

**Connectional Lay Organization of the
African Methodist Episcopal Church
38th Lay Biennial Convention
Hilton Chicago Hotel, Chicago, Illinois
June 26-30, 2023**



**Bishop Stafford Joe Nathan Wicker, Commission Chairperson
Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr., Senior Bishop
Bishop John F. White, Host Bishop**

**Mr. Matikane Abednego Makiti, Connectional Lay President
Ms. Patricia Wright, Connectional Director of Lay Activities
Ms. Jamesha J. Williams, Connectional Lay Young Adult Representative**

**Mr. Jerry Turner Jr., Host Episcopal District Lay President
Mr. Michael A. Cousin, Host Episcopal Director of Lay Activities
Mr. Terrence Sanford, Episcopal Young Adult Representative**

**The 38th Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization
African Methodist Episcopal Church
June 26 – June 30, 2023
Hilton Chicago Hotel, Chicago, Illinois**

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

Prior to the opening session of the 38th Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization meeting, the meeting of the Connectional Lay Economic Development Corporation (CLEDC) took place on Monday, June 26, 2023.

**Minutes
Executive Board Session
June 26, 2023**

The Executive Board Meeting of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was held at the Hilton Chicago Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, and hosted by the Fourth Episcopal District. The meeting was called to order at 6:18 PM CST, June 26, 2023, by Connectional Lay Organization President, Mr. Matikane Makiti.

President Makiti outlined the agenda.

1. Hakeem Jeffries
2. Attire
3. Reports

The Honorable Hakim Jeffries- DOLA Patricia Wright informed us that The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, House of Representatives Democratic Leader and Representative from New York, would speak to the Biennial Convention on June 27, 2023, at 1:30 PM CST. Due to logistical and security issues, all should arrive at 12:45 PM CST. The attire for Business Session I is “a sea of blue,” however; since the time between opening worship and the business session has been reduced, delegates and observers may choose to remain in their white attire. We are not required to sit within our delegations.

President Keith Britton (7th) questioned schedule adjustments due to committee meetings. DOLA Wright is confident that if we stay on schedule, little to no adjustments will need to be made.

Sharon Blaylock, Event Planner- The committee is prepared to flip the room, to include delegation seating and flag placements, if needed. Be aware that adjusting the schedule can lead to overtime pay for the AV Team.

Reports- Chenay Saunders- Some reports may be difficult to see. If a report was not received it will be given verbally.

The meeting was adjourned by President Makiti.

Opening Worship of Word and Sacrament Tuesday, June 27, 2023

The opening worship service of the 38th Connectional Lay Organization Biennial Convention was called to order by Senior Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson at 9:00 am CST. Prayer, Bishop Ronnie Brailsford, Scripture: Isaiah 55:8-11, Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, and Luke 4:14:21, Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Decalogue Bishop Harry Seawright. The Lay Litany was read by Bro. Letlhogonolo R. K. Mosuwe. The plead for the Offering of mission, Bishop Marvin C. Zanders II, followed by the Choral response.

Welcome by Jerry Turner, President of the 4th District. President Matikane A. Makiti greeted the assembled body. Selection “I believe” rendered by the 4th District Choir.

Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson presented the preacher of the hour, Bishop Silvester Beamon. The text “Our DNA and Legacy” came from Acts 1:12-17. The invitation to Christian Discipleship, Bishop Julius McAllister. Bishop Zanders led the pleading for the Offering. Mrs. Monique Green, Recording Secretary, read the announcements.

The communion was led by Bishop(s) Adam J. Richardson, Ronnie Brailsford, Sr., E. Earl McCloud, Michael Mitchell, Clement Fugh, Frederick Wright, Harry Seawright, Adam Richardson, Jr., Earl McCloud, Frank Madison Reid, III, Reginald T. Jackson, and Julius McAllister, Sr.

We adjourned for Lunch.

Business Session I President Matikane A. Makiti, Presiding

The 38th Biennial Convention of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was called to order at 1:10 PM CST, June 27, 2023, by Connectional Lay Organization 1st Vice President, Dr. Dorothy Henderson.

