News and Notes from the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization

The Lay Communiqué

Issue No. 2| January-June 2022



Living a Global Witness Ministry that

TRANSFORMS, TRANSCENDS AND LIBERATES

New Connectional Lay Organization Theme Introduced

During the African Methodist Episcopal Church Connectional Lay Organization Executive Board Meeting on December 3-4, 2021, CLO Director of Lay Activities and Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization President Patricia H. Wright introduced a new theme for the CLO that was approved and adopted.

The theme, "**Living a Global Witness Ministry that Transcends, Transforms and Liberates**" is rooted in the scripture *Luke 4:18-19*. CLO DOLA Wright proposed the scripture and theme based on the stated goals of CLO President Matikane Abedenego Makiti outlined in his Presidential Vision Report.

DOLA Wright says that the theme and accompanying artwork (pictured above) express a desire to "bring witness that is different, daring, innovative, engaging and liberating."

All Conference, Districts of the Annual Conference and Local Church Lay Organizations are encouraged to utilize the Connectional theme when planning trainings and events. For more information, visit **ameclay.org/clo-theme/**.

Bishop Frank Madison Reid III, Presiding Prelate of the 11th Episcopal District
Marlaa Hall-Reid, Episcopal Supervisor of Missions
Patricia H. Wright, Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization President

Important Information

Connectional Officers

Bishop Frank Madison Reid III,
11th Episcopal District Presiding Prelate
Mr. Reginald McGill,
A.M.E. Church General Board Member
Mr. Charlie Nichols,
Connectional Lay Organization Chaplain

EEDLO Executive Board

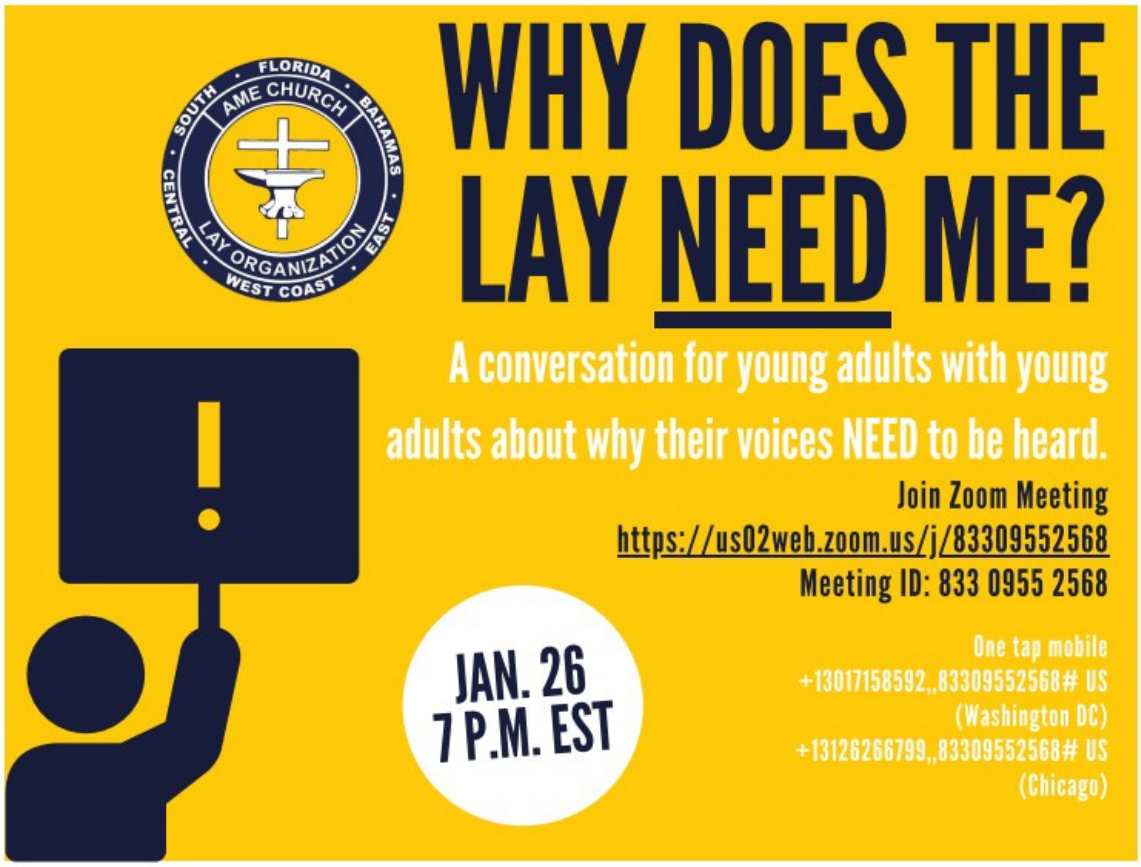
Ms. Patricia Wright,
Connectional Lay Organization Director of Lay Activities and Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization President
Mr. John Love,
First Vice President
Ms. Lother Cherry,
Second Vice President
Mr. Johnnie Hill,
Third Vice President
Ms. Ethel Wooten,
Recording Secretary
Ms. Evelyn Odom,
Assistant Recording Secretary
Ms. Esther Ferguson,
Corresponding Secretary
Ms. Sharon Causey,
Treasurer
Ms. Priscilla Salter,
Financial Secretary
Ms. Teresa White,
Director of Lay Activities
Ms. Ashley Blakely,
Young Adult Representative
Ms. Deborah Langston,
Chaplain
Ms. Rebecca Williams,
Parliamentarian
Ms. Debra Gilliard,
Historiographer
Ms. Robbyn Hopewell,
Director of Public Relations

