



# The Lay Communiqué

Magazine of The 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization  
African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Digital / Web Edition



The 13th Edition of the Digital Web Magazine † 3rd/4th Qtr. Issue † August ~ December 2022

*Online Content updates are continuous ~ Please send your events & other AME flyers for publication!*



**SEASONS CHANGE AS GOD CONTINUES TO BLESS US WITH EACH SEASON OF OUR LIVES ~ ©AJSG**

**Content in this Digital Magazine will update as new information is submitted / added within the Issue's time frame  
Please send your event dates &/or flyers, photos & features for the Digital Lay Communiqué**

Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization President: Ms. Patricia H. Wright † West Coast Conference  
EED Lay Organization Director of Public Relations: Ms. Robbyn M. Hopewell † West Coast Conference  
Digital Communiqué Magazine design by AJSG ~ EEDLO Web Servant † East Conference





# SAINT PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH, JACKSONVILLE TO HOST 2022 PLANNING MEETING ~ NOVEMBER 16-18, 2022 ~

BISHOP REID, III

SUPERVISOR REID

BISHOP FREEMAN

APOSTLE VAUGHN

BISHOP WRIGHT

PRESIDING ELDER LOVELACE



## PLANNING MEETING

6910 NEW KINGS RD. JACKSONVILLE, FL SAINT PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH  
NOVEMBER 16-18, 2022   11THDISTRICTAME

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

NOVEMBER  
16-18



BISHOP FRANK M. REID, III

SUPERVISOR MARLAA REID

## PLANNING MEETING

6910 NEW KINGS RD. JACKSONVILLE, FL SAINT PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH

In-person & Online Worship Experience   11THDISTRICTAME - AME11th.org

**MEET US IN JACKSONVILLE, FL**  
**For The**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District's**  
**2022 PLANNING MEETING**



**NOVEMBER 16-18, 2022**

**All Services will be held at**

**ST. PAUL AME CHURCH**  
**6910 New Kings Road**  
**Jacksonville, FL 32219**  
**Rev. Dr. Willie N. Barnes, Jr.**  
**Host Pastor**

**Bishop Frank M. Reid, III**  
**Presiding Prelate**

**Mrs. Marlaa' H. Reid**  
**Episcopal Supervisor**

# 2022

## 11<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT POWER, PREACHING & PLANNING CONFERENCE

*\*Hybrid Experience*

*COVID Protocols: All attendees must wear masks during all sessions*

***Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>***

***District Activities & Component Meetings via Zoom***

***7:30am 11TH DISTRICT PRAYER CALL (conference call line)***

***6:00pm - 7:00pm Component Meetings - Set 1 (via Zoom)***

- ***Clergy Families Organization CFO***
  - ***Lay Organization LO***
  - ***Women in Ministry WIM***
- ***Debutante-Masters Commission DMC***
  - ***Young People's Division YPD***

***7:00pm - 8:00pm Component Meetings - Set 2 (via Zoom)***

- ***Women's Missionary Society WMS***
  - ***Music Ministry MCAM***
    - ***Evangelism EVG***
    - ***Sons of Allen SOA***
  - ***Health Commission HC***
  - ***Christian Education CED***

***8:00pm - 9:00pm Component Meetings - Set 3 (via Zoom)***

- ***Nehemiah Ministry NM***
    - ***Social Action SA***
    - ***Disaster Relief DR***
    - ***Board of Examiners BOE***
  - ***Richard Allen Young Adult Council RAYAC***
-



***Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>***

7:30am 11<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT PRAYER CALL (conference call line)

***10am Presiding Elders Meeting w/ Bishop Reid***

***12:30pm Presiding Elders & Consultants Luncheon with Episcopal Team Reid***

***2pm Presiding Elders Training w/Presiding Elder Jocelyn Hart Lovelace***

***4pm AFTERNOON BREAK***

7:11pm OPENING WORSHIP

**Preacher: Bishop Eric J. Freeman**

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***Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>***

7:30am 11<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT PRAYER CALL (conference call)

8am BOARD OF EXAMINERS MEETING w/BISHOP REID (St. Paul JAX Sanctuary)

9am CLERGY SESSION (St. Paul JAX Sanctuary)

*Wespath Benefits & Investments*

9am NON-CLERGY SESSION (St. Paul JAX Chapel)

*Spiritual Leadership led by EED Component Leaders*

10am PLENARY w/BISHOP REID

11:11am WORSHIP

**Preacher: Bishop Frederick Wright (20<sup>th</sup> District)**

1pm LUNCH BREAK

3pm AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION

WMS 2023 Quadrennial - 11<sup>th</sup> District Hosting Meeting



5pm DINNER BREAK

7:11pm WORSHIP

**Preacher: Bishop Corletta J. Vaughn**

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***Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>***

7:30am 11<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT PRAYER CALL (conference call)

9am PLANNING PLENARY (St. Paul JAX)

EWU, EWU Campus Ministry & District Components

***3 GOALS FOR THE UPCOMING CONFERENCE YEAR (3 minutes each)***

11:11am CLOSING WORSHIP

**Preacher: Bishop Frank M. Reid, III**





**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION**



TRANSFORMS, TRANSCENDS AND LIBERATES

# **Fall CLO Executive Board Meeting**

*Virtually*

## **December 9-10, 2022**

**Registration is Open Now – November 27, 2022**

**Districts: 1-13: \$35      Districts 14-20: \$20**

**REGISTRATION LINK:**

**[https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause\\_pdetails/MTU4Njgy](https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTU4Njgy)**

**Two workshop Presenters:**

**Rev. Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper**  
**AME Church Secretary**

**Ms. Darlene Ravenel**  
**7th Episcopal District DOLA**

**Business Session inclusive of:**

- President's Report and Update!**
- 38th Biennial Convention Overview**
- DOLA Report:**

**Timelines, Criteria and Process for Scholarship Applications, Outstanding Young Adult, Outstanding Lay person and Exemplary Episcopal District**

