leonard Williams and Reverdy Garrett came to Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Kennett Square to organize a Lay Organization. At that time the Pastor was Reverend Lanxton Washington.

The President Named was Gloria J Sharp and ten Members joined the Lay. The first official meeting I attended was an Official Board Meeting held on August 16, 2004 at Mother Bethel AME Church in Philadelphia, Pa.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

401 Beech Street

Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464

History of the Lay Organization

Bethel A.M.E. Church, Pottstown, Local Lay Organization was organized in 2004 under the pastorate of the Reverend Dr. Vernon Ross, Jr. Sister Peggy Pinder, First District Lay Activities Director, led in the process. Carl Glover was elected President; Victoria Houston, Vice President; Samantha Beauford, Secretary; Ruth Howard, Treasurer; Mary Ann Cobb, Chaplain/Advisor; Nelson Barr, Parliamentarian, and Galisha Hurt, Historiographer. All officers were re-elected to date with the exception of the Secretary. Pauline Herrett was elected Secretary in 2008. Bethel's 1st Annual Lay Day was held in October, 2004 with President Carl Glover as the 1st Lay Day Speaker. Virginia Laws was honored as the very first deserving Unsung Hero in 2004. All other Annual Day Speakers and Unsung Heroes to date follows:

Annual Lay Day Speaker	Unsung Hero
2005 - Nelson Barr – Bethel AMEC	2005 - Maggie Ricketts
2006 – Calvin Wilder – Bethel AMEC	2006 – Gwendolia Miller
2007 – Lisa Douglas – Bethel AMEC	2007 – Donald Price
2008 – Rev. Janet Simpkins – Zion Baptist Church	2008 – Harry Harrison
2009 – Rev. Janet Simpkins – Zion Baptist Church	2009 – Ruth Howard
2010 – Shirley Martin – Bethel AMEC	2010 – Paul Hudson
2011 – Dr. Helen L. Jenkins-Earley – Allen AMEC	2011 – Mary Ann Cobb

The Bethel, Pottstown, Local Lay Membership presently total twenty-five, nineteen active and six inactive due to illness. Two beloved and faithful members, Brother Ernest Little and Sister Dorothy Ricketts, have gone on to be with the Lord. Bethel's Lay Organization highlights include: Philadelphia Annual Conference First Episcopal District Annual Lay Nights attendance yearly; hosted the Philadelphia Conference Monthly Lay Meetings in the year 2006 and 2010; held a workshop for Stewards and Trustees presented by Sister Peggy Pinder, Steward, Allen AME Church; Bethel's youth, Kendra Barkasi, was blessed to be the very first recipient of the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Scholarship in 2010. The Lay Organization also spearheaded a drive for church members to order The Doctrine and Discipline of the A.M.E. Church 2008 edition, established "The Lay Corner" in the Sunday Church Bulletin to share information with the church family, and enjoyed the first Annual 2011 Summer Lay Picnic and Annual Fall Retreat. Presently, the members focus is on the 100th Year Connectional Lay Organization Celebration. **To God be the Glory, Great things He has done!!!**

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

330 W. Windsor Street
Reading, Pennsylvania 19601

History of the Lay Organization

Bethel's Lay Organization was organized in 1970 under the Pastorate of Reverend Willard McLendon. Our first president was Mr. Gilbert Johnson who served approximately one year.

Mr. Frank Gilyard who had served as Vice President was elected in 1971 as President of Bethel's Lay Organization and continues to dedicate his time and talents. Other officers serving at the time which the Lay was organized were: Avon Hines - secretary, Mildred Gilyard - assistant secretary, and Walter Gilyard - treasurer.

The group was inactive for a brief period of time during a portion of the administration of Rev. Andrew T. Holtz and Rev. Bealie Stancil. We remained steadfast to the call of dedicated Laypersons. We began our mission again under the pastorate of Rev. Stancil.

The motivational skills and the superb leadership of our President, Mr. Gilyard inspired us to work harder as Christian Workers and to continue to teach and train the laity of our Great Zion. He keeps the local lay organization informed of the activities of the conference, district, and connectional lay organization. The lay Organization meets following the Worship Service on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Bethel hosted the Lay Electoral College on October 19, 1974, which was the last time that the Lay and Clergy delegates were elected on different days. From that time on the Lay and Clergy General Conference Delegates are elected on the same day, at the same time in different buildings during Annual Conference.

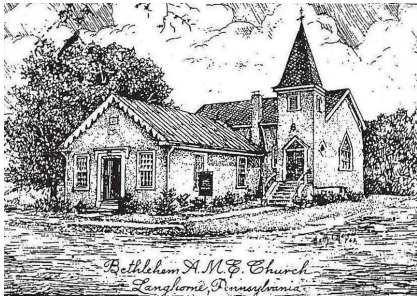
Our Lay Organization won the Attendance Plaque in their division in 1974, 1975, and a1976, which enabled Bethel to keep the plaque permanently. We are very proud of this achievement.

Mr. Gilyard won the Philadelphia conference Lay Organization Outstanding Laymen Award in September 1975 and Mildred Gilyard, our Director of Lay Activities, was honored in 2005 as the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Layperson of the year.

2011 Officers and Member

Frank L. Gilyard, Sr. – President
Rose Abraham
LaSonta Babb, Youth Representative
Viola Brown
Dolores Booker
Mary Jane Dokes, Emeritus
Myrtle Dokes
Margaret Durdin – Chaplin
Jessye L. Evans
Mildred E. Gilyard – Director of Lay Activities
Taylor Golden
Andrew Moore
Diane Moore
Lillie Pratt – Vice President
Lynn Ragsdale – Secretary

Bethlehem African Methodist Episcopal Church



Pine Street and Flowers Avenue
Langhorne, Pennsylvania 19047
Established 1809

Ph. (215) 757-5313 Fax (215) 757-9373

Reverend Ethel L. Moore, Pastor

*“Worship the Lord in the splendor of His Holiness;
Tremble before Him all the earth.” Psalm 96:9*

History of the Lay Organization

The Bethlehem African Methodist Episcopal Church lay Organization was formed in 2005 under the pastorate of Reverend Dr. Esther L. Seales, Presiding Elder Winton Hill of the Philadelphia District, and Brother David Ward of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania who was president of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. The lay was organized with the following individuals:

Sister Barbara Simpson was appointed president, and Kimberly Riddick and Mamie Price. Later, Sister Barbara Simpson had to resign due to family illness and Mamie Price was appointed president. The members, along with Reverend Dr. Esther L. Seales continued to pray and God added to the numbers Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Guiles and Sister Gwendolyn Lee. Brother Guiles served as Chaplain until God called him home November 30, 2009. On January 17, 2010, Sister Barbara Simpson rejoined the organization.

Not only is Sister Price the President of Bethlehem Lay Organization, she is Chaplain for the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. She has served as delegate to the 1st District Lay Organization Annual meeting in Dover, Delaware. Sister Price has been elected as an alternate delegate to the 49th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

We had a back to school give away for school and college students, clothes give away and visiting nursing homes.

Sister Price was the first Unsung Hero in 2008 and Sister Reddick in 2010.