Devotion was led by Chaplain Charlie Nichols.

Greetings were extended by Host Bishop, Bishop John Franklin White, Host Episcopal District President, Jerry Turner, Jr., and Lay Commission Chair, Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker.

CLO YAR Jamesha Williams recognized special guests.

Greetings were extended by Deborah Taylor King, International WMS President and Jeremy Satterwhite, International RAYAC President.

Credentials Committee Report- D. Faye Conley- Chairperson

The Committee will certify the delegation and provide information as to the number of delegates from each Episcopal District. The information is to be formulated and provided to the Biennial Convention and its appropriate committees, i.e. the Committee provides the voting strength of the convention.

Recommendations

1. Encourage Registration Committee to use the categories for the Biennial Convention membership as outlined in the 2021 AME Doctrine and Discipline, Article IV- Membership, pp. 502, 503.
 - a. Suggested Credentials Committee Report is provided. Recommendation made during 37th Biennial Convention.
2. Capture all young adults registered. Recommendation made during 37th Biennial Convention.
3. Registration Committee provide **preliminary** registration information to the Credentials Committee no later than **7 days prior** to the opening of the Biennial Convention.
4. Provide a virtual training session no later than 30 days prior to the start of the Biennial Convention for **Episcopal Presidents, Episcopal Registrars and Episcopal Credentials Committee Members**, at a minimum.
5. Where possible, keep the same committee members in place for the 39th Biennial Convention. Rationale: Use the even-numbered convention as hands-on training time to provide experience to new members in preparation for the conventions where elections take place.

Credentials – Mrs. D. Faye Conley – As of 9:00 am, Tuesday, June 27, 2023, TOTAL VOTING DELEGATION - 934

1- 80	11- 112
2- 60	12- 41
3- 47	13- 50
4- 79	14- 0
5- 72	15- 14
6- 77	16- 2
7- 117	17- 0
8- 42	18- 0
9- 64	19- 41
10- 36	20- 0

It was moved by Ava Parker and seconded by Pat Richardson that the report of the Credentials Committee be adopted. Motion carried.

Voting Apparatus Training was conducted.

Rules Committee Report- Bettye W. Davis, Chairperson Monice Crawford, Vice Chairperson

Rule	Title	Status
Rule #1	Session Term	Approved
Rule #2	Business Sessions	Approved
Rule #3	Boundaries	Approved
Rule #4	Official Program	Approved

Rule #5	Quorum and Majority Vote	Approved
Rule #6	Decorum and Debate	Approved
Rule #7	Assignment of the Floor	Approved
Rule #8	Marshals	Approved
Rule #9	Badge Identification	Approved
Rule #10	Attendance	Approved
Rule #11	Resolutions	Approved
Rule #12	Questions of Privilege	Approved
Rule #13	Point of Order	Approved
Rule #14	Personal Electronic Devices	Approved
Rule #15	Governing Document and Parliamentary Authority	Approved

It was moved by Bettye W. Davis for the adoption of the Standing Rules of the 38th Biennial Session. Vote- 796 (Yes), 9 (No). Motion carried.

Adoption Biennial Convention Program- It was moved by DOLA Patricia Wright to adopt the Biennial Convention program as presented with any amendments or corrections. Seconded by President Matthew Douglas (2nd). Vote- 792 (Yes), 13 (No). Motion carried.

President Matthew Douglas (2nd) made a recommendation to set a timer each time a vote is taken.

Disposition of the 2021 Biennial Minutes- The 2021 Biennial Minutes are located on the CLO website. No corrections or additions to the minutes; the minutes were adopted.

President Alfreda Brooks (6th) asked that we follow the agenda as outlined being that we did not complete the Roll Call and we are not following the agenda.

President Nomthimba Khoza (19th) introduced President Matikane “Abe” Makiti for the President’s Address. Supervisor Brailsford blessed the Biennial Convention with a selection.

The President’s Address was presented by President Matikane “Abe” Makiti.

Reports of the Vice Presidents- The Biennial Convention received and accepted the following Vice Presidents Reports with commendations.