- Officer Reports**
- Committee Reports**

**BISHOP STAFFORD J. N. WICKER**  
**CLO COMMISSION CHAIR**

**MATIKANE A. MAKITI**  
**CLO PRESIDENT**

**PATRICIA WRIGHT**  
**CLO DIRECTOR OF LAY ACTIVITIES**

**JAMESHA WILLIAMS**  
**CLO YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVE**

**"Living A Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends and Liberates" LUKE 4: 18-19**

**DIANNE H. BATTLE CLO DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**



Stop worrying about the potholes in the road and celebrate the journey

Fitzhugh Mullan

# A Presidential Word...



## ***Greetings Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization!***

*One of my favorite quotes from Aristotle says "We are what we repeatedly do; excellence then is not an act but a habit."*

We become adept at what we do repeatedly. A great example is the way we celebrate the holidays. We bake the traditional desserts, as we anticipate with glee spending valuable, memorable time with loved ones. We reminisce. We play games. We laugh. Oh, how we laugh! We know just what to do, how to do it, and what it takes to make it successful. These are rituals we have observed for years on end. Therefore, we are comfortable and excellent at doing so. We are proficient celebrators of life. Somebody might use the adage that it's like riding a bike, for one does not forget how to ride a bike, even if the time since the last ride has been weeks, months, or years.

What, then, you may be wondering, does this rambling have to do with the concept of 'Celebrating the Journey?' Episcopal District Lay members, it is about the excellence of work and witness that you repeatedly do so well. I am in awe of your level of support and grit. Thank you for standing up, stepping in and for never shrinking from undertaking what ever comes your way. You have indeed shown yourself to be excellent. Even in the throes of a pandemic, you have engaged in new and untried approaches to push the organization forward in ways that glorify GOD! Officers, as you make your reports during this meeting, be intentional in sharing your celebrations. Let's celebrate the journey into this new year of Hope, Grace and Mercy! We are in this TOGETHER!! Let's Make GOD Proud!

*I remain grateful that our roads have intersected  
at the junction where Life and Lay meet.*

*But as it is, they desire a better country,  
that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is  
not ashamed to be called their God, for he  
has prepared for them a city.*

(Hebrews 11:16)

*Patricia Wright #8*



# Connectional Lay Organization Theme

## “Living a Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends and Liberates”

**The Scriptural Reference: Luke 4: 18-19**

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

Living a Global Witness Ministry means that we intentionally, on purpose, in an unabashed way, in a public way, in a relational way, desire to bring witness that is different, daring, innovative, engaging and liberating.

We serve a church that spans 39 countries, 5 continents, speaks countless languages, is governed by democracy, aristocracy, monarchy amid a plethora of cultures and yet believes in **THE SAME GOD**. We are separated by miles, resources, agendas, political interests and for the past 18 months we can add pandemic to the mix of reasons that we are apart. We have been kept together through the innovation of technology, the willingness to transform to a different way of thinking and worshipping and witnessing. We have had to transcend the usual way of doing things so that all could be privileged to a liberating gospel. We as the Organized Lay Organization have had to step up and be demonstrative of the outcomes we are desirous of seeing. In other words, Living A Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends and Liberates is where our mission rests.

**Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transforms is real life ministry.** Everybody seems to be using the word “transformation” to describe the impact of what they are doing. There is transformational leadership, transformational management, transformational development, transformational business, transformational care, transformational learning, transformational marketing!

As we continue to use the term to describe our Christian ministries, we should be clear about what we mean when we use it. The Biblical concept of transformation flows from an intensely personal relationship with God. As shared by one Bible scholar, “It is a complete regeneration of our being, thinking, and doing that works itself out in our families and communities.” It is not something that is achieved by external force or theories of social change, but by a work of God in the heart.

God transforms from the inside out. As followers of Jesus, we have all experienced the transforming power of God at work in us – that quiet work of the Holy Spirit convicting us of wrongdoing, cleansing our hearts, shaping our character, changing our attitudes, and influencing our actions.

**Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transcends goes beyond borders and boundaries.** It is the charge and chance for us to extend ourselves beyond our comfort zones to communicate and create avenues that will reach generations, open minds and activate people to engage in a unifying work.

**Living A Global Witness Ministry that Liberates frees one to be liberal in praise, in service and witness.** The gospel is a message of freedom and liberation — the ministry of Jesus was that of liberating captives.

The gospel tells us that it is through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that we can courageously leave our comfort zones to reach, teach, preach and serve others just like Christ did in the synagogues. And so we shall by **Living a Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates.**



Living a Global Witness Ministry that  
**TRANSFORMS, TRANSCENDS AND LIBERATES**



# The Bishop is on the MOVE...



The itinerancy is a traveling ministry. It is the portal through which the clergy moves. In the AME Church one thing that is certain is that movement will occur within the leadership of our Zion. Nothing makes that point more clearly than a review of what will and may occur in 2024 with mandated movement for over 55% of the Bishops in the AME Church.

Indicated with **GREEN shaded box** below are moves that must occur in 2024. A **RED shaded box** indicates no move is mandated, though one can still occur. The Ecumenical and Located Bishop may also impact the assignment rotation. 2024 will be a time of Episcopal Moves. Stay Tuned!!!

YES	NO	DISTRICT	Bishop	NOTE
GREEN		1	Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr.	Retirement Date 2024
GREEN		2	Bishop James Levert Davis	8 Year Law
	RED	3	Bishop E. Earl McCloud Jr.	Assigned - GC 2021
GREEN		4	Bishop John Franklin White	Retirement Date 2024
GREEN		5	Bishop Clement W. Fugh	Retirement Date 2024
GREEN		6	Bishop Reginald T. Jackson	8 Year Law
GREEN		7	Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green Sr.	8 Year Law
	RED	8	Bishop Stafford J. N. Wicker	Assigned - GC 2021
GREEN		9	Bishop Harry Lee Seawright	8 Year Law
GREEN		10	Bishop Adam J. Richardson Jr.	Retirement Date 2024
GREEN		11	Bishop Frank Madison Reid III	Retirement Date 2024
GREEN		12	Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell	8 Year Law
GREEN		13	Bishop E. Anne Henning-Byfield	Retirement Date 2024
	RED	14	Bishop Paul J.M. Kawimbe	Assigned - GC 2021
	RED	15	Bishop Silvester S. Beaman	Assigned - GC 2021
	RED	16	Bishop Marvin Clyde Zanders II	Assigned - GC 2021
	RED	17	Bishop David Rwhynica Daniels	Assigned - GC 2021
	RED	18	Bishop Francine A. Brookins	Assigned - GC 2021
	RED	19	Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford Sr.	Assigned - GC 2021
	RED	20	Bishop Frederick Allen Wright	Assigned - GC 2021
	ECUMENICAL	Ecumenical	Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath	Assigned - GC 2021
	LOCATED	Located	Bishop Wilfred Jacobus Messiah	Assigned - GC 2021