Campbell African Methodist Episcopal Church

1657 Kinsey Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19124

Telephone Number: 215-288-2748

Rev. Glenn Shepherd, Pastor

Email: pastorshepherd@campbellamechurch.org



Mrs. Marie Butler, Lay President

History of the Lay Organization

The Lay Organization of Campbell, like many in our churches at an early era, did not keep official records, which would serve as reference material.

The Campbell A.M.E. Church Lay Organization was re-organized on Sunday, October 10, 1982 by the Lay President of the Philadelphia Conference, the late Dr. George McLean; and under the pastorate of the late Rev. Nathaniel L. Williams. About thirty (30) members remained after morning service to re-organize. Dr. McLean gave a brief background and history of the Lay Organization, reflecting on its purpose of training and teaching and to instill in the membership of the church, the tradition and principal of African Methodism, and to keep alive the sacred memory of Bishop Richard Allen.

An election was held and Mr. Robert Howard was elected President. In 1984, at the next election, Shirley C. Washington was elected president and served that position until her death in 2003. By 1998 our lay membership had grown to 50 persons and we proudly boast in 2011 a membership of 102 persons.

After the passing of Sis. Washington, Marie Butler was elected president in 2004 and continues to serve in that capacity.

Submitted by

Marie Butler
Local Lay President
November, 2011

Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church

329 Market Street

Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Reverend Ernestine E. Boles, Pastor

History of the Lay Organization

The Lay Organization of Ebenezer was organized in 2007 by Mrs. Octavia Duncan. Mrs. Duncan also served as its first President until 2008.

Meetings are held Tuesday evening immediately following the Missionary meeting as most of the lay members are also missionaries.

Ms. Kellie Artis was elected president in 2008 and served until 2010. Sister Artis moved the Lay Organization to a new level by participating at the Harrisburg District and Philadelphia Conference Branch level.

Mrs. Brenda L. Thomas was elected in 2010 and is continuing in the footsteps of Sister Kelli Artis by participating at various levels of the Lay Organization.

Ekklesia African Methodist Episcopal Church

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

History of the Lay Organization

The Ekklesia AME Church was officially founded on Sunday, June 2, 1985 - the date of our first official worship service, under the pastorate of Reverend Samuel L. Jenkins, Jr., founder and first pastor. Bishop Frank Curtis Cummings was the Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District. The Lay Organization of Ekklesia was officially organized in the fall of 1985. The first president, who was elected when he was twenty-one years of age was the late Maurice M. Jenkins. He served from 1985 to 1990. Under his administration, he led the Ekklesia church family in becoming more knowledgeable about the AME Church, tithing, service to God and the community, and developing leadership skills. In 1987, Maurice was elected a delegate to the 1988 General Conference. After leaving Philadelphia to work in Sacramento, CA, Mr. Jenkins was subsequently elected president of the Connectional Richard Allen Youth Council of the AME Church.

Our second president was Brother Paul L. Earley (1990-1992), who continued to lead the Ekklesia laity onward and upward. On behalf of the mission churches, Paul labored with the conference lay to re-establish Category D to adjust the financial obligations of the smaller churches. He was successful.

Our third president, Sister Evetta Valentine, served from 1992-1993. She continued the traditions set forth by the first two presidents. Our fourth president was the late Sister Ernestine Danzot who served from 1992-1995. Shortly after taking office, Ernestine became seriously ill, and she was assisted in her duties by the First Vice President, Dr. Helen L. Jenkins-Early. Ernestine went home to be with God on December 26, 1995.

In May 1995, Dr. Helen L. Jenkins-Early became the fifth president of the lay organization. She also led in the excellent tradition established by past presidents serving the local church community, Conference, Episcopal District and the Connectional Church. Dr. Early formerly served as Conference Lay Musician; Philadelphia Conference Fashion Show & Luncheon Mistress of Ceremonies (1995); Souvenir Journal Chair (1996); Alternate Delegate to the 1996 General Conference; traveled with the First Episcopal District delegation to South Africa for the "100th Year Celebration of African Methodism in Southern Africa" in January 1996; Philadelphia Conference delegate to the Lay Biennial in Atlanta, GA (July 1997); First Episcopal District Lay Music Director since 1996; Historiographer of the Connectional Music Committee of the AME Church; Associate Director of the Connectional Music Committee of the AME Church (1996-2000), and conducted the First Episcopal District Choir at the 1999 Lay Biennial in Rochester, NY. She also formerly served as the Third Vice-President of the Conference Lay.

The lay membership in February 1998 had increased, i.e. Dr. Helen L. Jenkins-Early, Jo-An Blackman, Paul L. Earley, Tiffani King (Youth), Michelle P. Mitchell, Emily Smith, Dawn Thompson, Cora Thornton, Evetta Valentine, Flora Vann, Marjorie Vann, Deborah Washington, and Larry Washington. Reverend Lanxton Washington was very supportive of the laity.

The laity continued to grow in number, spiritually and in knowledge of the AME Church. Workshops, under the pastorate of Pastor Lugenure Jones, were presented by the laity at all church conferences under the direction of our Director of Lay Activities - Bro. Turner Vann. All of our Lay Annual Days were celebrated at Sunday Prayer Breakfasts, and the church was blessed. One of the highlights of our laity was the opportunity to host the Conference Christmas Celebration at Mother Bethel AME Church.....thanks to Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath who was the pastor at that time. Our unique presentation was the dramatization of "**The Birth of Jesus**" by the Ekklesia laity. Dr. Helen L. Jenkins-Early served as president until the church was de-commissioned. At the closing of the 191st session of the Philadelphia Annual Conference (May 25, 2007) under Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, the Ekklesia African Methodist Episcopal Church was officially de-commissioned. Some members went to other AME churches and are serving in leadership capacities.

Grimes African Methodist Episcopal Church

338 Morris Street
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania 19460

History of the Lay Organization

During the period of the late 1950's and 196's, we had a Layman's League with Bro. Elmer Chapman serving as president and Rev. Luther F. McNair as our pastor.

On December 9, 1984, the lay organization was organized with 29 members under the pastorate of Rev. Isaac O. Ryder, Jr.. Sis. Virginia Mack was elected president. Regular monthly meetings slacked off when Sis. Mack became ill with severe back problems. During the years 1988 through 1993, the members attended conference meetings and fashion shows, annual days, and training sessions at Christian Education Congress in Dover, Delaware as well as other activities.

On April 11, 1994, our lay organization was re-organized with a membership of 25 persons and Bro. Fred Bearden elected as president. Under the re-organization, we held our first annual day with two services. Dr. Ruby Perkins, Professor of English at Cheyney University was the morning worship speaker and Rev. Maurice M. Hughes, Sr., pastor and congregation of Bethel, Ardmore provided the worship for the afternoon. Sis. Janet Pickett and Sis. Jane Hadrick, members of the kitchen committee served a delicious meal after the morning worship. The Choral Ensemble provided music for the day and the lay members and members from surrounding churches participated as worship participants throughout the day.

Bro. Reverdy R. Garrett, president of Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization bought greetings and expressed his congratulations and words of encouragement for future endeavors.

