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The Connectional Lay Organization Online

Bishop William Phillips DeVeaux Sr, Lay Commission Chairman
Dr. Willie C. Glover, President of the Connectional Lay Organization
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THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

49TH Quadrennial Session of the General Conference



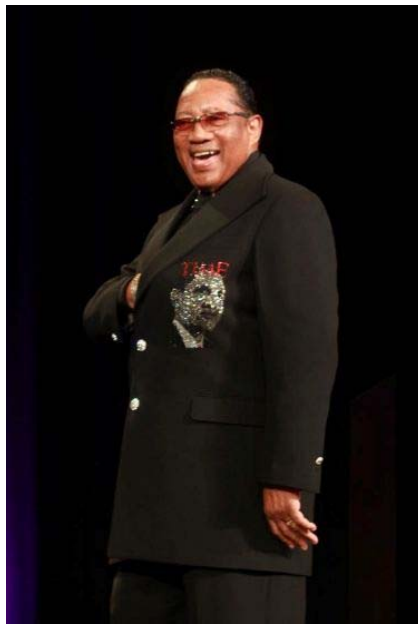
Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram
Chairperson of the General Conference Commission

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie
Host Bishop

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The Connectional Lay Organization Celebrates Its Centennial
Breakfast at the
African Methodist Episcopal Church General Conference
Dr. Bobby Jones featured at the Stellar Event



The internationally famous Dr. Bobby Jones served as the stellar star he is at the African Methodist Episcopal Church Connectional Lay Organization's Centennial Celebration at a standing-room-only breakfast event. It was held on Sunday, July 1, at the Opryland Resort and Convention Center in the President's Ballroom.

The Connectional Lay Organization was established in 1912 as a Body of the Church. Its purpose is to train and educate the Laity through lay witness, leadership training and advocacy. Breakfast Program Coordinator and Centennial Celebration Co-Chair, William "Bill" Ayers said, "This Centennial Celebration was an outstanding affair during the 49th Quadrennial Session of the AME General Conference. Dr. Bobby Jones was absolutely exceptional and kept the audience totally engaged."

The fact that the event took place at 7 a.m. did not discourage anyone from attending. It was held in the very attractive Presidential Ballroom decorated in traditional Lay colors of blue and white that greeted the audience. When Dr. Jones was introduced by Dr. Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, a member of the Lay at Greater Bethel in Nashville, the audience was ecstatic. Here in Music City, this group was witnessing the star of BET's longest running program. "Dr. Jones was inspiring, educational, encouraging and uplifting. It was perfect for the early morning celebration," said Ayers.

"I was honored to be a part of this great celebration of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church," said Dr. Jones. He met old friends and became acquainted with loyal fans who have watched him on television for years. Now, this Tennessee native was welcoming guests to his home state while celebrating a special milestone in the life of the A.M.E. Church.

The event was filled with all genres of music-- jazz, gospel, opera and liturgical

dance. It was a morning filled with music, movement and voices of praise. “The goal of the program was to be all-inclusive, which involved cross generational program participants,” said Ayers. Each guest received a clear glass faceted mug with the CLO Centennial icon embossed with a gold-rim as a commemorative memento.

Chair of the Lay Commission, Bishop C. Garnett Henning, congratulated the Laity for the fine work that has been done and its’ Centennial Celebration. He said, “I have been known as a Lay Bishop and I am proud of that.” He shared with the audience that this was a time to reflect and review, and to plan ahead for a brighter future. Bishop Henning retires at the end of this General Conference on July 4, 2012.

This was more than an event to celebrate the centennial; it was a time to plan for the future. Dr. Willie C. Glover, president of the Connectional Lay Organization said this was a significant event. “I am quite thrilled Dr. Bobby Jones graced us with his presence this morning so we could share our special celebration with a star of his caliber with him.” He added, “I am so pleased we have had this great celebration to commemorate our existence and do it in such grand style.”

“We have done great things during this centennial year celebration and plan to do more,” said Dr. Paulette Coleman, co-chair of the year-long centennial celebration. Dr. Bobby Jones acknowledged several individuals in the audience including, Richard Lewis, treasurer and CFO of the AME Church and Drs. McDonald and Jayme C. Williams. Dr. Jones was a student in Dr. Jayme Williams undergraduate class when he attended TSU.

In addition to a great celebration, the goal of the centennial event was to raise a minimum of \$50,000 for scholarships and to support outreach ministries under the AME banner. Ms. Anna Johnson and Mrs. Eddie White were co-chairs of this memorable Lay event.



The purpose of the Lay Organization is to organize and train the lay members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, so that each member 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.