# BE A CHAMPION!

The Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization is looking for **CHAMPIONS**—enthusiastic mentors willing to guide our SELMO BRADLEY and WILLIE J. WILLIAMS Scholarship recipients as they attend colleges and universities around the country.

## Champions are asked to:

**Contact Student  
Bi-monthly**

**Support with  
Socialization**

**Encourage and Listen Actively**

## Interested?

Contact Loretta Coppock at [jolorcop@bellsouth.net](mailto:jolorcop@bellsouth.net) or 904.751.7300.  
You can also contact your Conference Lay President to learn more.



# GET READY! PRELIMINARY INFO BELOW...

## THE SWEETER THE KNOWLEDGE 2.0

We will begin to collect ads after our 78th Convention

This is the book for Brothas and Sistahs TOGETHER

We will create a Printed Color Souvenir Journal Book of FULL Page Ads

Each ad is \$125.00

Ask Greek Friends, Sororities, Fraternities, Civic and Social Groups,  
Fraternal Organizations, Eastern Stars, Masonic lodge members,  
Jack and Jill, Links, et cetera...

Your Print ready ad may be submitted to [eedlo1@gmail.com](mailto:eedlo1@gmail.com), or a request for your ad to be created may be sent to the same; the dates will post on our upcoming flyer. There will be a link available through **RegFox** where you can submit your funds securely... **STAY TUNED!**

**PARTNER WITH FRIENDS TO DO AN AD TOGETHER!!**

Securing 200 ads will allow us to increase the number of scholarships we award and support registration of more persons attending the 2023 Connectional Lay Biennial Convention in Chicago.

*Our first project was successful because of your help, we Thank You! For 2.0, we look forward to sharing ALL Organizations & Groups' ADs as you REPRESENT creatively. Plan now to secure your special page in "THE SWEETER THE KNOWLEDGE 2.0!"*

African Methodist Episcopal Church  
The Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization



**"THE SWEETER THE KNOWLEDGE"**





***The Revised Common Lectionary ~ a Service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library ~ Year C***

Season after Pentecost Year C	First* reading and Psalm	Alt* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost August 7, 2022	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23	Genesis 15:1-6 Psalm 33:12-22	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 14, 2022	Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19	Jeremiah 23:23-29 Psalm 82	Hebrews 11:29- 12:2	Luke 12:49-56
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 21, 2022	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6	Isaiah 58:9b-14 Psalm 103:1-8	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 28, 2022	Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16	<i>Proverbs 25:6-7</i> Psalm 112	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 4, 2022	Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1	Philemon 1:1-21	Luke 14:25-33
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 11, 2022	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14	Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
<b>Holy Cross</b> September 14, 2022	Numbers 21:4b-9 Psalm 98:1-5 <i>or</i> <i>Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38</i>		1 Corinthians 1:18-24	John 3:13-17
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 18, 2022	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Psalm 79:1-9	Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 25, 2022	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16	Amos 6:1a, 4-7  Psalm 146	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost October 2, 2022	Lamentations 1:1-6 Lamentations 3:19-26 <i>or Psalm 137</i>	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 9, 2022	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Psalm 66:1-12	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c Psalm 111	2 Timothy 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19
<b>Canadian Thanksgiving Day</b> October 10, 2022	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 100		Philippians 4:4-9	John 6:25-35
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 16, 2022	Jeremiah 31:27-34 Psalm 119:97-104	Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 121	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Luke 18:1-8
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 23, 2022	Joel 2:23-32 Psalm 65	<i>Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22</i> Psalm 84:1-7	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Luke 18:9-14
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost October 30, 2022	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144	Isaiah 1:10-18 Psalm 32:1-7	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12	Luke 19:1-10

*The Revised Common Lectionary ~ a Service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library ~ Year C/A*

Season after Pentecost Year C	First* reading and Psalm	Alt* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
<b>All Saints Day</b> November 1, 2022 <i>(Sometimes observed on first Sunday in November)</i>	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Psalm 149		Ephesians 1:11-23	Luke 6:20-31
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost November 6, 2022	Haggai 1:15b-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 <i>or</i> <i>Psalm 98</i>	Job 19:23-27a Psalm 17:1-9	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17	Luke 20:27-38
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost November 13, 2022	Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12 **	Malachi 4:1-2a Psalm 98	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19
<b>Reign of Christ</b> Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost November 20, 2022	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79 **	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 46	Colossians 1:11- 20	Luke 23:33-43
<b>Thanksgiving Day, USA</b> November 24, 2022	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 100		Philippians 4:4-9	John 6:25-35



Advent Season / Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> November 27, 2022	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> December 4, 2022	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> December 11, 2022	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146:5-10 <i>or</i> <i>Luke 1:46b-55</i>	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> December 18, 2022	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25





# ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CALENDAR ~ SEPTEMBER — DECEMBER 2022

## SEPTEMBER

September 1-30	Sons of Allen "Prostate Health Month"
September 5	LABOR DAY
September 10	Florida Conference YPD Annual Day
September 15	Florida Conference WMS Annual Day
September 15-16	Florida Annual Conference
September 24	Central Conference YPD Annual Day
<b>November 3</b>	Central Conference WMS Annual Day
<b>November 3-4</b>	Central Annual Conference