1. Dr. Dorothy Henderson- 1st Vice President
2. Simon Letsoko- 2nd Vice President
3. Lovie Aaron- 3rd Vice President

President Jerry Turner (4th) made the recommendation that in the interest of time we adjourn until 8:45 AM CST tomorrow morning. Announcements were given by CLO Corresponding Secretary Cheryl Hammond Hopewell. The meeting was adjourned by President Makiti.

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

The Morning Glory Devotional Message was rendered by Rev. Conitras M. Houston Dickens, Pastor of Dupage A.M.E. Church in Lisle, Illinois. Text: “Show me the Witness” Luke 5: 17-20.

Business Session II
CLO First Vice President Dr. Dorothy Henderson, Presiding

Business Session II of the 38th Biennial Convention of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was called to order at 8:46 AM CST, June 28, 2023, by Connectional Lay Organization 1st Vice President, Dr. Dorothy Henderson.

Registration Committee Report
Kathy Drayton, Chairperson and Lyndia Mayo, Vice Chairperson

Registration- As of June 28, 2023 (Delegates and Alternates + Observers) = 1,182

Districts	Delegates	Alternates	Total Delegates and Alternates	Observers	Adjusted Totals
1	83	1	84	28	112
2	60	1	61	22	83
3	47	2	49	13	62
4	78	0	78	22	100
5	73	1	74	11	85
6	77	0	77	15	92
7	117	0	117	39	156
8	42	0	42	5	47
9	53	3	56	9	65
10	36	2	38	12	50
11	112	1	113	25	138
12	44	0	44	8	52
13	41	2	43	11	54
14	5	0	5	0	5
15	21	0	21	4	25
16	2	0	0	1	3
17	2	0	0	0	2
18	5	0	0	1	6
19	41	0	0	4	45
20	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	939	13	952	230	1,182

Credentials Committee Report- D. Faye Conley- Chairperson

The second report of the credentials report rendered no changes.

Financial Reports- The Biennial Convention received and accepted the following reports.

1. Report of the Financial Secretary- Lyndia Mayo
2. Report of the Treasurer- Kathy Drayton

Discussion

- ✚ Cleveland Frazier (7th)- \$18,000 is allocated for scholarships. If funds are not used, are funds added? In case funds are decreased will we look at ways to reduce spending? When will delegates receive copies of the reports? Treasurer Drayton noted that the CLO is looking for ways to decrease spending in case funds are decreased from the AME Church and the reports will be added to the CLO website.
 - ✚ President Jerry Turner (4th) asked for clarification. If this is an audit report, will this report be forwarded to the Audit Committee? Treasurer Kathy Drayton noted that it is the practice of the CLO that the Audit Report be presented with the Treasurer's Report. President Turner stressed that the CLO program and thrust should remain the priority.
 - ✚ Dr. Kimberly Brooks (3rd) questioned if the report was on the website and if not, when will it be available.
 - ✚ Young (3rd) extended commendations to Financial Secretary Lyndia Mayo and Audit Committee Chairperson Jeffrey Pressley.
 - ✚ Dr. Rodrick Moore (10th) extended commendations to Treasurer Kathy Drayton.
3. 2023-2025 Proposed Operating Budget- Cynthia Gordon-Floyd
 - ✚ The report was presented by Chairperson Cynthia Gordon-Floyd. She moved that the 2023-2025 budget be approved. Seconded by Financial Secretary Lyndia Mayo.