We have supported all the programs of the conference and district lay organization. We also have been part of the connectional biennial meetings in Kansas City, Kansas and Atlanta, GA. Some of our members have attended the General conferences in Orlando, FL (1992); Louisville, KY (1996);



5001 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19143
Telephone: (215) 476-5340

Rev. James E. F. Lawrence, Presiding Elder / Interim Pastor

www.templeofphilly.org

Mrs. Cheryl L. Ford, Lay President

On September 17, 1975 the founding Pastor, Rev. Gabriel S. Hardeman, Sr. permitted the president of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization to come and organize the Hickman Temple AME Church Local Lay Organization. The positions appointed at the initial organization were president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Present at the meeting were the late Sis. Lethal Twine who served as President, Sis. Peggy Pinder, Director of Lay Activities, Sis. Irene E. Suggs and the late Sis. Helen C. Scriber. These persons attended their first Philadelphia Conference Lay meeting in October 1975.

President Twine encouraged the members to get involved with both Conference and District activities. Sis. Twine served as Third Vice President, Chair of the Fall Fundraiser and until her health began to fail she was one of the transportation coordinators. Sis. Pinder served as PCLO Luncheon Chair and the church received the coveted Three Year Attendance Award. Mrs. Pinder also served as Third Vice President and Breakfast Chair. Hickman Temple's Lay Organization has hosted many outstanding Lay Persons including the late J.D. Williams, Dr. Joseph McKinney, and Arthur Brown.

President Leonard Williams joined the group and moved on up the ladder to become First Vice President of PCLO and Chair of the October Fundraiser. Sis. Angela Pinder was elected as President and tried very hard to get young people to become involved. The following year Sis. Twine became President again and the organization increased in size.

When Sis. Twine relocated, Bro. Leonard Williams again took the helm of the presidency until his health began to fail. Sis. Janice Mitchell became the President after the lengthy illness of Leonard Williams. A short hiatus was taken by the organization prior to the appointment of Reverend Jocelyn K. Hart. Rev. Hart saw the need to reorganize the Lay and appointed Sis. Cheryl L. Ford as the President. The lay has consistently maintained the mandate of Pastor Hardeman. Rev. Hardeman stated that a knowledgeable membership helps a Pastor to lead the church. Hickman Temple has had four pastors and each has praised the activities of the Lay Organization.

Since the 1975 inception, Hickman Temple has stepped up to be a leading church hosting four Philadelphia Annual Conferences, Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization meetings, workshops, having three of its members serve as Alternate Delegates to the General Conference and hosting the last session that Bishop Ernest L. Hickman presided over prior to his retirement. These activities were endorsed by the laity.

We boast of a membership of 18 who are: Cheryl L. Ford - President, Meredith Sanders - Recording Secretary Brenda A. Merrill - Financial Secretary, Walter C. Jeffers - Director of Lay Activities, Molsie Hampton - Chaplain, Michele K. Baldwin, Jacquelyn Walton Banks, Diane Datcher, Josephine L. Davis, Alycia Duncan (YA), Tina Flowers, James O. Ford, Mary Hattersen, W. Etta Kelley, Leroy Langston, Margie Neal, Reanna Rivers (YA), Tania Wright, and Clifton Young.

Jones Tabernacle African Methodist Episcopal Church

2021 Diamond Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19121

PRESIDENTS

Sarah Griswold (D)

Joseph B. Inabinet (D)

James R. Lake

Marsha Palmer

The Lay Organization of Jones Tabernacle AME Church was organized in 1949 under the Pastorate of Rev. Seymour H. Barker, 3rd pastor of the church. The first president, Sara Griswold and five charter members; Martha Vance, Merrie Cureton, Maude Toland, David Mack and Lillian K. Emory began as the Organized Lay of Jones Tabernacle, all of which are now deceased.

The current president is James R. Lake who has served under six administrations; Revs. Eustace Blake, Harry White, Eugene McAshan, Ellis B. Loudon, Stephen M. Lewis and continues to serve under the current pastor Rev. Manuel Biagas. Small in number for a long time, but not in service to the Local, Conference and the Connectional Lay Organization, the 1st District.

As officers, we served in the Philadelphia Conference, the First Episcopal District and participated in workshops on all levels as reporters and conveners. Members who served as delegates to General Conference were: Joseph B. Inabinet, Maude Toland, James R. Lake and Curtis E. Garrett as Alternate. Serving as Youth Delegates and Alternates were; Kevin Lamb and Curtis E. Garrett. Also, Bro. Joseph B. Inabinet served many years on the General Board.

The Philadelphia Conference Lay's Annual Luncheon chaired by Sisters L. Maefield Inabinet, Elizabeth Hall and Bro. James R. Lake was the first time the financial goal reached a milestone, and for nine years respectively; 1974 through 1985 taking home the Plaque for Attendance. A most effective Scholarship Committee during its time in the Philadelphia Conference was led by Sis. Lillian K. Emory under the administration of Presidents Timothy Johnson and Robert Brown.

We were fortunate to have Bro. Joseph B. Inabinet to serve as Philadelphia Conference Lay President for ten years; and also President of the First Episcopal District for eight years. Sara Griswold and Maude Toland served respectively as Treasurer and Financial Secretary of the District Lay Organization.

Jones Tabernacle AME Church, led by the Lay Organization, took an active part in hosting the 1955 and 1979 Biennial Conventions held in Philadelphia, PA.

Our Lay Organization has grown over the years to as many as 75 members. As young people have always been a part of the Organization, Kevin Lamb, Rodney Williams, and Chrystal Pitts were sponsored by the Lay Organization to the Dover Experience and later held offices in the organization as adults.

The Joseph B. Inabinet and William W. Carney Scholarship Luncheon was formed to recognize the work of these men in the vineyard and also to mentor and support our youth. Formed in 2003 under the Pastorate of Rev. Ellis B. Loudon, these young people were granted scholarships; Corrie Pounds, Nathaniel Edwards, Terrill Carney and Alexis Kelly Lamb. Following those recipients were: Ariel Council, Trae Pate and Steven Lewis. Honored at these luncheons were long time dedicated lay members; James R. Lake, Philmon Yelverton, Barnel Loudon, Alfleta Best, and L. Maefield Inabinet.

Currently, the committed and faithful members of the Jones Tabernacle Lay Organization represent, and meet all obligations on all levels the Organized Lay. The Local Lay of the Tabernacle includes representation from the various organizations, auxiliaries and boards of the church.

“TO GOD BE THE GLORY “

LaMott African Methodist Episcopal Church

1505 W. Cheltenham Avenue
Elkins Park, Pennsylvania 19027

Reverend Keith Hayward – Pastor
Mrs. Mary P. English – Local Lay President

History of the Lay Organization

The LaMott A.M.E. Church Lay Organization was organized in 1990 with eight members, under the leadership of Reverend Alfred Banks with Mrs. Bobbie Williams as the first president.

A bond between laity and the pastor of this great church resulted in the Lay Organization meeting its challenge by responding to the needs of the church and community. The goal to teach, train and educate helped to recruit members through seminars, annual meetings and the use of the Bible, Discipline, Lay Handbook and Hymnal.

In 1994, Mary P. English was elected President. Her immense commitment to educate and train is exemplified by the growth of the organization to its present membership which is a total of thirty members.

The motto of the LaMott A.M.E. Church is “laity and clergy working together for the betterment of our church”. Special thanks to those Laymen Soldiers who have helped to elevate the organization over the years are the late Presiding Elder Herman A. Rhodes and Reverdy R. Garrett; Judge Johnny Butler and Sis. Lillian Murphy.

Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church

39 West Stratford Ave, Lansdowne, PA

Reverend Clarence A. Martin, Sr., Pastor

Ms. Madace Thorpe, Lay Organization President

History of the Lay Organization



The Metropolitan AME Church Lay Organization was organized in 1969 and then reorganized in 1970 under the pastorate of Reverend William Paul Foley Sr. Mr. Louis James was elected the first president and served for one year, establishing the organization within the church. In 1970, Ms. Irvine Lewis was elected president. She served as the president from 1970 until September 2001. Under her leadership the organization continually expanded in its role, purpose, and presence within the church. As a result of her hard work and dedication to the Lay Organization, she was selected as the Philadelphia Conference Lay Person of the Year. Mr. James Lambright, who also received the Lay Person of the Year Award, served as president from September 2001, until his sudden death in December 2001. Ms. Madace Thorpe, who was serving as the 1st vice president, assumed leadership and continues to serve with vigor and enthusiasm.

The Metropolitan AME Church Lay Organization has hosted workshops, meetings, and presentations for those who wanted to know more about the church, church protocol, and the denomination; to this end, our Lay Organization has provided a forum for training. Metropolitan Lay Organization members are active participants on the local, district, conference, and Episcopal levels. Our Annual Lay Days are worship services which present excellent speakers and preachers. We are well-represented at the annual Philadelphia Conference Lay Luncheon, and throughout the years we have received the Attendance Award many times. Additionally, several of our youth have received the Lay Organization Scholarship presented to continue their college education, and the majority of our members have received the Philadelphia Conference Unsung Hero Award.

CURRENT OFFICERS

President ~ Madace Thorpe

1st Vice President ~ Julia B. Robinson

2nd Vice President ~ Deborah F. Stancil

Secretary ~ Andrea Phillips

Treasurer ~ Irene Hall

Lay Director ~ E. Catherine Shepard (Former, Lay Person of the Year)

Public Relations ~ Audrey F. Nock

Marshalls ~ Clarissa O. Ford, Jonathan M. Stancil, Faith L. Williams

Members

James Archie Sr.

Frances M. Green

Cora Morris

Stephanie Shelton John Waters

Mary Coker

Brenda Huggins

James Morris Sr.

Louise Taylor

Mary Gilliam

Alphonso Morris

Jimmie Shelton

Betty Waters

The Lay Organization is an integral part of the church, assisting where it is needed. The organization continues to train the lay of the church and encourage the laity to support the total program of the local and connectional church. We "Thank God" for those who have served and pray for renewed strength as we move forward in our new edifice!

"To God Be The Glory"

Monumental African Methodist Episcopal Church

Second & Adams Streets
Steelton, Pennsylvania 17113

History of the Lay Organization

The Lay Organization was organized in November 1986. It was through the longevity of the late Sister “Del” Sloane’s outstanding Christian and Civic Leadership, wisdom, and God granted talents that the Lay Organization was initiated and organized. She became the first president under the leadership of the late Reverend Charles E. Martin.

Sis. Sloane’s extensive knowledge of the Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church inspired the members of the church to become a part of the organized lay. She encouraged us to *“strive to 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.”*

In 1989, the presidential torch was passed to our present president Sister Anita Hanna Matthews who served her first two quadrennials (8 years) and has fulfilled intermittent tenures as the President.

It was through her predecessor’s leadership and mentoring that “stirred up the gifts within” Anita. And, by the grace of God, while wearing this “presidential mantle” it is Sister Anita’s desire to serve God and her church with diligence, pride, and fortitude, so that others will be encouraged to “render their gifts and talents” for Kingdom building at Monumental and throughout.

During the intermittent term of President Matthew’s tenure, Sister Audrey M. Clowe served a term as the president as well rendering her time, talent, and stewardship.

Our present membership is 41 and many of our 25 year charter members render active service and faithful support in a steadfast way. The ages of our members range from Young Adult to our Seasoned Senior Saints Circle who range in the ages of 80 to 96 years of age of whom 99% are yet able to attend worship services and faithfully support the work of the Lay Organization.

SEASONED SENIOR SANITS CIRCLE

“These are They” upon whose shoulders we stand:

*Barbara Jean Baker *Annabelle Curtis *Nestine House *Theresa House *Florence Mosby
Helen Pettigrew William Pettigrew

OFFICERS:

*Anita Hanna Matthews, President
Marcie A. Carter, 1st Vice President
Alicia D. Smith, Recording Secretary
*Rosetta Archie, Financial Secretary
*John Archie, Director of Lay Activities
*Adam S. Elliott, 2nd Vice President
*Rosa Crosson-McCormick, Treasurer
Jimmie Carter, Sr., Chaplain
William Hanna, Sr., Parliamentarian
Marshals: *Rosa Jackson James Archie Towanna Johnson

MEMBERS:

*Ina C. Alcendor Verna Archie Joyce Roach-Bradshaw Fredna Betton Kenneth Chase
*Audrey M. Clowe *Mary Jane Davis Hope S-L Elliott *Alda Hanna Epps Charlotte Evans
*Denise House *Eleanore Howard Stephanie Jackson *Cynthia L. James Lawrence Matthews
*Theresa Miller D. Jackie Robinson *Terry Robinson Sonja Simmons Marge Smith
Grace Thomas Bernice White

The *denotes the 25-Year CHARTER MEMBERS

Morris Brown African Methodist Episcopal Church

1756 N. 25th Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19121

History of the Lay Organization

The Morris Brown Lay Organization was first organized in the early 1950's, under the pastorate of Reverend Henry Hilderbrand. The original members were:

William Cannon - President

Nyna B. Meyers

Naomi Kendle

Jessie Goodwin

Evelyn Bundy

Ruth Byrd

John Gadson

Bro. Cannon led the Lay for two years, until he was called into the ministry. At that point Sis. Nyna B. Meyers was elected our 2nd president, and held that position for about 25 years. Under her capable leadership during this time, the local lay at Morris Brown became very active in the support of our church. Later, in the 1970's, Sis. Jessie Goodwin noted that the local lay needed to involve more young church members, and one of the first was Shirley B. Richards. It was then that the lay became involved on the conference level and attended our first Annual Conference, held in New York City.

From that day forward, our lay has been a strong participant in the Conference Lay, Episcopal District Lay, and the Connectional Lay. Upon the death of Sis. Myers, Bro. John Gadson was elected our 3rd president. He has now served as president of our local lay for more than 30 years. John's knowledge and commitment also garnered him the honor of election to 2nd Vice-President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. During the ensuing years, our lay has swelled in membership to its highest level; to 29 members. They are as follows:

Carshena Baker

Helen Boone

Gertrude Carter

Gwendolyn Enoch

Magdalene Fields

Dwayne Franks

Mabel Franks

Linda Frazier

Fred Ford

Annabelle Fortune

John Gadson

Rosalie Jackson

Betty Johnson

Sherri Keys

Eric Kamper

Lawrence Kelly

Beverly Lee

Mildred Martin

Lillian McAllister

Mary McCollum

James Nelson

Victoria Nelson

Victoria Portlock

Sadie Richards

Shirley Richards

Wanda Ringgold

Monique Rucker

Rafael Victor

Ernestine Williams

It is our mission to continue to teach and train our membership the values of the Laity in the life of the A.M.E. Church.