## OCTOBER

October 8	South Conference YPD Annual Day
October 13	South Conference WMS Annual Day
October 13-14	South Annual Conference
October 15	West Coast Conference YPD Annual Day
October 20	West Coast Conference WMS Annual Day
October 20-21	West Coast Annual Conference
October 22	East Conference YPD Annual Day
October 27	East Conference WMS Annual Day
October 27-28	East Annual Conference

## NOVEMBER

November 1	ELECTIONS
November 5	Bahamas Conference YPD Annual Day
November 10-11	Bahamas Annual Conference
November 10	Birthday of Supervisor Marlaa Reid
November 16-18	11th District Planning Meeting
<b>November 24</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b>

## DECEMBER

December 3	Day of Sharing, Florida Conference
December 4	Day of Sharing, East Conference
December 10	Day of Sharing, Central Conference
December 10	Day of Sharing, West Coast Conference
December 11	Day of Sharing, South Conference
<b>December 25</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>



## AME CONNECTIONAL MEETING CALENDAR ~ (October Cont'd)

- October 13 **12th Episcopal District ~ WMS Day**
- October 13-14 **Arkansas Annual Conference**
- October 15 **Youth (YPD) Day**
- October 15 **9th Episcopal District  
WMS & YPD Annual Conference**
- October 19-21 **13th Session of the Southwest Alabama Annual Conference**  
St. John AME Church - Kushla  
Rev. Benjamin Lightner, Host Pastor  
Rev. Johnnie Bryant, Host Presiding Elder
- (October) TBA **4th Episcopal District  
WMS Annual Day  
India Annual Conference**
- (October) TBA **4th Episcopal District Planning Meeting**
- October 20-21 **12th Episcopal District  
Fall Convocation & Planning Conference**
- October 22 **International Health Commission – Monthly Meeting**  
11:00 am (EST) / Zoom Call  
Meeting ID: 823 1602 5876 / Passcode: 537418

### NOVEMBER

- November 3-or-5 **9th Episcopal District Planning Meeting**  
Daniel Payne Community Plaza - Birmingham
- November 19 **International Health Commission – Monthly Meeting**  
11:00 am (EST) / Zoom Call  
Meeting ID: 823 1602 5876 / Passcode: 537418

### DECEMBER

- December 2-4 **CONN-M-SWAWO + PKs Annual Retreat**
- December 17 **International Health Commission – Monthly Meeting**  
11:00 am (EST) / Zoom Call  
Meeting ID: 823 1602 5876 / Passcode: 537418





78th Annual Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention Edition

# The Lay Communique

Published by Robbyn Hopewell ~ Director of Public Relations  
for The Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization





# The Lay Communique

78th Annual Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention Edition

## Worshippers charged to 'speak life' into A.M.E. Church

The 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention kicked off on Tuesday, June 21 with an exciting night at the Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church in Gainesville, Florida.

Eleventh District Presiding Prelate Bishop Frank Madison Reid III served as the evening's messenger and delivered a word from Proverbs 18: 21 titled "It's a Matter of Life or Death."

Bishop Reid spoke to current situations in the A.M.E. Church including the pension fund discrepancy. He encouraged the crowd of more than 300 worshippers to stop the infighting in congregations and organizations and start speaking life into the church for "death and life are in the power of the tongue."

Reid said a vocabulary of life-giving words is truthful, trustworthy, transforming, comforting and conquering. "All God has to do is speak a word to revive the A.M.E. Church," Bishop Reid said.

During the two-hour worship experience, the crowd was blessed with selections from the powerful East Conference Choir and a soul-stirring liturgical dance performance from EEDLO Young Adult Representative Ashley Blakely.

East Conference Lay Organization President Nicholas Causey welcomed his guests from around the Episcopal District to the convention, thanking all his supporters. "[The East Conference is] not going to stand to the side, we are taking over with you Bishop," Causey joked.



**Eleventh Episcopal District Presiding Prelate Bishop Frank Madison Reid III (above) and Young Adult Representative Ashley Blakely (below) at the 78th Annual EEDLO Convention Opening Worship Service at Greater Bethel A.M.E. in Gainesville, Florida.**



## Executive Board dedicates retreat proceeds to 2023 registration costs

The Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Executive Board met at the Female Protection Society of Gainesville on Tuesday for a business meeting.

EEDLO President Patricia H. Wright presented a plan to support mem-

bers in attending the Connectional Lay Organization Biennial in Chicago and the EEDLO Convention at the Atlantis Resort in Nassau, Bahamas in 2023.

President Wright proposed that proceeds from the 2023 EEDLO

Virtual Retreat be used to pay registration costs for members attending from each conference. If 300 people register for the retreat, the EEDLO can support 24 people (four from each conference) to attend each meeting. The board

voted unanimously to move forward with President Wright's proposal.

It also voted to continue the pursuit of 501(c)3 designation for the organization.

**Bishop Frank Madison Reid III**, Presiding Prelate of the 11th Episcopal District  
**Ms. Patricia H. Wright**, Connectional Lay Organization Director of Lay Activities and Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization President  
**Mrs. Robbyn M. Hopewell**, EEDLO Director of Public Relations



## First-time attendees get comedy, history at orientation

Connectional Lay Organization Chaplain and Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Charlie Nichols presented the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention First Time Attendees Orientation at 4 p.m. Tuesday to group of 15 newcomers eager to learn more about the church.

Nichols regaled the group with lay history, a breakdown of current episcopal lay and conference lay leadership and explained nuances of the week's activities including the seating by delegation and voting.

Attendees also heard about the schedule for the week and got in-depth explanations of all the activities to come—especially the first-ever FamiliLAY

Game Night hosted by the Young Adult Representatives. While explaining that conferences will be playing Family Feud against one another, Nichols shared a funny moment from the Steve Harvey-hosted TV show.

"Steve asked for a word that follows pork, and that man stepped up to the mic confidently and said 'upine'," Nichols joked. The presentation ended with a robust discussion of Black history centered on the Rosewood presentation set for Thursday.

"Every other group—the Japanese and Native Americans—have received reparations, except us," Nichols shared.