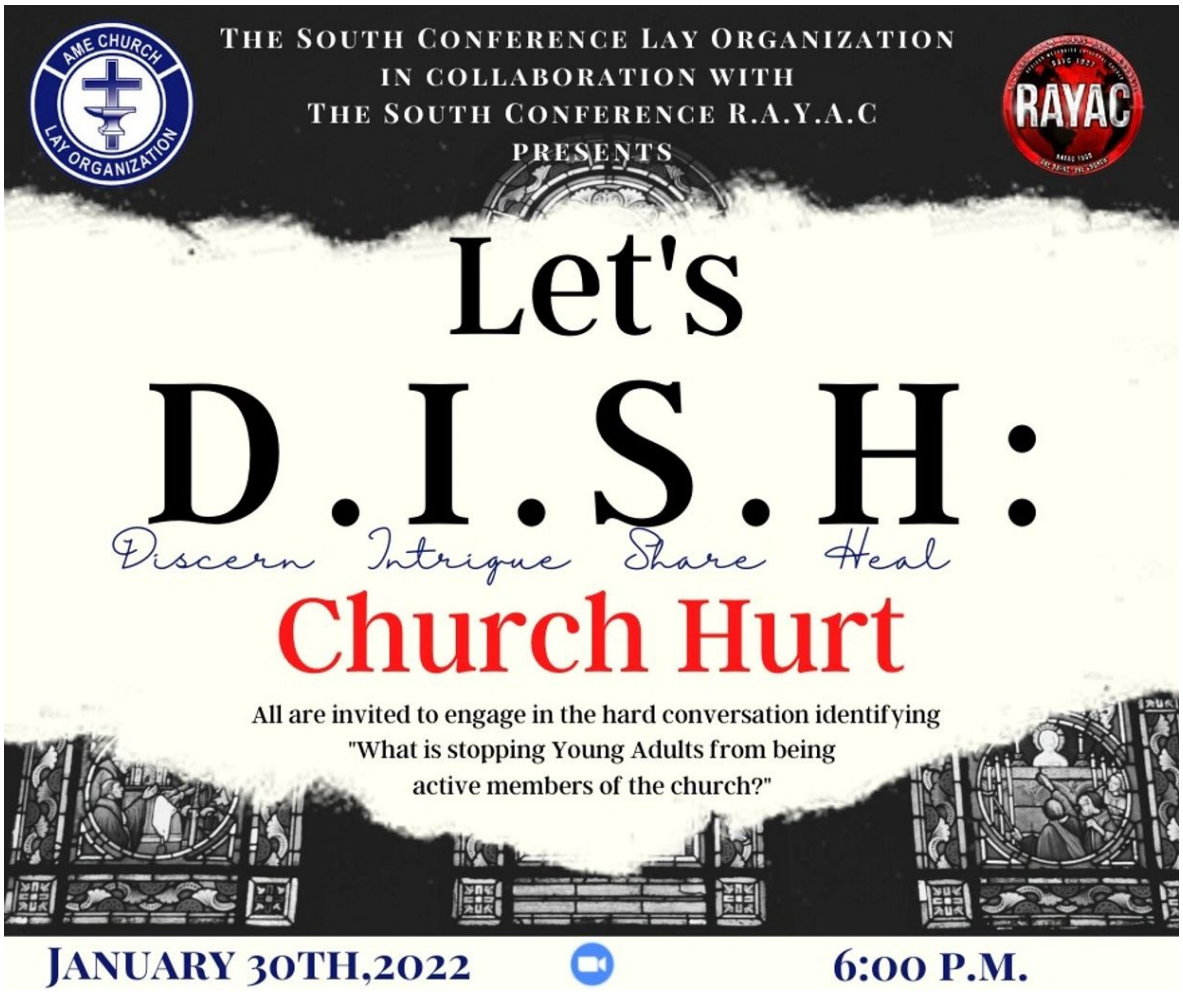
Share Your Stories—Get More Reach

Right this moment, you are probably reading this edition of The Lay Communiqué on some sort of digital device. Look at God! The next step for us as the Eleventh Episcopal Lay Organization is to make sure ALL our stories are shared across the district. If you've got an upcoming event, a bereavement, a praise report or a lay legend you would like to lift up, you can submit your information on **this form** and it may even be featured in the next edition of The Lay Communiqué.

LITURGICAL COLORS 2022

DATES	COLOR
Jan 1 - 6	White
Jan 7 - 8	Green
Jan 9 ... (Baptism of the Lord)	White
Jan 10 — Feb 26	Green
Feb 27 ... (Transfiguration Sunday)	White
Feb 28 — Mar 1.	Green
Mar 2 — Apr 14... (Ash Wednesday)	Purple
Apr 15 - 16 ... (Good Friday/Holy Saturday)	Black
Apr 17 — Jun 4 ... (Easter)	White
Jun 5 ... (Pentecost Sunday)	Red
Jun 6 - 11	Green
Jun 12 ... (Trinity Sunday)	White
Jun 13 — Oct 31	Green
Nov 1 ... (All Saints Day)	White
Nov 2 - 19	Green
Nov 20 ... (Christ the King Sunday)	White
Nov 21 — 26	Green
Nov 27 — Dec 23 ... (Advent)	Purple
Dec 24 - 31 ... (Christmas Eve/Christmas)	White


WHY DOES THE LAY NEED ME?
A conversation for young adults with young adults about why their voices NEED to be heard.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83309552568
Meeting ID: 833 0955 2568
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,83309552568# US (Washington DC)
+13126266799,,83309552568# US (Chicago)
JAN. 26
7 P.M. EST


THE SOUTH CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION
IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE SOUTH CONFERENCE R.A.Y.A.C
PRESENTS
RAYAC
Let's
D.I.S.H:
Discern Intrigue Share Heal
Church Hurt
All are invited to engage in the hard conversation identifying
"What is stopping Young Adults from being
active members of the church?"
JANUARY 30TH,2022
6:00 P.M.

Teaching and Training

Thursday Night Teaching Series Draws Guests From Across The Connection

Keeping the body connected when it can't be physically present is one of the many challenges the coronavirus pandemic has presented the Lay Organization since March 2020. Luckily for the Electrifying Eleventh Episcopal District Lay, our dynamic leadership team has continued to innovate using online platforms and new teaching methods.

EEDLO President Patricia Wright and Director of Lay Activities Teresa White introduced Thursday Night Teaching, an occasional Zoom seminar featuring a special guest trainer open to all in late 2020. Since then, the organization has hosted three trainings and welcomed guests from across the connection including Connectional Lay Organization President Matikane Abednego Makiti from South Africa.