Discussion

- ✚ Judge Starr Battle (2nd)- asked why the DOLA budget travel was cut. Chairperson Gordon-Floyd noted that the budget was not cut. The budget listed is the budget that was submitted to the committee.
- ✚ Ruben Braziel II (10th)- What were the savings since President Makiti limited in person meetings and we need to figure out a way to deal with the archives. Chairperson Gordon-Floyd stated about \$70K for travel costs- fair number but could be more. Archives will be addressed during Historiographer's Report.
- ✚ **President Jerry Turner (4th) moved to amend the 2023-2025 Proposed Budget to allow an additional \$10K to be added to the budget of the Director of Public Relations. Seconded by President Matthew Douglas (2nd) and President Robert Turner, Jr. (9th).**

Unreadiness

- ✚ Jeremy Joseph (9th) stated the methodology used in determining budgets.
 - ✚ Alfred Wolobah (14th)- questioned why the Episcopal District Presidents were not included. Chairperson Gordon-Floyd noted that Episcopal Districts have their own individual budgets. This budget is strictly CLO.
 - ✚ President Matthew Douglas (2nd)- There are no timekeepers. He called for the order of the day.
- Vote to End Debate- Yes- 661, No- 139. Motion Carried.**

Vote- To amend the 2023-2025 Proposed Operating Budget to allow an additional \$10,000 to be added to the budget of the Director of Public Relations. Yes- 297, No- 524. Motion Failed.

AME V-Alert Chairperson Jacquelyn Dupont Walker confirmed that the AME V-Alert Committee submitted a budget and stated that they would raise external funds for the Faith Walk.

President Alfreda Brooks (6th) moved to amend the 2023-2025 Proposed Operating Budget to add \$500 to the stipend of the Recording Secretary from \$2500 to \$3000. Seconded by Dr. Rodrick Moore (10th).

Vote- Yes- 467, No- 358. Motion carried.

CLO 2nd Vice President Simon Letsoko moved to add \$5100 to the 2023-2025 Proposed Operating Budget for the budget of the CLO 2nd Vice President. Seconded by President Nomthimba Khoza (19th).

Vote- Yes- 360, No- 471. Motion failed.

Bishop Wicker thanked the body for Disaster Relief funds that were given to the 8th Episcopal District.

Vote to adopt the 2023-2025 Proposed Operating Budget with amendments. Yes- 705, No- 69. Motion carried/Budget adopted.

Commendations for Cynthia Gordon-Floyd and D. Faye Conley were extended by President Matthew Douglas (2nd).

Commendations were extended to President Lamar Rose (5th) for the graphic design of the artistic rendering for the Connectional Lay Organization by Simeon Rhoden (5th).

Officers' Reports- The Biennial Convention received and accepted the following reports with commendations.

1. Director of Lay Activities- Patricia Wright
2. Young Adult Representative- Jamesha Williams

Commendations were extended to DOLA Patricia Wright from the 11th Episcopal District and YAR Jamesha Williams by the 3rd, 7th, 11th, 10th, 5th, 4th, and 12th Districts.

Bishop McCloud gave a brief logistical overview for the 2024 General Conference.

The announcements were given by CLO Corresponding Secretary Cheryl Hammond Hopewell.

The meeting was adjourned for the Young Adult Hour of Power.

Young Adult Hour of Power Worship Experience

The Young Adult Hour of Power Worship Experience was called to order at 12:32 PM CST by Worship Leader and 11th Episcopal District Young Adult Representative, Ashley Blakely. Call to Worship- Jyzelle Steplight (1st Episcopal District YAR), Opening Hymn- Donatello Grey (13th Episcopal District YAR), Prayer- Bryan Gray (President, Chicago Conference Lay Organization), Old Testament Scripture- Psalm 119:41-48- Keitumetse Mokhema (19th Episcopal District YAR), New Testament Scripture- 2 Peter 3:8-18- Jequetta Rogers (12th

Episcopal District YAR), Introduction of the Speaker- Terrance Sanford (4th Episcopal District YAR), Offering- Jeremy Joseph (9th Episcopal District YAR and CLO Budget and Finance Committee Vice Chairperson). The preacher of the hour was Rev. Craig T. Robinson, Jr., Senior Pastor, St. James AME Church, 4th Episcopal District. The text “A Privileged Perspective” came from John 2: 1-12.

We were adjourned for lunch.

Business Session III
President Matikane Abednego Makiti, Presiding
Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Business Session III of the 38th Biennial Convention of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was called to order at 3:00 PM CST, June 28, 2023, by Connectional Lay Organization President, Matikane Abednego Makiti.