### Meet the First-Timers



**Kathy Luke, St. Mark A.M.E. Church-Orlando**  
"This is my first time in the Lay Organization and I am a local officer (Director of Public Relations). I just wanted to know more about the organization."



**Tekiyah Lewis, Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church-Houston**  
"I loved the orientation! I love history. The explanation of the schedule was great because I didn't know some of the terminology."



**Rev. Vaseal Montgomery, Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church-Houston**  
"I am scheduled to give the Bible study on Friday and my daughter is a part of Lay. I wanted her to see what is going on."

## East Conference Lay offers warm welcome to convention guests

For a third straight year, the East Conference Lay Organization welcomed the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization as hosts of the annual convention. The meeting was delayed by two years because of the global coronavirus pandemic.

East Conference Lay Director of Lay Activities Rhoshonda Herring welcomed the visitors from around the state of Florida and the Bahamas to Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church in Gainesville Tuesday with a heart-filled video presentation and words of thanks.

"We say the sun rises in the East, but really, it's you who brought the sunshine. Thank you for coming," Herring shared.

Video greetings from the East Conference Presiding Elders Rev. Elizabeth E. Yates, Rev. Tony D. Hansberry and Rev. Karl V. Smith, Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Kim A. Barton, County Commissioner Cynthia Moore Chestnut were screened in the sanctuary.

Alachua County Commissioner Shirley Green Brown, a resident of Alachua city, offered her

*We say the sun rises in the East, but it's you who brought the sunshine. Thank you.*

—Rhoshonda Herring, East Conference Lay  
Director of Lay Activities

greetings in-person. "God is awesome," she exclaimed.

# The Lay Communique

78th Annual Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention Edition

## 'FamiLay Game Night' brings the fun to annual convention

The party began as soon as the doors opened to the first FamiLay Game Night hosted by the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Young Adult Representatives. Old school tunes serenaded more than 70 attendees as they prepared for an evening of good old-fashioned fun and games.

EEDLO YAR Ashley Blakley welcomed the conference teams, each wearing a specific color to the evening festivities. All six conferences competed in fierce rounds of Family Feud, a TV game show where teams must come up with the most popular answers to survey questions. After three rounds, the Central Conference Lay Organization and the South Conference Lay Organization competed in the final. In the end, Team South

(Wesley Gillis, Dr. Judy Johnson, Deborah Langston, Anessa Read and Dorothy Reid prevailed.

Players also got a chance to sing out in a game of Lyrically Correct— Gospel Edition, where they were challenged to sing the correct lyrics to old favorites. Treasurer Sharon Causey shone bright for the East Conference Lay Organization.

EEDLO Director of Lay Activities Teresa White led the dance party in between games, surrounded by her West Coast Conference Lay crew.

To close the night, Bishop Frank Madison Reid III made a guest appearance to encourage the laity in a fellowship that blessed all who attended.



**Team South (left to right above) Anessa Read, Dorothy Reid, Wesley Gillis, Deborah Langston and Dr. Judy Johnson won Family Feud on Wednesday. Bishop Frank Madison Reid III (left in the center) took a picture with game night coordinators (left to right) EEDLO YAR Ashley Blakely, WCCLO YAR Raven Gainous, SCLO YAR Shrin Bryant, Florida Conference Lay YAR La'Tasha Jones, Central Conference Lay YAR Dominique Washington and East Conference Lay YAR Dante Buckson. (Right) EEDLO President Patricia Wright led the line dance.**



**Bishop Frank Madison Reid III**, Presiding Prelate of the 11th Episcopal District  
**Ms. Patricia H. Wright**, Connectional Lay Organization Director of Lay Activities and Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization President  
**Mrs. Robbyn M. Hopewell**, EEDLO Director of Public Relations



# EEDLO President Wright decrees 'We are S.T.I.L.L. H.E.R.E.'

"It's been a long two-and-a-half year journey, but we're still here."

That theme echoed throughout the President's Message during Plenary Session I of the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization.

In her message, EEDLO President Patricia H. Wright invoked the Harlem Renaissance writer Langston Hughes saying, "Life ain't been no crystal stair." The Lay Organization, like the mother in Hughes' poem, kept climbing, kept reaching landings.

The president also had a "Sankofa moment." Sankofa is an African concept that as we look back, we also look ahead. "I can say that as an organization, you have demonstrated determination in the midst of adversity and challenge. ... Despite



**Connectional Lay Organization Director of Lay Activities and EEDLO President Patricia H. Wright presented a broad view of organizational success in her end of year report.**

this new terror, you came back stronger, you came back better." The president's words were met with choruses of "Amen" and hand-claps.

In July 2020, the EEDLO held its first virtual convention and regis-

tered more than 500 people. The president said the organization became a model for what "could be."

"We never missed a beat," said President Wright. "Folks from all across our connectional church

began to take notice of the little 'ole Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization." By the hundreds, they came.

In a more somber moment, the president had attendees look to their left, then their right. She asked them to make note who wasn't there. "Perhaps it was your riding partner, your roommate, a person that you always called" when it was convention time. Everyone was encouraged to call the names of those who might be "hushed up in death."

First-time conference attendee Vera Gibbs of Flipper Chapel in Tallahassee found the message inspiring and encouraging. "I'm happy to see that our president is an outstanding leader. She knows how to get the job done."

President Wright "Told us how we weathered our storms and that we still have COVID-related obstacles. She was very inspiring," said Wayne Dickens of Hurst Chapel in Winter Haven.

## EEDLO constituents to get member cards, directories

Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization members are about to get more connected thanks to initiatives from First Vice President John Love and his team.

Love reported that all members present at the EEDLO Convention would receive a membership card this week and a directory with contact information for officers at the connectional, episcopal, annual conference and district of the annual conference levels in January 2023.

Love shared that Lay membership across the Episcopal District has increased by 5 percent—a boost reflected in the Registration



Report given at the convention's first Plenary Session on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Tyrone L. Presley of Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church said, "I am very optimistic that this directory will be effective. It will provide valuable information for all Lay to keep close contact."

Second Vice President Lothar Cherry reported she will be focusing on membership and creating a database for communication.

