



COMPONENT MEETING

AGENDA

THEME: Reviving the Connection: Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All We Can Ask or Think

African Methodist Episcopal Church
Second Episcopal District Lay Organization
2026 Planning Meeting Agenda
Hampton Virginia
July 6, 2026

Call to Order and Welcome – Ms. Penny Oliver, President

Devotion – SEDLO Chaplain Kenneth Woods

Greetings – Host Conference President

Roll Call – Jackie Kanipe, Asst Secretary

Minutes – Jackie Kanipe, Asst Secretary

Financial Report – Edna Watson/Azzie Conley

District Officers' Reports

Membership Report – SEDLO 1st VP

Conference Presidents Reports

Committee Reports

Ways and Means

2027 CLO Biennial Convention

<https://2027-biennial.base44.app/Dashboard>

Election of Delegates

2026 21st SEDLO Convention

Election of Delegates

Registration

Lay Lesson – DOLA D. Faye Conley

Lay Benediction



African Methodist Episcopal Church
Second Episcopal District Component Meeting (virtual)
February 9, 2026 7:00 p.m.

President Penny Oliver called the meeting to order and asked that Brother Kenneth Woods, Chaplain give devotion. Brother Woods prayed and read the scripture from the Book of James 2:1-5 and verse 8.

The meeting is being conducted by ZOOM rather than having a meeting at the site of the mid-winter celebration due to time constraints.

Roll Call: President Penny Oliver; First Vice-President Jean Richie; Second Vice-President Yvonne Davis, absent; Third Vice-President Rose Brabble; Recording Secretary Monica Davis, absent; Assistant Recording Secretary, Jacqueline C. Kanipe, present; Corresponding Secretary/PR Director, Janice Murray, present; Treasurer, Dr. Edna Watson, present; Financial Secretary, Azzie Conley, present; Chaplain, Kenneth Woods, present; Parliamentarian, Glen White, absence excused; Historiographer, Darwin Curry, absence excused; Director of Lay Activities, D. Faye Conley, present; Young Adult Representative, Adam Johnston, present; Baltimore Conference President Alvin White, present; Washington Conference President Glen White, absence excused; Virginia Conference, Germain Favor, present; North Carolina Conference, Elbert Davis, present; Western North Carolina Conference, Barbara Myers, present.

Minutes of the prior meeting were read. Brother Alvin White requested that all names be listed for the Ways and Means Committee. He will provide information for the minutes. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were approved with the necessary corrections.

The Financial Secretary Sister Azzie Conley and Treasurer Dr. Edna Watson presented the financial report. The printed report dated August 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026 was accepted for information. A copy should be included with the minutes.

Conference Elections:

Baltimore Conference	March 14, 2026 with additional details to be Determined.
Washington Conference	March 17, 7 p.m. virtual
Virginia Conference	March 21, in person; Emmanuel – Portsmouth, VA, 10:00 a.m.

North Carolina

February 21, St. James-Kinston, 9:00 a.m. in person

Western North Carolina

April 11, St. James-Winston-Salem, 10:00 a.m. in Person

Conference President Reports:

President A. White reported that some of the small churches are working together in a cluster to form Lay organization. They had a productive Lay Institute with the assistance of SEDLO DOLA, Sister D. Faye Conley.

The Washington Conference has had training – Connection with Clergy. They now have 44 active lay organizations.

The Virginia Conference is still striving for 100% membership among the churches. Currently have a five to six pre-cent increase.

North Carolina Conference is working to maintain their 100% membership among the churches. Training was conducted by the First Vice-President. Dr. Watson and President Davis are working to get membership increased.

The Western North Carolina Conference now has a first Vice-President who is working with the DOLA and Coordinators to develop workshops. The Clergy-Lay Institute was phenomenal. The DOLA continues to provide lessons from workbook to the members. Grateful for the work that is being done for the Laity

SEDLO President Oliver's report is in the booklet. The two day retreat held at Payne Theological Seminary indicates with the pastoral shortage lay may be used to fill in for this ministry.

First Vice-President Jean Richie extended gratitude to the SEDLO for those who attend the Connection First Vice-President's meetings monthly. Highest numbers in attending. Please are in process to present workshop on AME Protocols with Sister Adrienne Warren. In addition, we need to understand how to communicate with the young people; how to recruit and retain young adults.

Second Vice-President Yvonne Davis announced that Second Vice Presidents on all levels will be meeting the Connectional Lay Second Vice-President on March 28, 2026.

Third Vice-President Rose Brabble expressed appreciation to all for the recognition received for the 100 plus subscriptions of the Christian Recorder. Appreciates being able to work with President Myers in order to get the job done well. President Oliver received recognition from Brother John Thomas with us having the first subscriptions submitted. Evangelism, we all can do that; we need to reach out to share the Word of God.

Chaplain Kenneth Woods appreciates the support of Chaplains from the five conferences. He has served as lay speaker; conducted workshops. Acknowledged the passing of Brother Charles Jones.

Young Adult Representative Brother Adam Johnston appreciates the support from the organization, CLO and work across the board with YPD, YAR, RAYAC...proactive across the connection. Young adults are needed.

Corresponding Secretary/PR Director Sister Janice Murray reported that she has designed a number of fliers and other documents; keeps the website current; reports information that is appropriately submitted.