Submitted by: Shirley B. Richards, Director of Lay Activities

John Gadson, President

Rev. James P. Baker, Pastor

Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

419 Richard Allen Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19147

History of the Lay Organization

Brother Allen D. Perrin: Founded the Lay Organization at Mother Bethel AME, during that period it was called “The Layman’s League”. The exact year is unknown.

Charles Henry Davis: joined Mother Bethel and served as a lifelong member under the leadership of the late Dr. Henry Pinckney Jones. Brother Davis served in the capacity President of the “Layman’s League” now known as the Lay Organization for 25 years.

Laura Belle Wilson Raby: During her tenure served as the President of the Lay Organization.

Francis Hairston: served as President and 2nd Vice President of Mother Bethel Lay Organization.

Irene Armstrong: Sister Armstrong has served diligently as the President of the Lay Organization from 2002-2010.

Charles Jones: Brother Jones is the current President of Mother Bethel AME Lay Organization

Mount Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church

428 N. 41st Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

History of the Lay Organization

The Lay Organization of Mt. Pisgah AME Church was organized one Wednesday evening in the year 1951 by Rev. Mansfield E. Jackson. There were ten persons present. They were: Rev. Mansfield E. Jackson, Joseph F. Walker, Joan W. Walker, Pauline I. Andrews, Julia B. Witherspoon, Mabel Parks, Sylvester Tatum, Harry Owens, Bertha Owens, and Joseph Cornish.

The organization was set up to meet once a month with the President and Pastor attending.

The following officers were elected:

President - Joseph F. Walker

Vice President - Sylvester Tatum

Secretary - Julia B. Witherspoon

Treasurer - Harry Owens

Chaplain - Mabel Parks

Soon after they were organized, an idea was born in the head and mind of the Pastor for Mt. Pisgah Church to have a Federal Credit Union. Rev. Jackson who was newly appointed to Mt. Pisgah at the time, came to us from Cathedral of African Methodism, St. James AME Church, which is located at Court and High Streets in Newark, NJ. The St. James Federal Credit Union was one of the largest in the First Episcopal District. Rev. Jackson had the distinction of organizing the same at Mt. Pisgah. Hence, it was not long after his appointment to Mt. Pisgah, that he saw the wisdom to organize one here. So, it came into being. It was named the Laymen of Mt. Pisgah Federal Credit Union (LMP). The first Treasurer elected was Pauline I. Andrews, who served for eight years. The Treasurer of the LMP Federal Credit Union since 1966 had been Eleanor P. Cogdell, who was appointed by Rev. George T. Sims, Jr. She retired from the credit union in 1995.

Sandra Geathers picked up the baton and served from 1995 until 2007. She served under the new administration of the Rev. Jay B. Broadnax from 2005-2007, until the closing of the LMP Federal Credit Union in 2007. The credit union served Mt. Pisgah's Church family and the community for more than fifty years.

Mt. Pisgah's Lay Organization has been kept together during the years under the leadership of Reverends Mansfield E. Jackson, John A. Alexander, George T. Sims, Jr., James L. Dandridge, Mickarl D. Thomas, Sr., Harvey H. B. Sparkman, III, and currently, Reverend Jay B. Broadnax.

The lay has faithfully worked toward kingdom building. The membership today has more than tripled what it was initially. Persons serving as President through the years have been: Joseph F. Walker, Joan W. Walker, Eleanor P. Cogdell, Cheryl Hammond Hopewell who served faithfully for eleven years from 1998 to 2009, and the current President, Shirley Moore-Harris.

This ministry is organized as per the Constitution and By-Laws of the Connectional Lay Organization, the First District Lay Organization, and the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. Our aim is to continue to move onward and upward instructing church members to become informed members.

Mount Sinai African Methodist Episcopal Church

2334 Highland Avenue
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109
Reverend Dr. Gwyndolyn Allen, Pastor

By

Patricia D. Awotwi, Mt Sinai Lay President

Mount Sinai African Methodist Episcopal Church is located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and was formed around 1918 by a group of people striving to serve God. It is part of the Harrisburg District of the AME Church. The Pastor is the Reverend Dr. Gwyndolyn Allen. Pastor Allen arrived at Mt Sinai AME Church in 1994. The Mt Sinai AME Lay organization was organized in 1997 under her guidance. Ruth Smith a vibrant and eager lifetime member of the church was elected as President of the organization. During her service Mt Sinai held fashion shows and volunteered in the Aids community. Ruth and many of her members also attended Lay Days in the local Harrisburg area.

In 2004 the Mt Sinai Lay were reorganized by Pastor Allen with the assistance of Mary McCullough. Patricia Awotwi, a member of Mt Sinai, accompanied Mary to the First Episcopal District Lay organizations annual meeting. At this meeting Patricia observed for the first time the voting procedures of the AME Church Lay organization.

In September of 2004 the members of Mt Sinai held a meeting. They elected Patricia Awotwi as their Lay president. Mary McCullough continued to mentor Mt Sinai's Lay organization and with her guidance Mt Sinai began to participate in the activities of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. The president attended many of the monthly meetings as well as Lay Days and activities of the local area AME churches.

Mt Sinai AME Church's Lay organization continues to grow. We now have a total of 20 members. With our Pastors support we actively work together to support our small but growing church. "To God be the glory for the things he has done."

Notable Points in Mt Sinai's Lays History

- ◆ August 2006 first Harrisburg District Lay meeting was held at Mt Sinai
- ◆ Dec 2006 1st Annual Lay Day at Mt Sinai AME George "Toby" Young a well known Baptist laymen was the speaker.
- ◆ Oct 2007 Ruth Smith was selected as Unsung Hero from Mt Sinai and was honored at the PCLO awards luncheon
- ◆ Dec 2007 Mt Sinai's 2nd Annual Lay Day former Harrisburg District Consultant Vanessa Bailey was the speaker
- ◆ March 2008, Mt Sinai AME Lay president Honored by Harrisburg District in the First Annual Presidents Extravaganza Luncheon
- ◆ July 2008, Local Lay President Patricia Awotwi served as Alternate Delegate to the General Conference in St Louis Missouri.
- ◆ Nov 2008 PCLO monthly meeting was hosted at Mt Sinai
- ◆ Dec 2008 Mt Sinai 3rd annual Lay Day Harrisburg District Liaison Mary McCullough speaker.
- ◆ In Dec 2009 our Lay Day was cancelled due to weather conditions.
- ◆ Dec 2010 4th Annual Lay Day the Honorable Johnny J Butler ESQ Judge, Commons Pleas Court, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania member of Lamont AME Church was the speaker.
- ◆ May 2011 Patricia Awotwi was elected to serve as a delegate to the 49th General Conference in Nashville Tennessee
- ◆ Nov 2011 Lay Day was held on Saturday November 26, 2011, the speaker was PCLO president Cheryl Hammond Hopewell.

Mount Tabor African Methodist Episcopal Church

961-71 North 7th Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123

215-574-1310 215-574-1312 (FAX)

Reverend Martha A. Lang, Pastor

In 1931, the Reverend Stanley Jarrett along with a few Christian women from various churches started the Christ Delight Mission, which later became the Mount Tabor AME Church. The church, though not large in numbers, was large in spirit and was committed to serving God. The church met in a house on Jefferson Street and then at 2222 West Master Street. The congregation moved to the present site in 1988, having fourteen members, six of whom were adults.