Third Vice President Johnnie Hill held virtual meetings focusing on evangelism with confer-

ences Third Vice Presidents discussing getting members involved in evangelism ministry. He also created an evangelism guide which has been submitted for further review.

### Convention Registration Report

Conference	Lay	Clergy
Bahamas	3	2
Central	33	11
East	66	22
Florida	37	11
South	27	15
West Coast	47	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>85</b>

## Conference Lay presidents celebrate increase, outreach to young adults

The Conference Lay presidents are busy with the work of the Lay Organization.

Among all six conferences is a common thread of increasing membership. Most notably, West Coast Conference Lay President Lolita Brown aimed to expand the membership of men in the WCCLO and did so by hosting an annual

membership drive which increased membership overall by 12%.

An overall theme among the conference presidents is the increase in young adult involvement.

Across the Eleventh Episcopal District, Conference Lay presidents are making a conscious effort to be inclusive with young adults by

creating programming and activities targeting that population.

EEDLO First Vice President John Love said it was great to see the presidents were using their resources.

Florida Conference Lay Young Adult Representative La'Tasha Jones questions validity of how

inclusive the conferences are.

She says Inclusivity means more than just adding young adults to programs, it means including them in the intricate parts of the Lay Organization. Overall, Conference presidents are setting goals and successfully meeting them with the assistance of those around them.

## Newly elected CLO Biennial delegates look forward to Chicago 2023



**Valderine Evans, Bahamas Conference Lay Organization President**  
"The excitement!"

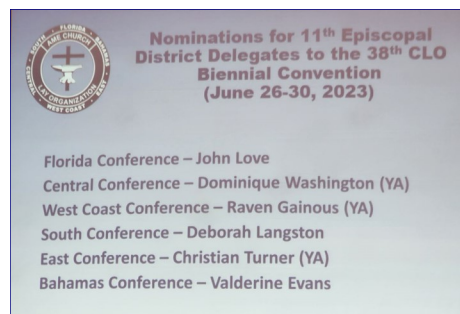
On Wednesday afternoon, the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention unanimously elected a slate of six delegates to attend the Connectional Lay Organization Biennial in Chicago in June 2023 with financial support from the EEDLO. For the first time, three of the elected delegates are young adults (aged 18-35). EEDLO Advisor Rhoshonda Herring and EEDLO Young Adult Representative Ashley Blakely commended the conferences for their support of young adults. We asked the elected delegates in attendance what they were most looking forward to in Chicago.



**Raven Gainous, West Coast Conference Lay Organization Young Adult Representative**  
"I am thankful/grateful for the opportunity. I am looking forward to the experience that this Biennial Convention will offer. This is my second Biennial as a Lay member, but my first time as a delegate."



**Deborah Langston, Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Chaplain**  
"I am so thankful for the opportunity to represent and do the work."



**John Love, Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization First Vice President**  
"The workshops!"

## Cups overrun, spirit overflows at Annual Lay Benevolence Program

Wednesday's Lay Benevolent Program of this 78th annual convention will go down in the history books as a power-packed, spirit-filled event. Worship leader Phillis Filer's enthusiasm filled the room as she led program participants who were eager to lift the name of Jesus.

Reginald Robinson gave a spirit-

filled prayer that was surely heard by God himself and the musician played and sang a melodiously tribute to the Lord. All this set the foundation for worshippers to hear from God, and they were not disappointed as the messenger poured out her heart and left everyone better than they came.

The preacher of the hour was the Rev. Brittany Bryant from St. Luke

AME Church of Alachua, Fla. Her sermon was titled, "Excuse Me; Watch My Cup," Genesis 26:1-3, 12 was her Scripture reference.

Rev. Bryant reminded worshippers to "stay connected to the right people, the right source and in the right alignment of the vision." Just as Issac was blessed because he was connected to Abraham, we

too can be blessed if we stay connected to God, said Rev. Bryant." There will be times that people around us will wonder what is in our cup and will question why is our cups are always filled. They will soon realize that because of our obedience and divine connection with God, his favor will be on our lives."



### Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention Public Relations Committee

**Bishop Frank Madison Reid III,**  
Presiding Prelate of the 11th Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church

**Patricia H. Wright,**  
Connectional Lay Organization Director of Lay Activities and Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization President

**Robbyn Hopewell,**  
EEDLO Director of Public Relations

**Debra Gilliard,**  
EEDLO Historiographer

**Shirley Thomas,**  
West Coast Conference Lay Organization Director of Public Relations

**Joyce Pink,**  
West Coast Conference Lay Organization Historiographer

**Brian Brown,**  
Bahamas Conference Lay Organization Director of Lay Activities

**Shrin Bryant,**  
South Conference Lay Organization Young Adult Representative

**Robyne Edwards,**  
Suwanee-North District Lay Organization Treasurer

**Kathy Luke,**  
St. Mark A.M.E. Church-Orlando Director of Public Relations



**Judge Meshon Rawls (left) delivers her keynote. Mr. Kevin Sharpe (above right) shares a selection.**

## 'The truth is told' at the LEDP breakfast

The Honorable Alachua County Court Judge Meshon T. Rawls gave her life to Christ in 1989, but it wasn't until 1994 that she learned that she needed to rely on the Lord in times of struggle.

Judge Rawls shared her testimony in her keynote speech at the annual Lay Economic Development Program breakfast at the Hilton-University of Florida Conference Center on Wednesday morning.

At age 22, her 2-month-old son had died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, her marriage was on the rocks and she had a bachelor's degree but no job. A friend named Hope called her and encouraged Rawls to apply for law school, even though she didn't feel qualified. Rawls stepped out on faith, applied and received a scholarship. That experience reminded her of II Corinthians 1:8-9 and guided

her message for breakfast attendees, "If the Truth Be Told." Paul let the people of Corinth know that being saved does not mean you will not face hardships, and that "It is okay to feel the pressure," Judge Rawls said. "It happened so that I know not to rely on myself. I have to rely on God."