DOLA Sister D. Faye Conley reported that registration of 304 persons for the Prayer Breakfast. She is grateful for the support of the conference presidents as they meet deadlines. Hostesses should report by 7:00 a.m. Attire cardigan with navy bottom. Items available for ordering: stoles, \$30; SEDLO pins, \$10.00; shawls - \$7.50 each. President Oliver stated that she appreciates the work of Sister Conley and the committee.

Ways and Means Committee Chair Brother Alvin White reports that \$'s for scholars is a project for all churches to participate. Each conference is to collect funds and turn in at the appropriate time. The committee plans to meet at the mid-winter meeting to plan for the sneaker ball. Brother Germain Favor is chairing the Cookbook project. The committee will consist of two persons from each conference. Names should be submitted to Brother Favor by February 28. Another fundraiser for the SEDLO.

Nominating Committee Report by Committee Chair Sister D. Faye Conley. Information has been sent out. Several officers will not be able to seek election for the same position, since he/she will have served the maximum time for the position. Included are: chaplain, YAR, Historiographer. Letters of Intent need to be submitted by March 15.

Sister Chenay Saunders is seeking tech support from each conference. Persons who are tech savvy and have a knowledge ZOOM and other tech support skills to present are needed.

Bishop Seawright will be celebrating his birthday March 14 at Reid Temple AME Church.

Prayer call 6:00 a.m. daily. This will continue until the 90 day challenge is over.

Director of Lay Activities Sister D. Faye Conley presented a study based on pages 44-46 of the current Lay Study Guide. What value did you add to the organization? What to do to overcome challenges? Learn to work smarter; what success will you bring to the office? Everybody has something to offer. Think about it, pray about it.

Program for Annual Lay night will be on Wednesday. A draft had to be submitted to the Presiding Elder.

Next component meeting will be held at the site in Hampton, Virginia. Reports are due to be presented at this meeting, with the Summer Summitt, July 6-7; 8-10. Ame2.com for SED District calendar.

Meeting closed with prayer by WNCC Lay President Sister Barbara Myers. Lay Benediction was recited with meeting adjournment at 8:35 p.m.

Jacqueline C. Kanipe
Assistant Recording Secretary

SEDLO Treasure Report
May 30, 2026 - June 30, 2026
Summer Summitt Planning Meeting
July 6, 2026

Balance Brought Forward April 30, 2026	26,085.78	
Plus Receipts	9,016.00	
Total Funds	35,101.78	
Less Expenditures	(6,718.82)	
Balance June 30, 2026 (per bank statement)		28,382.96
Less Outstanding Check		-
Adjusted Balance		<u>28,382.96</u>

Funds Held

Davis/McKinney Scholarship (formerly Foundation)	5,177.86	
AME Incentive Shelter	-	
Total Funds Held	-	

5,177.86

Total Funds Available for Operating Expenses		<u>23,205.10</u>
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Itemized Receipts

SEDLO Founder's Day Breakfast		
Western North Carolina Conference	2,900.00	
Total SEDLO Founder's Day Breakfast		

SEDLO Conference Membership		
Virginia Conference	1,022.00	
Western North Carolina Conference	2,274.00	
Total Conference Membership		6,196.00

SEDLO Conference Assessment		
Baltimore Conference		
Washington Conference		
Virginia Conference	750.00	
North Carolina Conference		
Western North Carolina Conference	750.00	
Total SEDLO Conference Assessment		1,500.00

Ways and Means Activities		
WNCCLO - Stoles	420.00	
NCCLO - Stoles	600.00	
Total Ways and Means Activities	1,020.00	1,020.00

Planning Meeting- Sneaker Ball		
Baltimore		
Washington		
Virginia		
North Carolina		
Western North Carolina	100.00	
Total Sneaker Ball	-	100.00

Executive Board Assessment		
Penny Oliver	50.00	
D. Faye Conley	50.00	
Azzie Conley	50.00	
Valerie Terry	50.00	
Total Executive Board Assessment	200.00	200.00

<u>Total Itemized Receipts</u>		9,016.00
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SEDLO Treasure Report
May 30, 2026 - June 30, 2026
Summer Summitt Planning Meeting
July 6, 2026

Itemized Expenditures

SEDLO President's Expenses

Hotel

Hotels	1,835.77
Airlines	337.59
Gas	100.39
Food	234.76

Total President Expenses **2,508.51**

Financial Secretary - Stipend (Azzie Conley)

January thru April	400.00
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Total Financial Secretary - Stipend **400.00**

Refunds

Penny Oliver	385.00
D. Faye Conley - SEDLO Breakfast - Mid Winter mtg	1,840.68

Total Refunds **2,225.68**

Summer Summitt & Planning Mtg Expenses

6th Mt. Zion Baptist Church	100.00
Lydia Whitaker - Caterer	1,356.25

Total Summer Summitt & Planning Mtg **1,456.25**

Miscellaneous Expenses

Shontea L. Smith - rental car	128.38
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Total Miscellaneous Expenses **128.38**

Total Itemized Expenditures

6,718.82 **6,718.82**

Dr. Edna S. Watson

Treasurer

Azzie Conley

Financial Secretary

SECOND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION

President's Report – Sister Penny S. Oliver

2026 Planning Meeting Hampton, Virginia

July 6, 2026

Through God's grace and mercy, the Second Episcopal District Lay Organization continues **Living a Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends, and Liberates** (Luke 4:18–19), utilizing the talents and gifts God has provided. Our primary focus is moving from membership to discipleship through membership recruitment, training, and collaboration between pastors and laity through the organization and reorganization of local church lay organizations.