President Matthew Douglas (2nd) asked if today, June 28, 2023, was the last day to use the voting apparatuses. Treasurer Kathy Drayton noted that the business sessions were scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday and the company cannot extend their time.

CLEDC Report- Judge Derek Anderson, Chairperson

The current board was established in August 2021 with a balance of \$19,007.78 in the PNC Checking Account. Repeated attempts to locate funds and records have been unsuccessful. Missing reported funds totaling \$1.6 million was noted, however the true amount is unknown. Findings reveal that the account was listed under one (1) individual’s social security number. An email survey was sent to all registered delegates asking for their desire for the CLEDC. The survey revealed that the desire of most is to restructure the CLEDC. The CLEDC is now bonded, and the board is covered under liability insurance. The following three individuals resigned: President- Matthew Douglas, Secretary- Carolyn Walker Kimbro, Treasurer- Cheryl Hammond Hopewell. The board voted to place a 2-year hold on funds and place the remaining balance of \$18,853.97 (two expenses were paid) in an interest-bearing account until the board is restructured. A check for \$18,853.97 was placed in the hands of Treasurer/CFO, Marcus Henderson. There was a lengthy discussion concerning holding individuals with fiduciary duties accountable (Cleveland Frazier-7th, Dr. Paulette Coleman- 13th, Judge Starr Battle- 2nd, Simeon Rhoden- 5th, Judge Thabile Ngubeni-19th). References were made to Page 529 in the 2021 Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church. Litigation can be costly. Commendations were extended to Judge Derek Anderson, Carolyn Walker Kimbro, Matthew Douglas and Cheryl Hammond Hopewell.

Credentials Committee Report- D. Faye Conley- Chairperson

The Final Credentials Report – Mrs. D. Faye Conley – as of 3:00 PM, June 28, 2023, TOTAL VOTING DELEGATION: 919

1- 80/83	11- 112
2- 60/61/62	12- 41/44/40
3- 47	13- 36/41/38
4- 79	14- 0/5
5- 72	15- 14/21
6- 77	16- 0/2
7- 116	17- 0/2
8- 42	18- 5
9- 64/53/52	19- 41
10- 36	20- 0

Constitution and Bylaws Committee- Libertha Kapere Mutambo, Chairperson

Amendment	Title	Yes	No	Status
1	Committees- Article XIV, Section 2. Standing Committees, Page 710	409	309	Adopted
2	Officers, Duties and Responsibilities	213	493	Not Adopted
3	President Emeritus Designation	124	598	Not Adopted
4	Divisions	645	100	Adopted
5	Election of Officers- Article VII, Section 1, P. 897	736	20	Adopted
6	Election of Officers- Article VII, Section 7, P. 699	690	48	Adopted
7	Meetings	693	9	Adopted
8	Committees- Article XIV, Section 2. Standing Committees, P. 710	92	675	Not Adopted
9	Membership- Article XVII- President Emeritus	389	321	Adopted

****Note for Amendment 9-** Dr. Kimberly Brooks (3rd) moved to strike “they are not automatic delegates to the Biennial Session” and add “they are automatic delegates to the Biennial Session” under Section 3. Privileges. A. Motion seconded.

Section 3. Privileges **Current Text:

- A. As defined within the By-Laws of the Lay Organization, Section 10, President Emeritus shall be a perpetual member of the Lay Organization, however they **are not** automatic delegates to the Biennial Session.

Proposed Text per motion by Dr. Kimberly Brooks (3rd)

- A. As defined within the By-Laws of the Lay Organization, Section 10, President Emeritus shall be a perpetual member of the Lay Organization, however they **are** automatic delegates to the Biennial Session.

Vote to strike “they are not automatic delegates to the Biennial Session and add they are automatic delegates to the Biennial Session. Yes- 297, No- 392. Motion failed.

**Vote to adopt Amendment 9: Membership
Yes- 389, No- 321. Adopted**

Announcements were given by CLO Corresponding Secretary Cheryl Hammond Hopewell. The Business Session was adjourned by President Makiti.