Dr. Kevin Sharpe, a concert pianist from Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church in Gainesville, shared two selections "Love is in Need of Love Today" and "Wind Beneath My Wings," as guests ate.

The LEDP Board honored Joseph Coppock Jr. for his long service to the organization with an ovation during the event.

LEDP Secretary Reginald Robinson presided over the event and gave special recognition to Phyllis Filer for her dedicated work in coordinating the event.

## Commission chairs report great progress at Wednesday afternoon session

The EEDLO received empowering and uplifting reports from each of its Commissions Wednesday.

Some of the main focuses of the Commission on Organization and Structure, led by Florida Conference President Donald Russell, are on enforcing the bylaws, engaging social action and the effectiveness of the officers. To prepare the Lay Organization for the legislation process, the commission will provide

education on how to properly propose and amend legislation.

The Commission on Program and Activities Chairperson Loretta Coppock recognized the members of the scholarship committee that were in attendance to the 78<sup>th</sup> Lay Organization Convention during her report.

She also advised that the Denim and Pearls awards banquet on

Thursday night will announce this year's scholarship recipients.

Chair Coppock solicited those in attendance to become a champion who mentors scholarship recipients to help them better matriculate. "Consider being a champion and make a difference in the lives of our YOUTH," she exclaimed.

Commission on Personnel and Procedures Chair LuCretia

McBride reported her committee is vigorously helping to provide technology training to our "young seniors," adhere to CDC guidelines to keep us healthy, and to make sure proper and updated information is provided to the director of lay benevolence.

Every committee is very hard at work to enhance the Lay Organization and the Eleventh Episcopal District as a whole.

# The Lay Communique

78th Annual Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention Edition



## Laity and clergy honored at Denim and Pearls Banquet

On a night of formal recognition for their work in the vineyard, Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization members and clergy put on their best denim outfits and pearl jewelry and gathered in the ballroom of Hilton-University of Florida Conference Center Ballroom for a night of elegance. EEDLO President Patricia H. Wright received a surprise honor at the end of the evening's program in recognition of her retirement from area superintendent for the Pinellas County School System up coming on June 30.

President Wright also presented EEDLO Young Adult Representative Ashley Blakely with the Soldier of the Cross Award, given to lay persons who give their service to the organization in excellence and love.

**Banquet attendees (top left) anticipate the next portion of the evening. DOLA Teresa White (top right), Treasurer Sharon Causey and President Wright received the VIBE Award from the Episcopal District's Sons of Allen. At left, YAR Ashley Blakely is congratulated.**

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**Mrs. Robbyn M. Hopewell**, EEDLO Director of Public Relations



## EEDLO presents scholarships and awards at first banquet since 2019

Five dynamic high school seniors and four stalwart laypersons were awarded the for their efforts at the Denim and Pearls Award Banquet on Thursday night. The students each received a \$2,000 Selmo Bradley Scholarship and a certificate commemorating their achievement. Four Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Hall of Famers were also inducted into the 20<sup>th</sup> class.

### The Selmo Bradley Scholarship recipients are:

- Hannah Francis of Bethel A.M.E. Church, Tallahassee, who plans to attend Florida A&M University.
- Chase Jenkins of St. James A.M.E. Church, Titusville, who plans to attend D'Youville University.
- Alexandria Frazier of Victory A.M.E. Church, Progress Village (Tampa), who plans to attend the University of Miami.
- Cynthia Jones of St. Stephen A.M.E. Church, Miami Gardens, who plans to attend Florida International University.
- Stefphon Turner of St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Jacksonville, who plans to attend the University of North Florida.

### The 2022 EEDLO Hall of Fame inductees are:

- Linnell Baker, West Coast Conference
- Sharolyn Wood, Florida Conference
- Etta Anderson, South Conference
- Dorothy Andrews Reid, South Conference



**President Wright presents scholarship awards to Hannah Francis (above) and Stefphon Turner (below left). Linnell Baker (below right) was one of four named to the Hall of Fame.**



## Presiding Elder uses personal testimony to bring lesson, laughs

Thursday morning's Power Session "Laughing Your Way Through," presented by Presiding Elder Jimmy J. Thompson, was a comedic presentation full of humorous anecdotes and impersonations, as well as ways that laughter can lift us.

He shared that laughter releases endorphins, creates a sense of well-being, raises energy, relieves tension, and alters your bad attitude. Sometimes, it's necessary to laugh in order to keep from crying, Presiding Elder Thompson explained.

Using his personal experience of having a stroke in February, he presented us with a course of action he used to lift himself up. He encouraged Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Convention attendees to be constant in prayer, read the word, develop a playlist of inspiring songs, and protect your space from negativity.

Presiding Elder Thompson ended his session with a spirit-filled praise moment that brought the audience to their feet. Takiyah Lewis of Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church in Houston said, "Elder Jimmy Thompson was a blessing during the 'Laughing Your Way Through' seminar. Not only did we laugh, but learned throughout his presentation."

Suwanee-North District Young Adult Representative Garian Cason truly enjoyed himself. "Presiding Elder Thompson's presentation was both entertaining and informative," he said.

For East Conference Lay Organization Director of Lay Activities Rhoshonda Her-ring, Presiding Elder Thompson delivered. "As usual, Presiding Elder Thompson did not disappoint. I was in stitches! Laughter is truly the best medicine," she said.



**Presiding Elder Jimmy J. Thompson is known for his ability to laugh and to make others laugh. Thursday's session was no different. He leads the "Lively" Lakeland District of the West Coast Conference.**

## Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center helps preserve Gainesville's Black history

Sankofa is a principle derived from san, meaning to return; ko meaning to go; and fa meaning to fetch. Gainesville's The Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center expresses this principal clearly.