Accomplishments and Activities

- 2026 memberships are currently being received: VA – 511; NC – 1279; WNC – 1137.
- Active lay organization membership for 2025 totaled **4,208 members**, representing **239 active lay organizations**. All **79 churches in the North Carolina Conference** are organized and active. **Ninety** active young adults are engaged throughout the five conferences, and each conference has a Young Adult officer.
- Continued promoting ongoing dialogue with Presiding Elders and pastors throughout the district to ensure that the relationship between pulpit and pew remains fluid and that we work together to advance the Kingdom rather than reshape it to meet our own desires.
- Shared AME Church, Connectional Lay Organization, District, and Conference Lay Organization communications at all levels.
- Successfully conducted elections for conference offices in the four annual conferences. The SEDLO Director of Lay Activities conducted the election for the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization while I attended the 2026 Spring Connectional Lay Organization Executive Board meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Participated in the installation of elected conference officers during each Annual Conference Lay Worship Service.
- Attended the opening session of all five annual conferences.
- Attended Norfolk/Eastern Shore District Conference by invitation at Emmanuel AME Church, Portsmouth, Virginia (March 2026).
- Served as Lay Witness Speaker at White Cross AME Church, Efland, North Carolina (March 2026).
- Conducted virtual SEDLO Executive Board Meetings
- Attended the Connectional Lay Organization Executive Board Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee (April 2026).
- Attended an open dialogue meeting with Bishop Seawright, Virginia Conference Presiding Elders, Rev. Wade, Rev. Boyd, and Virginia Conference Lay Organization executive board to discuss the annuity letter submitted by the VCLO.
- Attended the retirement celebration of Rev. Dr. Allonia Holmes and was invited to speak on behalf of the laity (April 2026).
- Met with the staff of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church regarding plans for hosting the SEDLO Convention in October 2026.
- A continual dialogue with NCCLO 26 SEDLO Convention leadership

- Attended the Church Anniversary Celebration at Stoney Creek AME Church with Bishop Seawright as the speaker (May 2026).
- Attended the Father's Day Celebration at Maxwell Chapel AME Church with Bishop Seawright as the speaker (June 2026).
- Attended virtual RED Board Meeting with Bishop Seawright (March and June 2026).
- Attended virtual Shirley Sheares Shelter Meeting with Bishop Seawright (March 2026).
- Attended virtual District Presidents Meeting with President Makati (March 2026).
- Met with Sister Cynthia Gordon-Floyd, Chairperson of the SEDLO Budget Committee, regarding budget planning for 2026–2028.
- Met numerous times with Brother Alvin White, Chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee, to discuss the July 2026 Sneaker Ball fundraiser.
- Met with SEDLO 1st VP, Jean Ritchie and Germaine Favor, Co-Chairpersons of the SEDLO Cookbook Committee, to discuss plans and next steps for the project.
- Attended the We Speak Committee meeting chaired by Sister Dianne Battle (March 2026).
- Submitted articles from each conference for publication in *We Speak*.
- Hosted the 2026 SEDLO Founders' Day Breakfast, themed "**Celebrating Our Presidents.**" During the Founders' Day Breakfast, recognized all ten SEDLO Presidents through a special video and slide presentation. Attendance of 250 plus.
- Participated in the virtual celebration of Africa Day by joining the launch of the 2027 Lay Biennial on May 26, 2026.

Training

- Promote and encourage training at the local and conference level.
- Share training opportunities from various districts
- Provided training opportunities on the following topics:
 - Membership to Discipleship
 - Protocol Parts I and II
 - Officers' Duties and Responsibilities

Challenges

- **Who We Are** – We are more than members; we are disciples of Jesus Christ.
- **Training Access and Equity** – Consistent and equitable access to lay training and educational resources across all conferences remains a priority.
- **Time and Commitment Balance** – Many members face challenges balancing church service, family responsibilities, and work obligations, affecting consistent engagement and participation.
- **Staying Relevant and Innovative** – SEDLO seeks to adapt to emerging technologies and communication methods while honoring AME traditions and spiritual foundations.
- **Local Church Organization** – Ensuring that all churches establish and maintain an active Lay Organization remains a challenge. The support and enforcement of this expectation by our Presiding Elders and pastors are essential to achieving this goal.
- Securing broad participation in the 2027 Biennial while addressing concerns related to delegate age, mobility, and the overall cost of attendance.



**African Methodist Episcopal Church
Second Episcopal District
Office of the First Vice President –
Sis. Jean Wilson Richie
Report – The Summer Summit 2026
Hampton, Virginia**

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; for it is my belief that the Lord has brought each of us this far by faith, for the glory and honor of His name.

As we reflect on this very day and all the days that God has provided for our living in these times of strife, confusion, and talk of war everywhere, we who know God also know that these are days of opportunity.....opportunity to let the world know that Christ still reigns and is surely sovereign! This is the report of the First Vice President, but it is also the report of the accomplishments of the loyal and committed members of the Second Episcopal District Lay Organization. It is the report of the unwavering commitment of the people who have trusted God to lead and guide every us step of the way.