Under the leadership of Reverend Martha Lang, the membership of the church grew in great numbers and the various ministries and organizations were formed to better serve the members and the surrounding community.

In 1992, the first attempt to have an organized Lay Organization was begun by Terrell Jenkins, who attended Church School at Mount Tabor but was a member of Disney AME Church. After joining Mount Tabor, Brother Jenkins shared information regarding the Conference Lay Organization and attempted to get members of the congregation interested and involved but unfortunately interest could not be sustained.

Efforts to organize the local Lay Organization continued and in 1993, Mother Alice Mouzon was appointed to serve as the representative for Mount Tabor to the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. Mother Mouzon attended monthly meetings and shared the information received with a small group of persons who expressed interest within the local church. Attempts to participate in the various Conference activities and to meet the financial obligations were unsuccessful and the local organization became dormant.

In August, 1996, Reverend Martha Lang, named Sister Juanita Bryant, who had recently joined the church, as the acting president of the Mount Tabor Lay Organization and took her a meeting at Campbell AME Church, Frankford, presided over by the late Sister Shirley Washington. Also present were the late Sisters Ethel Butler and Jessie Godwin. The business of the meeting was to plan the Annual Fall Retreat of the Conference Lay Organization and Sister Bryant was asked to present a workshop as a way to introduce her to the Conference. She went on to serve as delegate, workshop leader and speaker. In 2006, Sister Bryant was elected Philadelphia Conference Director of Lay Activities.

Following the retreat and her formal election as president, Sister Bryant helped guide the growth and development of the local lay organization of Mount Tabor Church. There are presently 35 active member who meet regularly and engage in excellent teaching and training workshops presented by the Director of Lay Activities, Sister Carolyn Jones. In addition to meeting the financial obligations of the local church and the Conference, the Lay Organization is involved in community outreach services with Alpha Pregnancy Services and Philabundance.

The recognition of the dedicated work of local church laity has been a highlight of the year for Mount Tabor as "Unsung Heroes" are honored each year by the Conference. The organization has participated and named local heroes for the past 12 years. Their service has helped the lay ministry and we again proudly salute them: Christine Adams, Clarence Bredell, Doretha Casey, Ann Howard, Willis Howard, Carolyn Jones, Bee Malachi, Ada Miller, Alice Mouzon, Jackie Owens, Malcolm Sweet and Charlotte Wilson. An historic moment took place when President Juanita Bryant was named "Conference Lay Person of the Year, 2010", the first person from Mount Tabor to be so named.

The Mount Tabor Lay Organization hosted the officers and members of the 1st Episcopal District at Annual Lay Night of The Philadelphia Annual Conference in May, 2003. In addition, Mount Tabor served as hosts for the Philadelphia Conference meetings in April, 2005 and June, 2011.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!

Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church

440 Zion Hill Road
Atglen, Pennsylvania 19310

History of the Lay Organization

The Lay Organization of Mount Zion A. M. E. Church, Atglen, Pa was started under the pastoral leadership of the Reverend George H. Beachum, IV in the year 1996. The first Lay President was Bro. Kenneth White. He served for two years.

Bro. Edward Dickinson became the next President in 1998 and held that position until 2004 when the interest in the Lay fell off. Some time after that Sis. Deonna Harrell stepped in as the acting president in an effort to re-energize the organization.

In June 2011, an election was held for a new president and Bro. Edward Dickinson once again became the official president. He currently has the support of twenty new members.

Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church

10th & Center Streets

Darby, PA 19023

Reverend Alberta Jones, Pastor

History of the Lay Organization

The Lay Organization was organized in 1989 under the pastorate of Reverend Dr. Katherine Baker-Rose.

The organization has gone through a few re-organizations since its inception. Rev. Alberta Jones, present pastor is leading the way to re-vitalize the lay organization at Mt. Zion. This organization is important to the growth of our church.

Its current membership includes:

President - Joyce Thornton

Active members

Harry Collins

Zanya Grant

Yvonne Lewis

Dr. Reginald Siles

Sharon Siles

Ethel Williams

Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church

1312 Willow Street ♦ Norristown ♦ PA ♦ 19401

(610) 279-8313—Church; (610) 279-6548—Fax

Reverend Kanice D. Johns, Pastor

HISTORY OF THE LOCAL LAY ORGANIZATION

The Lay Organization of Mt. Zion AME Church was organized in May 1970 under the leadership of Col. Fred Leven. On June 7, 1970, Mr. Joseph B. Inabinet, President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, officially installed the following officers:

President - Col. Fred Leven
Secretary - Mrs. Sherry Treasurer
Treasurer - Ms. Thelma Satterwhite
Chaplain - Mr. Frank Johnson

Col. Leven was the primary motivator in Mt. Zion, as well as an integral part of the Conference, District and Connection. He held the position of Local Lay President from 1970 to 2000, and continued to promote the goals of this organization to encourage members to join and learn about their church.

The object and purpose of the Lay Organization is to teach and train the lay members for effective service in the church and the entire AME Connection.

For more than 40 years, the Lay Organization was proud to state that they were not a dues paying organization because, from the beginning, they relied on the entire congregation to give of their time, talent and funds to support the organization. However, due to the current economic conditions, the members chose to become a dues paying organization as of the year 2011.

The Mt. Zion Lay Organization has met on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30PM, except for the months of July and August. Beginning January 2003, the meetings were held on the second Sunday of each month at 9AM. In 2009, the members elected to have their monthly meetings on the fourth Sunday at 8AM.

Updated November 1, 2011

God Our Father

Christ Our Redeemer

Man Our Brother

New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

6153 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144
Telephone Number: 215-438-2406

Rev. Kahlil G. James, Pastor

Email: newbethel200@aol.com

Sis. Cynthia Douse, Lay President

History of the Lay Organization

The Layman's Organization of New Bethel Germantown was organized in August 1975 by Rev. Marquerite L. Miles, under the direction of Rev. Dr. Carl D. Ogden, who was the pastor at that time. The officers were Esther D. Dove, President, Lillian Walker, 1st Vice-President, Catherine Massey, Secretary, Sojourner Guess, Treasurer and Harriet Truman, Parliamentarian. The members were Lillie Gardner, Mary Shine, Viola Hawkins, Ruth Wilson Daisey Royster, Maxine Ashton, Carl Dickerson, Oswanna Dickerson and Dennis Dickerson. The purpose of the Lay Organization was and still is training and teaching members of the church. Teaching the traditions and principals of African Methodism and keeping alive the memory of Bishop Richard Allen.

The following persons served as president:

Esther D. Dove	1975-1978
Ssterelita Claitt	1978-1983
Edith Frye	1983-1995
Esther D. Dove	1995-1998
Jeannette Congleton	1998-2008

Cynthia Douse is the current president having been elected in 2008.

We have fifteen very dedicated members. Two of the past presidents, Esther D. Dove and Jeannette Congleton, are still active members of the Lay Organization. Mrs. Harriet Truman, a founding member, served as treasurer of the Connectional Lay Organization.

We the members of The New Bethel A.M.E. Lay Organization thank Almighty God for what he has done, is doing and will continue to do in our lives so we can do his work as Laymen Soldiers.