Teaching and Learning
Thursday, June 29, 2023

Learning Labs took place on Thursday, June 29, 2023. The Learning Labs were divided into two sessions. Session I (8:30 AM-9:20 AM and 9:30 AM- 10:20 AM) and Session II (10:40 AM-11:30 AM and 11:40 AM- 12:30 PM).

Lunch- Wellness Break- 12:40 P.M.

Candidates' Forum- Jaquelyn Dupont Walker- Chairperson, Lomex Sisilana- Vice Chairperson- 2:00 PM

The following Candidates participated in the Candidates' Forum:

Office of Judicial Council

Judge Derek Anderson
Judge Champ
Judge Tania E. Wright

General Officers

Rev. Tyronda Burgess
Rev. Kenneth Golphin
Rev. Jarrett Washington
Rev. Mark Kelly Tyler, PhD (statement was read)

Episcopal Committee

Rev. William Lamar, PhD
Rev. Dr. Harold Mayberry

Office of Bishop

Rev. Dr. Michael Bell, Sr.
Rev. Albert Biwa
Rev. Dr. Spencer Booker
Rev. Dr. Michael Bouie
Rev. Vernon R. Byrd, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Ronnie L. Clark, Sr.
Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford
Rev. Dr. Joseph Cousin, Sr.
Rev. Dr. Gregory V. Eason, Sr.
Rev. Gordon

Rev. Keith Lawrence
Rev. Dr. Willie E. Marshall
Rev. Dr. Elmer S. Martin
Rev. Julius McAllister, Jr.
Rev. Dr. Orlando McCauley
Rev. Dr. M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick
Rev. Dr. Moses A. Simms, Jr.
Rev. Dr. Timothy Tyler
Rev. Dr. Darryl Williams
Rev. Dimpho Gaobepe (video)

Business Session IV
June 29, 2023
President Matikane Makiti, Presiding

Business Session IV of the 38th Biennial Convention of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was called to order at 3:40 PM CST, June 29, 2023, by Connectional Lay Organization President, Matikane Abednego Makiti.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report- Libertha Kapere Mutambo, Chairperson

Due to the absence of the voting apparatuses, President Makiti informed the voting delegation that we would be using the rise method (stand) for voting.

Amendment	Title	Yes	No	Status
10	The Connectional Lay Organization Heading/Title Section III.	Majority	< 2/3	Adopted
11*	Preamble	Majority	< 2/3	Adopted
12*	Membership- Article IV, Section 2g. Page 684	Majority	< 2/3	Adopted
13	Membership- Article IV, Section 2. Page 684	< 2/3	Majority	Not Adopted
14*	Election of Officers, Article VII, Section 7 Vacancy of Elected Officer, Page 699	< 2/3	Majority	Not Adopted
15	Officers, Duties and Responsibilities, Article V-H- Duties and Responsibilities, Treasurer, Page 688	1	Majority	Not Adopted
16	Officers, Duties and Responsibilities, Article V, 1- Duties and Responsibilities, Financial Secretary, Page 689	1	Majority	Not Adopted
17	Officers, Duties and Responsibilities, Article V- Section 2, Page 693	2	Majority	Not Adopted
18	Qualifications- Article VIII- Section 9, Treasurer, Page 702	2	Majority	Not Adopted
19	Qualifications- Article VIII- Section 9, Financial Secretary, Page 702-703	2	Majority	Not Adopted
20	Executive Board- Article IX, Section 2 and 3, Page 706	Majority	< 2/3	Adopted
21*	Executive Board- Article IX, Section 8, Page 706	Majority	< 2/3	Adopted
22	Committees- Article XIV, Section 7 & 8, Page 711-712	2	Majority	Not Adopted
3	Spelling, Grammatical and Stylistic Amendments	Majority	< 2/3	Adopted

*** Designates notes below**

****Notes**

- ✚ **Amendment 11-** Preamble. President Jerry Turner (4th) asked the committee to remove “By-Laws” from the proposed amended text. The committee adhered to the request.