Membership Totals

Baltimore Conference Lay Organization – 379 Members

1st Vice President - Sis. Jacqueline H. Thomas

Washington Conference Lay Organization – 654 Members

1st Vice President - Bro. Brian Glover

Virginia Conference Lay Organization – 511 Members

Sis. Cheryl Shannon (representing for position of 1st Vice President)

North Carolina Lay Organization – 1,279 Members

1st Vice President – Arlene Lawson

Western North Carolina Lay Organization – 1,137 Membership

1st Vice President – Sis. Chaynel Blake

Total Second Episcopal District Lay Organization – 3,960 Members

The AME Church 39th Connectional Lay Biennial, Atlanta, Georgia – July 2025

The Second Episcopal District Lay Organization received an award for having the largest increase in subscriptions to the Christian Recorder, our official news organ of the AME Church, which is also the oldest existing periodical published by African Americans in the United States whose existence dated back before the Civil War. The first name of the publication was The Christian Herald which was established by the General Conference held in Philadelphia in 1848. It was founded by Rev. Augustus R. Green in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the cost at that time was \$1.50 per year. The name was changed in to The Christian Recorder in 1852.

The Lay Explosion 2026

The Lay Explosion will be featured on Saturday, July 18, 2026, and will be celebrated across all of African Methodism. There is still just a couple of days to submit materials to be included in the celebration-videos, pictures, etc. It was reported by the Explosion Committee that many contributions have been submitted by the SED. Each Episcopal District is asked to solicit as many members as we can to view and participate in this big celebration of Laity.

SEDLO 1st Vice President's Fundraiser.

The 1st Vice Presidents of each Annual Conference within the SED are co-chairing a major fundraiser for the District. It was agreed that the fundraiser would be the creation and promotion of a District Cookbook. The 1st VP's have met and discussed the strategies to make this a successful project. Sis. Janice Gaines, member of Saint James AME Church in Castle Hayne, North Carolina has agreed to guide us through the operation. She was the lead on the cookbook project that her church managed successfully 14

years ago. More information will be coming to our membership very soon. Although this is a SED fundraiser, our intent is for each participating church or conference to benefit from the sale of cookbooks.

Itinerary of the SEDLO First Vice President

- attended the Annual Conferences – two in person and three virtually
- attended Connectional 1st Vice Presidents meetings with Dr. Dorothy Henderson monthly. 1st Vice Presidents from each SED Conference attended meetings with Vice Presidents from across the 20 Episcopal Districts within our Zion. The SEDLO, for most of the meetings, had the largest representation of people in attendance. With the assistance of Sis. Jacqueline Conley Kanipe, we were able to document attendance for the meetings.
- Lay Witness Day Speaker for Mount Gilboa AME Church in Catonsville, Maryland – October 19, 2025
- Provided a Learning Lab on “AME Protocol” {along with Sis. Adrienne Warren-former SEDLO DOLA} for the SEDLO as part of a series of labs for members – November 15, 2025
- Attended SEDLO Board meetings
- Attended Founder’s Day and Mid-Winter Conference at Reid Temple AME Church in Glenn Dale, Maryland - February 2026
- Represented SEDLO and President Penny Oliver at the Retirement Ceremony for Presiding Elder Rev. Chester Morris, in Hampton, Virginia – April 2026

- Represented SEDLO at Funeral service for Rev. Dr. Marie Phillips Braxton in Washington, DC – June 2026
- Supported and participated in “Harmony for a Cause”, a fundraiser sponsored by the Melbourne Tillis Lay Organization at Bethel Baltimore to provide support to its adopted community school{the Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary School}, which was the first school built for colored children in Baltimore City Public School System and now celebrating 100 years of service. The award winning choir, the Community Concert Choir of Baltimore, which recently performed at Carnegie Hall in New York and at the Vatican in Italy was featured.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the membership reporting form be revised to include the breakdown of membership according to the following criteria, as it was once published:

- **Total number of members**
- **Total number of churches**
- **Total number of Young Adults**

In His Service,

Sis. Jean Wilson Richie, SEDLO 1st Vice President

Report of the 2nd Vice-President

On March 28th Second Vice Presidents at all levels attended a Strategic Planning meeting via zoom, conducted by Bro. Jerry Turner, Connectional 2nd VP and 121 participants. In this meeting there were four focus groups formed and they were asked to focus on the Mission Statement, Purpose and Objectives as stated in the 2021(2024) Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church - CLO Constitutions and By-laws. The format of the four groups was to have breakout sessions and each group was given the charge to discuss the objectives answering the following questions: 1. Measure the effectiveness of the objectives at each level. 2. How do you implement the objective of each level? 3. Does this objective align with the Mission Statement - if yes why? if no, why not? 4. Will this objective be relevant in the next Five to ten years - if yes why? 5. How do you measure the outcome of each of the objectives.

Steps taken up to now has been Development of the Officers and Committees

Effectiveness Survey and share with all laity as well as Officers and Committee Effectiveness Workshop Sessions. The concept of RE- EVALUATE, RE - ASSESS, RE - ENERGIZE has shown a positive outcome, to God be the Glory.

Next steps: There will be an all level Strategic Planning call on August 1st 2026

Topic: International Connection and First View of the Strategic Planning document with survey results.

Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed Proverbs 16:3

Yvonne M. Davis

SED 2nd VP



BCLO

Second Episcopal District Lay Organization

African Methodist Episcopal Church

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2026

OUR CURRENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- To date Membership 24 churches; Current Membership 379 members
- Formation of the Northern Cluster of churches to form lay organizations representing five churches
- Informative monthly Lay Lessons presented by D.O.L.A. Elaine Weaver
- Inspiring Social Action Committee Report presented by Social Action Chair Joan Stukes-Maurice
- All BCLO Officers' positions have been filled
- President Alvin White attended the CLO Connectional Executive Board Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee
- Financial Contribution made to Eastern and Baltimore District Church School Convention (\$100 total amount of gift cards to each)
- Membership Supported SEDLO Convention
- Membership Supported Attire Drive
- Twelve Attendees to the 39th Biennial in Atlanta, Georgia
- 23 Subscribers to The Christian Recorder
- Lay Institute: October 25, 2025 – Theme: Kingdom Purpose, Process, Plan, Scripture Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV) Presenters: - Sister D. Faye Conley, SEDLO D.O.L.A.; Rev. Devan Martin, Pastor Bethel, Cambridge, MD; Sister Carlotta Oliver, PhD, Bethel, Baltimore, MD and Rev. Dr. Marilyn Aklin, Pastor, Micah Mission, Baltimore, MD
- Lay Witness Sunday Recognized throughout the Baltimore Annual Conference
- BCLO Bylaws Alignment of Officers Responsibilities with Connections and District

OUR PROJECTED GOAL(S)

- Inclusion of Evangelism and Discipleship training
- Reinstate President Council of Local Presidents to improve communication
- Enhanced Parliamentary Procedure Awareness
- Increasing Local Churches BCLO Membership
- Fundraisers to insure support to the 40th Biennial in Johannesburg, South Africa 2027
- Seeking 100% church having a local lay organization
- "Black History" tour of the Eastern Shore of Maryland planned by Ways and Means Committee

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

BROTHER ALVIN R. WHITE, PRESIDENT



**Second Episcopal District Lay Organization
Washington Conference Lay Organization
Component Meeting Report
July 1, 2026**

Number Of Churches In The Conference: 79

Number Of Churches With Active Lay Organizations: 44

Membership Since January 1, 2026: 654

The Washington Conference Lay Organization (WCLO) proudly embraces and supports the new Connectional Lay Organization (CLO) theme of “Reviving the Connection: Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All We Can Ask or Think” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Throughout the conference year, we have continued to offer timely trainings designed to encourage, empower, and equip the laity. We have maintained both virtual and in-person engagement, ensuring accessibility and participation across the conference. Dynamic presentations and training were facilitated by Brother Jerry Turner, Second Vice President of the Connectional Lay Organization (“Strategic Planning for Local and Conference Lay Organizations”, past WCLO President Bro. Matthew Douglas (“Officers' Roles and Responsibilities within the Washington Conference Lay Organization”), in addition to his own Historiographer, Bro. Darwin Curry, DOLA Kimberly Mitchell, and YAR Xavier Douglas. Topics included “Grief in 15 Minutes,” “Servant Leadership vs. Secular Leadership,” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and AME notables such as Dr. Ossian Sweet and Mary Cardwell Dawson. We also attended Learning Labs hosted by the Second Episcopal District Lay Organization (SEDLO).

In May 2025, we hosted our Outstanding Lay Person Brunch at Reid Temple AMEC with over 200 clergy and lay persons in attendance.

In July 2025, we had a strong lay representation at the 39th Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organizational Biennial in Atlanta, GA. Seven members of the WCLO were selected to be on committees of the Connectional Lay Organization:

- Audit Committee – Sis. Satina Williams (Member)
- Disaster Relief Committee - Sis. Lisa Washington-Thomas (Vice-Chair)
- Election Committee – Sis. Glen White (Member)
- Music Committee – Bro. Brian Glover (Chair)
- Organization and Officer Effectiveness Committee – Sis. Angelita Edwards (Member)
- Social Action Committee – Sis. Lynette Cosby (Vice-Chair)
- Technology Committee – Sis. Chenay Saunders (Chair)

In August 2025, we attended the SEDLO Virtual Special Convention and supported the Connectional RAYAC Convention in Baltimore, MD.

In October 2025, we held our Annual Lay Revival under our theme *“Lay and Clergy, Collaborating for Kingdom Building.”* We were blessed to have Rev. Dr. Dededrick O. Rivers of Ward AMEC serve as our revivalist for the afternoon.

In November 2025, WCLO partnered with the Ministerial Alliance, under the leadership of Rev. Krishnan Natesan, for an intergenerational bowling event. This event fostered fellowship, strengthened relationships between clergy and laity, and engaged the community in a fun and interactive way.

In December 2025, WCLO participated in a Christmas outreach initiative, providing toys, clothing, and essential items for Brooklyn Park Elementary School. Additionally, we donated \$969.00 to Columbia Community Care.

Our young adults remain actively engaged at the local, conference, district, and connectional levels. The Health and Wellness Committee continues to provide valuable information on important health topics.

In February 2026, WCLO members attended the Founder’s Day and Mid-Winter Meeting, as well as the SED Women’s Missionary Society Dorcas Extravaganza. During the SEDLO Prayer Breakfast, the following former SEDLO Presidents were honored:

- Dr. Joseph C. McKinney (deceased)
- Dr. Cellestine Cheeks
- Sis. Valerie Faith Gary Bell (deceased)
- Bro. Matthew Douglas

Under the leadership of our First Vice President, Sis. Chenay Saunders, we continue to recruit new lay members and reactivate inactive organizations through the “No Church Left Behind” initiative. Our team remains committed to supporting local lay organizations by attending annual lay days and special services, both virtually and in person.

In April 2026, the newly elected executive board was installed at the 76th Session of the Washington Annual Conference.

In June 2026, we hosted a “Power in the Pews” Lay Institute where we discussed the Power of being a Delegate, the Power of Movement, the Power of Action, and the Power of Presence.

