

From the President's Pen



By now hopefully and prayerfully, you have made it back to your places of abode. Let me share with you my exuberant thanks for a riveting and engaging Executive Board meeting. This board meeting yielded great results and bodes well for our upcoming 75th Annual Convention.

This greeting comes, primarily, to serve 3 purposes:

- (1) to thank those in attendance during all or any part of the weekend
- (2) to review and remind us, in a brief way, some of the highlights
- (3) to inform and link those who were unable to attend

We engaged in rich discussion about disaster relief and our commitment to push forward benevolence to Florida Conference through our gift card project. Mrs. Francine Postell issued a challenge to other Districts of the Annual Conference Presidents. Several of the district presidents accepted her challenge to match her district's contribution. Project will end February 22 (Annual Retreat Gathering).

Other highlights include the appointment of Mrs. Sharon Causey to serve as one of the co-chairs of the Statistics and Finance Commission and the appointment of Mr. Hugh Yancy, Jr. as EEDLO Treasurer.

Additionally, we moved toward continuous process improvement by making final revisions to the Benevolence Guidelines and EEDLO Letter of Intent which will be used in each of our Annual Conferences. An amendment to the Anvil Award and Hall of Fame Award applications was made to include a category for 'lay activities.' The Conference President reports were top notch, especially as each chose a special moment from the Annual Conference Lay Worship Experience to share.

Aside from the business of what I deem the Lay Organization at Work, I must shout out to and about the Preachers' Wives!!! Friday night our worship experience featured the Preacher's Wife is Preaching... And Preach They Did! From three Powerfully Prepared Preaching Wives came messages of hope: "I Trust God" "Due Season" and "You Can't Stop My Praise!" Special thanks to the REVERENDS Ava Curry, Tamira Bouie and Alicia Hudson! And the Preachers' wives brought the preachers, for besides being accompanied by their respective Pastor/Spouse, several other pastors/clergy were in attendance, including two chief pastors: Presiding Elder Joyce J. Moore and Presiding Elder J. O. Williams.

We were graciously hosted and served by the great folk of Victory AME Church. Pastor Michael Price stayed the entire meeting and worked tirelessly to make our meeting a success. We certainly extend our appreciation to him and his people who were very attentive.

FINALLY, taking a stanza from our celebratory litany: *WE stand in celebration of 75 years of labor, tears, setbacks, giant leaps and love. Most of all, we celebrate the journey of African People who refused to be tethered by their physical status, their economic limitations or their mental acuity. When told no, they responded, "Yes." When encouraged to stop, they kept going; when they were held down, they reached up, grabbed hold of one another and pulled themselves up. They pulled up 75 years...up seven decades and more...up towards the mark of a high calling of excellence to become the Electrifying Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization.*

Thank you!

EEDLO – You Know!

(Now go tell somebody!)

Pat Wright - 2019

The Lay Litany

~ From the Pen of P. H. Wright ~

EEDLO 75 YEARS: GOD IS GREAT!

LEADER: *The Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization is established, maintained and fueled by a spirit of excellence. Excellence is defined by many as the essence of GREAT. Only God, himself, can command greatness.*

PEOPLE: **How Great is God's Wisdom, Power and Grace?**

LEADER: *From its onset, the Eleventh District Lay Organization was led by Lay folk who did not shrink from engaging in heavy dialog and critical discourse about the welfare of the church even though efforts to hush their voices came from all corners of the sanctuary. They refused to be quelled by the established practices and instead stayed and prayed the course until the blessing came.*

PEOPLE: **And I will make you a GREAT nation, And I will bless you, And make your name GREAT; And so you shall be a blessing; Genesis 12:2**

LEADER: *With no stone left unturned and no call going unanswered stalwart Lay folk began a movement – by meeting in churches and in small groups, with a focused agenda ~ that flows east to west, north to south, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Florida Keys and across the Atlantic Ocean into the Breezy Bahamas.*

PEOPLE: **Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. Psalm 145:3**

LEADER: *An organization that survives for a decade is quite remarkable. An Organization that survives, thrives and revives for 75 years is an uncommon occurrence that surely must be held in high regard by a God given to greatness.*

PEOPLE: **Ah Lord GOD! Behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee. Jeremiah 32:17**

LEADER: *WE stand in celebration of 75 years of labor, tears, setbacks, giant leaps and love. Most of all, we celebrate the journey of African People who refused to be tethered by their physical status, their economic limitations or their mental acuity. When told no, they responded, "Yes." When encouraged to stop, they kept going; when they were held down, they reached up, grabbed hold of one another and pulled themselves up. They pulled Up 75 years... up seven decades and more... up towards the mark of a high calling of excellence to become the Electrifying Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization.*

PEOPLE: **Seventy-five years of new mercies have come to us each morning! GREAT is our Faithfulness! We are grateful and continue to marvel at the GREATNESS of Your Wisdom, Power and Grace!**