New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

1646 Prospect Avenue, Willow Grove, PA 19090 • (215) 659-5184

LAY HISTORY

The Lay Organization at New Bethel A.M.E. Willow Grove was organized in 1998 by Sis. Dolly Jones. Sis. Jones had transferred her membership from Jones Tabernacle and was encouraged by Bro. James Lake to do so. The Pastor at that time was Rev. Issac Ryder. Sis. Jones served as President until her health prevented her worshipping at New Bethel. Bro. Carroll Woodridge was the second President followed by Sis. Alvetta Woods who is the current President.

Sis. Virginia Lee, Sis. Valerie Ward, Bro. Carroll Adams, Sis. Earlene Gaskins, Sis. Sylvia Banks and Bro. Carroll Woodridge have been recognized as Unsung Heroes.

New Bethel Willow Grove has hosted monthly Lay meetings and also hosted the 2007 Philadelphia Conference Lay Annual Meeting. Our local Lay members strive to be informed in the AME Doctrine and are consistently challenging others. Most recently, Philadelphia Conference President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell facilitated a workshop for our members.

Pastor Miriam Burnett is extremely supportive and encourages participation of the members.

St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Reverend Jerome Thomas, Pastor



13th and Walnut Streets, P.O. Box 596, Lebanon, PA 17042
Church (717) 272-5938 Home (717) 236-5685

November 19, 2011

In November 1991, under the leadership of pastor Rev. Arthur L. Rivers and Col. Fred Leven, Joseph Inabinet, George C. McLean and others from the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, St. John A.M.E. Church Lay Organization became a formal Local Lay Organization of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization.

On November 8, 1992 we celebrated our first Annual Lay day and continue to do so the Second Sunday in November every year since that date to the present.

Throughout the years, the St. John Lay Organization has been mentored by Local Lay Organization Presidents (namely Mary D. McCullough, Anita H. Matthews, and Frank Gilyard).

This President recalls words of encouragement from K. Brown, Past Connectional Lay Organization President, "If you only have three members, go forward with a President and Secretary."

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Hayes

Local Lay President

St. John A.M.E. Church, Lebanon, PA

Saint Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church

215 N. 57th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19139

History of the Lay Organization

Our organization was established in 1956 by Rev. T. E. Harper with the first president being Norman E. Duckett, Sr. Next to serve as president was Lloyd Q. Garriest followed by Rosalie Copeland, who implanted in the group, the travel bug and along with the Milbournes, Timothy Johnson and George McLean, would drive across the country to get to the Connectional meetings. When Theodore Milbourne took over the presidency, he continued the tradition and began to enlarge upon it by chartering buses and reserving train coaches and invited members of the Philadelphia Conference to travel with us. Under Charles McQueen, we established the Timothy J Johnson Layperson of the Year award and worked diligently with legislation to improve our church. Anita Coble and Judith Beverly were our next presidents. We established the George C. McLean Ensemble of the Arts and continued the tradition of travel and fellowship with our sister churches.

During the 55 years of our existence we had two members who were elected to the office of Chaplain of the Connectional Lay Organization in the persons of Timothy J. Johnson and George C. McLean. Brother McLean was also elected to the office of President of the First Episcopal District Lay Organization. We have had several other members elected to Conference and District offices.

Our current officers are:

President	Judith H. Duckett-Beverly
1 st Vice President	Lynne Malone
2 nd Vice President	Evelyn Wright
3 rd Vice President	LaGreta Brown
Recording Secretary	Patricia Goods
Assistant Secretary	Jacquelyn Carlton
Financial Secretary	Hattie Cruger
Treasurer	Mary J. Satchell
Director, Lay Activities	Marion G. Bolton
Director, Public Relations	Lorenzo Cruger
Chaplain	Faytress Hill
Historiographer	Lydia J. Kelly
Parliamentarian	Tamara McCollum
Pastor	Rev. Roland C. McCall

Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church - Elmwood

8398 Lindbergh Boulevard

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19153

Reverend Eugene V. McDuffy, M.Div., M.F.T., Pastor

History of the Lay Organization

The St. Paul Lay Organization was organized in the early 1960's under the pastorate of Reverend Matthew H. Nutter. The first President was Lillian Hill, Other founding members were officers: Boston Spivey, 1st Vice President, Alice Johnson, 2nd Vice President, Henrietta Garrett, Secretary, Edward Smith, Treasurer, Eugene Spivey, Chaplain, and Sadie Nutter, parliamentarian; members: Hattie Thurman, James Jackson, Essie Jackson, John McCleve, Frances Nelson, Rose Frank, Edith Smith, Leana Twymon, and Walter Simpson.

The membership continued to increase during these early years. Boston Spivey was elected President of our local Lay Organization in 1974, and he served terms of office in the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization as 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Vice President, as well as Chaplain.

Reverdy R. Garrett was elected President of our local lay Organization in 1984. He brought new ideas and an energetic spirit for service to our group. It was not long before the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization recognized this and elected him for two terms as Conference President. Under his leadership, our local Lay accomplished many things to further the mission of our church. We established the Boston Spivey Lay Award in his memory and to his honor. The award is presented to those persons who have served our local church and the lay Organization beyond the call of duty. The first recipient was Fannie Davis.

In 1986, we organized a highly successful food bank. Starting in 1988, we held a number of fund raising and social events at our church and in the community as outreach activities. We distributed food baskets to the needy at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We also subsidized our senior citizens attendance at the Philadelphia Conference Lay Luncheons, and in the process, won permanent possession of several of the "Annual Attendance Award for Churches" in our category.

Our current President is J. Curtiss Ayers. He was elected in September 2011, following the death of Reverdy R. Garrett, who served in that capacity for 25 years. Our Lay meetings are held faithfully each month. Over the years, our membership has grown in numbers and knowledge. We continue to focus on carrying out the work and purpose of the Lay Organization of training the laity in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

To God Be The Glory!

Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church - Malvern

225 Church Street – P.O. Box 1332

Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355

(Bus.) 610-647-7418 (Fax) 610-547-5815

Rev. Richard E. Lackey, Pastor

History of the Lay Organization

The St. Paul Lay Organization was reorganized in 2009 under the pastorate and direction of Reverend Ethel Moore. Members have worked faithfully for the past two years to encourage and support the current Pastor, Reverend Richard E. Lackey as well as the various ministries of the church. The lay members of St. Paul are all the church officers, presidents of auxiliaries and others who actively participate in organizations and activities of the church.

Sister Dereth Hicks is the president of the St. Paul Lay organization and along with other lay members, serves diligently attending local and connectional meetings on all levels of our church to keep informed of what is going on throughout African Methodism.

Other members' names are Frances Reason, Robert Wright, Barbra Bowles, Elaine Dickenson, Beverly Thorpe, Ressler McCollum, Tommie Dean, Sharon Sheppard, Lena Dodson, Lillian Williams, Mary Turner, Asa McCollum, Noah Thorpe, Beverly Valentine, Dorothy Newsome, Geraldine Boggs, Richard Sheppard and Lawanda Savoy. All members of the St. Paul Lay Organization love and appreciate their work for kingdom building.