Goals for the Conference Year

Our primary goals are to:

- Empower and mobilize laity through active engagement in social action initiatives
- Increase participation in community service

- Build strategic partnerships with faith-based, civic, and advocacy organizations

We will achieve these goals through:

- Targeted training and outreach programs
- Collaborative efforts addressing social justice, voter education, economic empowerment, and community development

We also remain committed to integrating technology to stay connected, informed, and engaged through virtual platforms and digital resources, while continuing to prioritize in-person gatherings to strengthen relationships and deepen our impact.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our ministry partners, including the Ministerial Alliance, the Women in Ministry, the Women's Missionary Society and YPD, and RAYAC, as we continue to work towards kingdom building.

As we move forward, we remain committed to supporting our local lay organizations and the Second Episcopal District Lay Organization. We look ahead with great expectation for the opportunities God has in store for WCLO.

Submitted by:

Chenay N. Saunders

Sis. Chenay Saunders, President
Washington Conference Lay Organization

Component Leadership:

- President -Chenay Saunders, Union Bethel Amec –Randallstown, Md
- First Vice President -Brian Glover, Allen Chapel Amec – Washington, DC
- Second Vice President -Lynette Cosby, Reid Temple Amec
- Third Vice President -Derrick Pew, Union Bethel Amec – Brandywine, MD
- Recording Secretary -Kimberly Clark, Love Amec
- Treasurer -Agnes Brown, Turner Memorial Amec
- Financial Secretary -Kennetta Douglas, Mt. Moriah Amec
- Chaplain -Taylor Clark, Reid Temple Amec
- Historiographer -Xavier Douglas, Mt. Moriah Amec
- Director Of Lay Activities -Kimberly Mitchell, Ebenezer Amec – Fort Washington, MD
- Director Of Public Relations -Janice Murray, Metropolitan Amec – Washington, DC
- Young Adult Representative -Taylor Sutton, Mt. Moriah Amec
- Advisors – Sis. Patricia Matthews, Sis. Glen White, Bro. Matthew Douglas



VIRGINIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

Of the Second Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

**The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate,
Second Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
Matikane Abednego Makiti, President, Connectional Lay Organization
Penny Oliver, President, Second Episcopal District Lay Organization**

Valerie Gowens Terry, President, Virginia Conference Lay Organization

African Methodist Episcopal Church Second Episcopal District Lay Organization Component Meeting Report

July 6, 2026

PRESIDENT: Valerie Gowens Terry

NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN THE CONFERENCE: 58

NUMBER OF CHURCHES WITH ACTIVE LAY ORGANIZATIONS: 30

2026 MEMBERSHIP: 511

Recruitment efforts resulted in the addition of membership from seven churches that did not submit membership in 2025.

We need to place greater focus on retention to ensure that existing member churches remain active each year and maintain membership levels.



African Methodist Episcopal Church North Carolina Conference Lay Organization

Mr. Elbert N. Davis, President

19 June Lane, Enfield, NC 27823

Cell: 252-883-3218

Email: elbertndavis@gmail.com



July 2, 2026

PRESIDENT: **Elbert Davis**

NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN THE CONFERENCE: **79**

NUMBER OF CHURCHES WITH ACTIVE LAY ORGANIZATIONS: **79**

2025 MEMBERSHIP: **1211**

MEMBERSHIP SINCE JANUARY 1, 2026: **1280**

MAJOR GOALS FOR THE CONFERENCE YEAR:

1. Building stronger relationships with local churches; lay members; pastors and members
2. Make in-person meetings and membership active again

DESCRIPTIONS OF PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES PROJECTS EXECUTED OR PLANNED
BY THE CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

1. Support more youth in activities
2. Motivate youth to brainstorm ideas to attract more young membership
3. Advertise scholarships available to our youth
4. Teach more; Train more; and Empower more about the Goodness of The Lord

****WE'RE NOT ONLY BUILDING LAY MEMBERS;
WE'RE BUILDING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST****

Respectfully submitted,

Elbert N. Davis

Elbert N. Davis, President & the
NC Conference Lay Organization
Respectfully submitted,

**African Methodist Episcopal Church - Second Episcopal District Lay Organization Western
North Carolina Conference Lay Organization
2025-2026 Annual Conference Report**

We greet you in the
name of our Lord and
Savior Jesus the
Christ,

As we come to the close of another conference we, the WNCCLLO, remain thankful to God for all he has done in our lives and the life of the church as we planted seeds of his love and saving grace. We have worked to move his kingdom forward as we strived to be "The Church at Its Best and First for Christ – Second to None". We were saddened by the transition of Bishop Reginald T. Jackson and attended his homegoing celebration in Atlanta. We continue to pray for his family and the church as we celebrate the appointment of Bishop Harry I. Seawright and Supervisor Sherita Moon Seawright believing there is no secret what God can and will do.

We have moved across the conference and the district with speed and purpose. We have attended trainings, webinars, meetings and events that sometimes challenged us to do more as we moved forward with commitment and determination to do the work of the church. Lay persons have been asked to serve on conference and district committees i.e., CDC, annual Conference Planning Committee, etc. Several of our members have recently completed first level of Parliamentary training. We are thankful to all the churches who celebrated their laity by having a Lay Witness/Evangelism Sunday program as pastors shared the pulpit with lay speakers. You see when we work together clergy and laity we can move mountains.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES PROJECTS EXECUTED BY THE CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION:

Election of Officers to vacant conference positions: Successful in election of 1st VP, Ms. Chaynel Blake-Nichols which has enhanced our ability to better shepherd our membership.