Usually set up to accommodate 500 participants, Thursday Night Teaching has been at or over capacity on multiple occasions. Most recently, President Wright and DOLA White led a December 9, 2021, seminar on the "Ripple Effects of the General Conference" aimed at sharing how the 51st Quadrennial Session of the A.M.E. Church General Conference affected local ministries. Of the 400 attendees, 33 came from New Bethel A.M.E. Church in Lakeland, where Pastor Eddie Lake leads. Each of the Bethel members in attendance received a token of recognition from the EEDLO. President Wright shared a note of congratulations to him on the eedlo.org website and in a district-wide email message.

Young Adult Representative To Lead Frank Conversation About Lay Membership

An important part of growing an organization is making sure that the members span the generations. With her charge to focus on recruiting, retaining and reclaiming young adult members ages 18-35, EEDLO Young Adult Representative Ashley Blakely is examining the root causes of underrepresentation of young people in the Lay Organization. What she has found is a fundamental lack of understanding of why young adults are essential voices in the work of the Lay. On January 26 at 7 p.m., Blakely and the conference YARs will open the doors to the Zoom room and welcome young adults to frank conversation "Why Does The Lay Need Me?"



First Vice Presidents And Directors of Lay Activities Receive Specialized Trainings

With new executive boards formed across the conference in 2021 through elections, both EEDLO First Vice President John Love and EEDLO Director of Lay Activities Teresa White saw the need for trainings for their new teams.

Love gathered the first vice presidents from every level of the 11th Episcopal District lay organizations and held a November 2021 workshop on Recruiting, Reclaiming and Retaining Lay Members. Connectional Lay Organization First Vice President Dr. Dorothy Henderson was present as Love, Young Adult Representative Ashley Blakely and Director of Lay Activities Teresa White presented their important information to our organization's recruiting arm.

In December, White welcomed DOLAs from all levels and anyone interested to a Train the Trainer session aimed at equipping our teaching arm with facts and information about A.M.E. Church history and operations. Both training sessions will be reprised.

Across the District

Champions Needed To Guide EEDLO Scholarship Recipients

Every year, the EEDLO selects at least six high school seniors to receive scholarship assistance from our organization as they pursue college degrees. Director of Programs and Activities Loretta Coppock is seeking to extend that support through their college careers.

Lay members with a desire to mentor young people through the sometimes perplexing maze of college life are asked to volunteer to be "Champions."

The Champions will be asked to keep in contact with the students throughout the school year and offer their advice, encouragement and also their ears to listen to the concerns of our church's next generation.

Interested parties may email Director Coppock at **jolorcop@bellsouth.net**.



East Conference to host 78th EEDLO Convention In June

They've prepped their sunshine and orange juice and this June—two years after it was initially announced—the East Conference Lay will welcome the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization to hold its 78th Annual Convention in Gainesville, Florida.

As the first in-person meeting of the EEDLO since leaving the CLO Biennial in Orlando in 2021, the convention will be held on June 21-24, 2022 at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center. Registration is $125 for lay and clergy and will open in March.



South Conference Lay To Host Talk About 'Church Hurt' And Young Adult Involvement

The South Conference Lay Organization has teamed up with the South Conference Richard Allen Young Adult Council to host a seminar/discussion on the phenomenon of "church hurt"—the negative feelings people get while trying to be active in a church or ministry. The online event, Let's D.I.S.H. (Discern, Intrigue, Share, Heal): Church, will take place on Zoom at 6 p.m., January 30. For more information, visit **southdistrictlay.org**.

West Coast Conference Lay Reprises Recruitment Drive

This year, the West Coast Conference Lay Organization is asking church members to Just Say Yes to the Lay in the third iteration of the group's annual membership drive. After a strong 2021 showing of more than 110 new members recruited during January, WCCLO First Vice President Alicia Cotton and her team have expanded the competition element to the drive and also included additional resources for recruiters to entice pew members into the organized lay.

Local churches have been split into three tiers based on the congregation size to compete for the Blue Chip Award, an honor bestowed on the District of the Annual Conference Lay Organization, Local Church Lay Organization and Local Church recruiter that signs up the most new members from January 1-31, 2021. So far, the organization has held a virtual "Engagement Party and "Launch Party" aimed at setting the tone for the monthlong competition.

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** or 904.751.7300.
You can also contact your Conference Lay President to learn more.