Shorter African Methodist Episcopal Church

111 Pennington Avenue
Morton, Pennsylvania 19070
Reverend Roselin Martin, Pastor

History of the Lay Organization

Past presidents of the Lay Organization are:

Chauncey Phillips, Sr.
Elaine Phillips

Current membership is:

Sarah Jay - President

Suzette Brewster

George Dickerson

Margaret Dickerson

Sandra Dyitt

Maria Elliot

Kimberly Harper

Bernice Hudson

Hazel Jarrett

Marian Jennings

Ida Johnson

Veronica Kimbrough

Garrison Lockely

Elaine Phillips

Mary Phillips

Richard Phillips

Michele Roberts

Patricia Trapp

Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church

27th & Cumberland Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19132

History of the Lay Organization

Trinity A.M.E. Church has, since its inception, had a group of dedicated and activist laypersons who concentrated on community stability, property acquisition and the saving of souls for Kingdom Building.

In its earliest years, Reverend Mahoney, an ex-slave who had learned to read and write, started an evening and Sunday school for Negroes in a little storefront on 29th Street (near York St.) in Philadelphia. With the assistance of community persons, classes were held and teachings of a Christian persuasion were conducted. In 1879, Reverend Mahoney with a small group of dedicated laymen organized a church and it was received into the Philadelphia Conference as Emmanuel A.M.E. Church by Bishop Daniel Payne.

From 1880 until the early 1930's, the Church changed the name from Emmanuel A.M.E. Church to Temple A.M.E. Church. This was done as the church purchased property and became involved in Philadelphia city politics and social issues. Many community meetings and both local church and A.M.E. Conference related forums were held at the church that many called "The Temple". Within its sanctuary, decisions were formed, laws were made, barriers were removed and lives were made whole. Under the leadership of Rev. Kelsey G. Keeys, the name was changed to Trinity; reflective of **Who** had brought them from such "a mighty long way"!

In May of 1965, the Reverend William P. Stevenson was assigned to Trinity and moved the growing congregation from 2418 W. York Street to its present location, 2500 N. 27th Street in 1973. At that time, a group of church lay leaders began to organize for the purpose of teaching, training and community activism but did not officially establish themselves as a local organization. In 1979, under the pastorate of Reverend Dr. Edward W. Saunders, the Trinity Lay Organization was organized and Mr. Leslie "Float" Burnett was elected the first official President. He served faithfully, attending meetings and involving laity in every component of Church business and salvation until he was called to his Heavenly Home.

Brother Ocie Ford followed in the footsteps of his former President and faithfully served until 1993, when the current President, Marian Spivey Sudler was elected as President. She serves as the first female President and continues to bridge the work of Laity with Christian Education and service to community.

Ward African Methodist Episcopal Church

728 North 43rd Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Reverend Terrence C. Hensford, Pastor

History of the Lay Organization

The Lay organization was organized during the fall of 1958 under the pastorate of Reverend William H. Smallwood. The organization had eighteen founding members. Brother Robert N. Brown was the first president of Ward's Lay Organization.

The mantle was transferred to Brother Benjamin Hyman who served as president under the pastorates of Reverend Herman A. Rhodes, Reverend James Baldwin, and Reverend Terrence C. Hensford, our current pastor.

Brother Hyman was a dedicated enthusiastic leader. He held the presidency for 20 years and never missed a General Conference or Biennial. He kept the members well informed about the program activities of the Conference Lay, thus enabling them to give better service to the Lord and to the church.

Under Brother Hyman's leadership, monthly breakfast meetings were instituted by which conference and connectional lay speakers along with other Christian laity provided workshops on topics of significance.

The Ward Lay flourished under his leadership so much so that it was difficult finding someone willing to lead the organization after his death in November 1999. His protégé, Sister Ernestine Johnson, a seasoned, enthusiastic member, succeeded him as president.

Sister Ernestine Johnson served as president from January 1999 until September 2006. She was a well informed, enthusiastic president, who fully supported the programs of the Lay. She participated in workshops and meetings of the Philadelphia Conference and West District. She also attended several General Conferences and Biennials where she gave fully of her time.

During several terms, Sister Johnson served as secretary of the conference lay and chaired the Health and Welfare (sick & shut-in) Committee. She supported the lay programs both spiritually and financially. Sister Teenie (as she was fondly called) was a lover of mankind. This was very apparent as she interacted not only with the lay organization membership, but with persons involved in other organizations of the churches throughout the connection.

She used the gifts God had given her to the glory of her Heavenly father and to the betterment of mankind. Her passing in 2006 was viewed with great sorrow by the members of Ward and Conference laity. Many a life did she touch with her sweet spirit and loving ways.

Upon Sister Johnson's death, Sister Bertha Smith was elected president and continues to carry on the work of the lay organization with excellence.



With Sincere Sympathy

John Gadson - Morris Brown

Active Philadelphia Conference Lay Organizations (without write-ups)

Church and President

Allen, Oxford - **Emma Moore**
Bethany, Harrisburg - **Alfreda Graves**
Bethel, Downingtown - **Sam Smith**
Bethel, Harrisburg - **Anna Cobb**
Bethel, Lansdowne - **Erika Sheralds-Hill**
Bethel, West Chester - **Carolyn Thomas-Kamara**
Calvary - **Zackary Barnes**
Emmanuel - **Theresa Rudd**
First AME - **Diane Long**
Greater Mount Olive - **Rosa Lee Johnson**
Josie D. Heard - **Albert E. Brown**
Mount Zion, Devon - **Juliet Jeter**
Saint John, Conshohocken - **Reita Todd**
Saint John, Wayne - **Karen Gomez**
Thornbury, Glen Mills - **Lelia Johnson**
Waters Memorial - **Gilroy Reid**
Zion - **Patricia Manson**

Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Officers

President - Cheryl Hammond Hopewell

1st Vice President - Frank Gilyard

2nd Vice President - John Gadson *

3rd Vice President - Gilroy Reid

Recording Secretary - Marian Spivey Sudler

Assistant Recording Secretary - Brenda Watts

Correspondence Secretary - Carolyn Thomas Kamara

Treasurer - Fern Wesley

Financial Secretary - Judith Beverly

Chaplain - Mamie Price

Historiographer - Cynthia Douse

Parliamentarian - Mary P. English

Director of Lay Activities - Juanita Bryant

Director of Public Relations - Anita Hanna-Matthews

Young Adult Representative - Walter C. Jeffers

Advisors

James Lake

E. Catherine Shepard

David M. Ward

* Deceased

Journal Committee

Cynthia Douse, Chairperson

Frank Gilyard, Co-Chairperson

Cheryl L. Ford, Journal Coordinator

Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President

Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization

Chairpersons

Attendance - Gloria Sharp

Concerns - Wanda Ringgold

Constitution & By-Laws - Louise Coursey

Education - Marian Spivey Sudler

Finance - E. Catherine Shepard

Badges - Carolyn Jones

Registration - Cheryl L. Ford

Tickets - Ruth Nelson

Hospitality - Shirley Moore-Harris

Membership - Marion Bolton

Memorials - Rosalie Jackson

Proposed Legislation - Mary P. English

Social Action - Cheryl L. Ford

Time & Place - Mildred Gilyard

Transportation - Marie Butler

Marshals

Marie Butler

Valorie Byrd

Walter C. Jeffers

Lillian Murphy

Henry Murray

Ethel Wanner



**PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION
FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