Membership Growth and Development: Our district coordinators have been instrumental in reaching out to and providing information to our churches and members and remain available for consultation, organizing and training. In June 2025 reported 1301 Members with 49 churches and for 2026 we currently have 1026 members with 35 churches as we work towards our June 2026 deadline.

Clergy-Lay Institute: 117 registrants inclusive of . clergy/laity; Excellent food and fellowship at St. Joseph, Durham. Presentations: **1.** Sis. Sonia Barbre and Bro. Kenneth Woods - *WNCCLLO Building and Sustainability of the LO*; **2.** Ms. Penny, SEDLO President - *The SEDLO / WNCCLLO at its Best: ABCs: Who ARE WE, What Are We, WHY Are We, Where Are We?* **3.** Sis. Daphane Sigmon - *Let's Take a trip: A Journey in Faith and Service* -Boarding the Ship, The Destination, Navigating the Journey, Joining the Crew, Interacting with Others, Learning the Ropes-Discipleship, Maintaining the Ship- Stewardship, Servant Leadership and Together We Sail. And, **4.** Rev. Larry McDonald's presentation (sermon), *There Is Power in Togetherness: Clergy / Lay Relationship, Am I My Brothers / Sisters Keeper? What Would Jesus DO? COMMUNICATION! RESPECT! TRUST!*

Conference Meetings: Held meetings as scheduled, with special attention given to appointment of the Nominating Committee. At our conference meetings our Chaplain, Sis. Carol Davenport provides us with lessons that uplifts our spirit and prepares us for the work ahead. Our DOLA, Sis. Azzie Conley, has ordered Study Guides for purchase by members and provided training from lessons within the new study guide. Of course, our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd VP have provided updates received from meetings with their counterparts to assist in our mission of service, training and empowerment. Attendance, interests and participation continue to grow.

Scholarships: Provide financial assistance to our young adults to support in their pursuit of a higher education **Dr. James C. Johnson:** Ms. Kennedy Owens; and, **Kittrell Allen Adams:** Serena Kanu, Ivy Robinson, Kayla McGlockton, Maia Barrow, Makayla Brown, Jasmine Paschal, Destiny Jordan, Lauren Cornelius, Iyana Robinson. We are thankful to our Scholarship Committee for their work to ensure our students receive these awards. We are asking our local churches to collect the "Dollars for Scholars" Initiative which will culminate at the Summer Summit.

Participated in SEDLO Subscription –The Christian Recorder Challenge: Goal for each conference in the SEDLO was to obtain 20 new subscriptions for a conference goal of 100 subscriptions. With the support of our Presiding Elders, clergy and laity of the WNCCLLO we reported 27 new subscriptions. Thanks to all who joined us and made it possible for the conference to meet and exceed our goal as the district made history at the Biennial. SEDLO was the first district to report and we received an award.

WNCCLO Adult and Young Adult -Layperson Recognition: Encourage members in the work with the lay as well as the overall church; Sis. Sonis Barbre, St. James-Winston-Salem, Adult Layperson and Bro. Brandon Lindsay, Clapps Chapel, Young Adult Layperson elected to represent the conference on the district and then by the SEDLO to represent the district at the CLO Biennial. Although they did not place on the CLO level, we are proud of them and thankful for all they do in their service to God and the church.

2026-2028 Conference Election: The requirements outlined in the Doctrine and Discipline and Lay Constitution our 2026-2028 Election of Conference officers was held at our Annual Meeting on April 11. Those officers who had served 8 years will be recognized at our Annual Lay Program and newly elected officers will be installed at this time.

Newly elected Officers:

President- Sis. Barbara R. Myers	1st VP - Sis. Chaynel Nichols	2nd VP – Sis. Regenia Melvin
Recording Secretary – Bro. Brandon Owens	3rd VP – Sis. Gerald Logan	DPOR – Sis. Danita Thompson
DOLA – Sis. Azzie Conley	Corresponding Sec. – Sis. Betty Parker	
Treasurer – Sis. Dorothy Jeffreys	Chaplain – Sis. Carolyn Davenport	
Financial Secretary – Sis. Bettie Duell	Bro. Kenneth Woods - Histogrammer	
Western District Coordinator – Bro. Paul Williams	Eastern District Coordinator - Sis. Bobbi Hague	
Parliamentarian- Bro. John Smotherson		

Voter Awareness/Community Involvement: Conference lay continues to provide information regarding voter registration, education and empowerment; Handouts at meetings, churches, emails; attendance at community meetings (i.e., board of election, county commissioners, city council, disaster preparedness, etc.) , partnering with other organizations; encouraging friends, family and members to volunteer as poll workers, watchers, monitors and canvassing and phone banks as well as appointment to local Board of Elections.