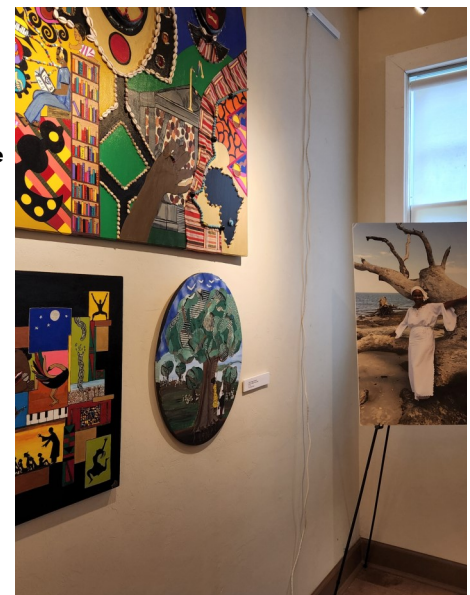
Owned by a non-profit that originated in the Mount Olive A.M.E. Church, the CCMCC is unique in its story. Walking inside the prefabricated building allows visitors to "go back" to an earlier time when it was Perry Movie Theater, the Cotton Club, the Blue Note Club and a furniture warehouse.

Fast forward to 1995, when Dr. Vivian Filer was charged by her pastor to "go get" the space and re-imagine it. Filer serves as the executive director and chair of the not-for-profit corporation that preserves the historic site while creating a space that promotes and instills pride in the African-American culture.

Under the knowledgeable eye of Deloris Rentz, facilities coordinator, constituents of the EEDLO recently viewed exhibits including of elaborate gourds and Sankofa birds created by the-late Patricia Hilliard-Nunn,

their presence reminding us to drink up droplets of Black heritage. Additionally, "American Idols" portraits of music artists from Sade to Childish Gambino by artist Yvonne Ferguson lined the museum's walls.

"The air of pride was stifling," said Daisy Bush of Saint Hebron A.M.E. Church in Quincy. Visiting the museum is instrumental in encouraging the culture of yesteryear and secures the spirit of tomorrow, making the CCMCC theme, "Preserving the Past...Building the Future" one of relevance, and devotion.



**Dr. Vivian Filer, executive director of the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center (left), leads a talk. (Top right) She gives a tour of the center where the art of the late Patricia-Hilliard-Nunn is displayed (below).**



## Rosewood expert shares her family's story of survival

Lizzie Robinson-Jenkins received her charge to keep at the tender age of 5 and has carried forward her mission to the 21st Century.

The former Alachua School teacher was told the story of her relatives' escape from the massacre at Rosewood, Florida in 1922.

From that time on, Robinson-Jenkins has worked to tell her family's story, one of survival

and perseverance. As the leader of the Rosewood Foundation non-profit, she has been working on a book set to be released in January that will correct the misinformation shared in the movie.

Robinson-Jenkins credits the kindness of white citizens for preventing further tragedy in the wake of a senseless event. She said following a woman being beaten by her lover and blaming it on a Black man to

appease her husband, store owner John Wright hid fleeing citizens in his home until Sheriff Bob Walker was able to get them on a train out of town.

Robinson-Jenkins beseeched the EEDLO members in attendance at her special presentation at the Mount Olive A.M.E. Church in Gainesville to visit her website [rosewoodflorida.com](http://rosewoodflorida.com) and support the Rosewood Foundation.



**Lizzie Robinson-Jenkins, director of the Rosewood Foundation, gave an informational presentation.**



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**Joyce Pink,**  
West Coast Conference Lay Organization Historiographer

**Connie E. Jenkins-Pye,**  
Tallahassee District Lay Organization First Vice President

**Shrin Bryant,**  
South Conference Lay Organization Young Adult Representative

**Robyne Edwards,**  
Suwanee-North District Lay Organization Treasurer

**Daisy Bush,**  
Saint Hebron A.M.E. Church-Quincy



**Dante Buckson (left) presents his Power Session. Attendees we given Marigold to plant (above right).**

## Convention goers get into the weeds at Power Session led by Dante Buckson

Seeds and weeds. Planting and pruning.

Dante Buckson used gardening metaphors and symbolism during the “We Are STILL HERE” Power Session held on Thursday morning. The East Conference Lay Young Adult Representative started with the familiar Scripture from Ecclesiastes when saying, “To everything there is a season.”

Attendees were asked to reflect on a few questions. “What fruits are you bearing in this season?” “What are some of the weeds in your life or your ministry that you need to get rid of?”

Buckson said with authority that, “Plants and humans thrive under the care of a master gar-

dener.” He didn’t have to explain who the master gardener is.

Session co-presenter Teresa White brought the gathering to a close with the talk of sowing. “The young people talk about us sowing into them, but you don’t know how many of them sow into us.” She then spoke of those who call to check on her wherever there is a challenge in her life.

The EDLO DOLA then presented a gift to attendees: a small box containing items needed to grow a plant. She pointed to the instructions and then gave a few of her own. “You’ve to press your way through. You’ve got to persevere. There is a master gardener, and it’s okay to consult with the master gardener.”

## Bishop Reid surprises Health committee during morning fitness walk

Bishop Frank Madison Reid III doesn’t just talk the talk about health and wellness. On Thursday, he walked the walk.

The Presiding Prelate of the Eleventh Episcopal District surprised Health Walk Committee Chair Connie E. Jenkins-Pye and Co-Chair Melanie Weatherspoon by joining the group on their morning fitness walk before the day’s workshops began.

### *We can’t wait to walk in the Bahamas!*

—Connie E. Jenkins-Pye, Health Walk Activity Committee Chair

“He displayed that walking and keeping your body in good condition is serious matter,” Jenkins-Pye said.

Walkers departed from the Hilton

University of Florida Conference Center Hotel at 5:30 a.m. to walk the neighborhood home of the Gators. Jenkins-Pye said she is thankful for the support of the members who came out to walk with her daily from Wednesday to Friday. “Shout out to Marie Dixon-Jones, Dessie P. Matthews and Sue Henry who did not find it robbery to ensure their temples God gave them are in the best condition they can be in,” she added.

The Health Walk Activities Committee reports to the Commission on Personnel and Procedure chaired by LuCretia McBride. Sheron Ellis of the East Conference provided an extra special treat of custom hats for some walkers.

Encouraged by the turnout the committee is excited for what is to come in 2023. “We can’t wait to walk in the Bahamas,” Jenkins-Pye exclaimed.