Recommendations:

1. Officers become more visible on the district, conference and local level as they train, empower, spread the good news and implement the projects associated with their position and the mission of the organization and the church; Organizing counterparts at the local level especially the Vice Presidents, DOLA, Chaplain, Histogrammer, etc., as we move our work forward;
2. Full implementation of the SEDLO Membership Recruitment and Retention Strategic Plan across the conference through training, information and consultation as we share and celebrate recruitment activities from our churches, alongside our Presiding Elders - Listen, Share and Encourage; and, the CLO Strategic Plan thus allowing trained and Christ focused members ; implement our Lunch with the Lay (grow with nurturing and support of the conference);
3. Reach out to RAYAC, YPD and Young Adult and the church to create a platform for us to begin conversation in an effort to facilitate the involvement of our young adults in the lay organizations, we need you;
4. The laity on the local level encourage and support the establishment of a Commission on Christian Social Action (GOTV – upcoming General Election/Community Involvement) at the local church and work to ensure the membership and community have an awareness of issues and their potential impact on the church and community both physically and spiritually; and,
5. Evaluate and implement a Ways and Means Committee to supports the organization in their mission and participation in projects and training, and
6. Continue to work on our communication tools (i.e., website, event registration, to better support our members and the church

We will continue to host those evens that celebrate our work and give thanks for the gifts and talents we bring and pray for togetherness, fellowship and breakthroughs as we train, and empower our members for the work of church – as we are, First for Christ– Second to None”. And, we give thanks to God for the grace and mercy he has extended to us this year, to our Presiding Elders Rev. Dr. Alim and Rev. Dr. Lyons, component leaders, the clergy and laity for their prayers and support. Our work is made lighter when we are able to work together in unity and love. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve and pray we are making a difference when we join together in fellowship, service and love.

Submitted on behalf of the WNCCLO
Barbara R. Myers, Conference President

%

Addendum: We continue our membership recruitment as we have grown from 1029 at conference to 1137 as we encourage our laity to become actively involved in the work of the lay and the church. We will continue to work toward 100% representation

from all 80 churches in our conference. Our conference officers have been duly installed by Bishop Harry L. Seawright and are excited about the work before them. We closed the year with our Annual Lay Witness Program which was cited as a Family Reunion by our presiding officer, Sis. Regenia Melvin. Our Theme was "Reviving the Connection Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All We Can Ask and Think" but our speaker, Minister Carmen Seawright, put his spin on it as he brought forth "That's Not In the Discipline" using Luke 10:38-42 as his text. The Discipline provides for order, structure and accountability and without these there is confusion. However, an organized ministry does not replace Jesus. He challenged the laity to come together and take back the church with the Bible and Discipline reminding us that Salvation is not in policy but in Jesus. We are thankful to our program committee, chaired by Sis. Azzie Conley – Conference DOLA, for all their work in putting this program together and to our pastors, clergy and laity for their attendance but above all to the Holy Spirit for showing up as the preached word came forth and the response to the Altar Call. President Myers registered for and attended the 4th District Lay Convention and left with a renewed spirit and much information to share. We attended the Western District Sunday School Convention and solicited the support of PE Rev. Dr. Phillip Cousin, Jr, the pastors and clergy and lay membership to organize, and become active and focused as they participate in the life of the church at home and across the conference and the district. Our Annual Prayer Lay Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, September 14, 2026 at 10 AM, hosted by Bethel Greensboro where Rev. Dr. Clay Barrow is the Senior Pastor and Sis. Chaynel Nichols is the local lay president. Then we move to our Clergy Lay Institute in November and we are reaching out to the conference for a host church, and training. Our conference showed up in support of the Intergenerational Sneaker Ball and we were able to sell 31 Adult Tickets and 7 Youth and Young Adult tickets. Thanks be to God!

In His Service,

Barbara R. Myers,, President

WNCCLLO



African Methodist Episcopal Church
Second Episcopal District Lay Organization
Summer Officers Report
July 1, 2026

NAME: Janice Murray OFFICE: Corresponding Secretary/DOPR

Please provide information for activities, initiatives provided by/through your OFFICE since Mid-Winter 2026.

DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS
2 death announcements since February 2026	Informed Laity	Informed Laity
65 emails sent since February 2026	Informed Laity	
2,321 visits to the website Feb-June 2026 6,552 visits June 2025-June 2026	Informed Laity	reflects extremely high engagement with the website
Website has an 88 out of 100 rating		reflects extremely high engagement with the website
Shared 5 DOLA suggested reading lists since February 2026	Informed Laity	Informed Laity
Shared 5 Chaplain prayers since February 2026	Informed Laity	Informed Laity
Designed numerous promotional materials	Informed Laity	Informed Laity

PLANNED	DESCRIPTION	STATUS

LIST CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED THIS CONFERENCE YEAR.

LIST YOUR SUCCESSES THIS YEAR.

WHAT ACTIVITIES, ETC. ARE PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR?

LIST ANY OPPORTUNITIES YOU HAD TO REPRESENT THE SEDLO (Lay Day Speaker, Workshop Presenter, invited, etc.

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE
(e.g.) Lay Day Speaker	October 12, 2025	WAME Church Anywhere, MD
Connectional Corresp	Quarterly	
Connectional DOPR	Ad Hoc	



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SECOND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION

2026 SEDLO CONVENTION

October 21-23, 2026

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Wilmington, NC 28403

Join
us



THEME:

Reviving the Connection: Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All We Can Ask or Think
Ephesians 3:20-21

- Election
- Learning Labs
- Workshops
- Fellowship
- First Timers Orientation
- Worship Experiences
- Recognition of Outstanding Laypersons & Outgoing Officers

Hotel Details Will Be Made Available Upon Registration

Registration Is Open: \$150 -Due By September 15th
Contact Conference President to Register

Late Registration: \$200 - Ends October 15th

Sis. Penny S. Oliver, President
Sis. D. Faye Conley, Director Of Lay Activities
Bro. Adam Johnston, Young Adult Representative