Should read: We, the international organized laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in order to foster efficient outcomes in our governing activities, maximize the growth and development of our members and support the mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, do affirm, and adopt, with clarity and conviction, through the power of the Holy Ghost, the **Constitution** of the Connectional Lay Organization.

- ✚ **Amendment 12-** Membership
CLO YAR Jamesha Williams moved to strike “representative” from the language because representative implies the actual position and not a young adult member. Seconded by Jequetta Rogers (12th).

Proposed Amended Text:

- i. Six (6) elected delegates from each organized Station or Circuit, of whom at least one (1) shall be a young adult **representative**, ages 18-35.

Text per motion:

Six (6) elected delegates from each organized Station or Circuit, of whom at least one (1) shall be a young adult, ages 18-35.

Vote to strike “representative.” Yes- majority, No- 1. Motion carried.

Vote to adopt Amendment 12: Membership. Yes- majority. Adopted.

- ✚ **Amendment 14-** Election of Officers
After much debate, President Jerry Turner(4th) called for the question. Seconded by Michael Cousin, Jr. (4th).
Vote to end debate- Yes- majority, No- < 2/3. Motion carried.
Vote for Amendment 14: Yes- minority, No- majority. Not adopted.

- ✚ **Amendment 21-** Executive Board
Dr. Kimberly Brooks (3rd) moved to add “and not to serve in any supervisory role, or act as a liaison to any elected officer, or committee of the Connectional Lay Organization” in the proposed amended text. Seconded by Judge Derek Anderson (3rd).

Proposed new reading: Section 8- The Executive Board may establish an Advisory Council to act in a purely advisory capacity to the Executive Board **and not to serve in any supervisory role, or act as a liaison to any elected officer, or committee of the Connectional Lay Organization.** The Advisory Council may consist of past presidents of the Connectional Lay or Episcopal Lay Organization and such other distinguished lay members. The members are nominated by the President and confirmed by the Executive Board. The Advisory Council shall not exceed five (5) persons. The Advisors will serve as liaisons to committees and elected officers as assigned by the Executive Board.

Advisors may attend committee meetings but are to communicate with Chairpersons prior to meetings and not participate verbally in meetings unless necessary or asked.

Vote to amend text per motion: Yes- majority, No- < 2/3. Motion Carried.

Vote to adopt Amendment 21- Yes- majority, No- < 2/3. Adopted

Commendations were extended to Libertha Mutambo, John Love and the entire committee.

Proposed Legislation Committee Report- Mark Johnson, Chairperson

Number	Title	Yes	No	Status
CLO 1	A What's New Page for the AME Book of Doctrine and Discipline	Majority	< 2/3	Adopted

Announcements were given by CLO Corresponding Secretary Cheryl Hammond Hopewell. The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 PM CST.

Friday, June 30, 2023

The Morning Glory Devotional Message was rendered by Rev. Darius Curtis, Pastor of Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Joliet, Illinois.

**Business Session V
President Matikane Makiti, Presiding**

Business Session V of the 38th Biennial Convention of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was called to order at 9:00 AM CST, June 30, 2023, by Connectional Lay Organization President, Matikane Abednego Makiti.

Proposed Legislation Committee Report- Mark Johnson, Chairperson

Number	Title	Yes	No	Status
CLO 2	Commission on Internal Audit	Majority	< 2/3	Adopted
CLO 3	Consistent use of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Emblem- The Anvil and the Cross	100%	No objections	Adopted
CLO 4*	Local Minister Annuity/Insurance Program Participation	Majority	< 2/3	Adopted
CLO 5 *	Providing IRS Required Documentation for the Pastor's Housing Allowance Benefit	Majority	< 2/3	Adopted
CLO 6*	Reduction of the Travel Budget of Retired Bishops and General Officers by 50% to achieve fiscal savings in the 2024-2028 General Church Budget	Majority	< 2/3	Adopted

CLO 7	Revisions Committee- Time at General Conference	100%	No objections	Adopted
CLO 8*	Revisions to the Commission on Financial Management Program	Majority	< 2/3	Adopted
CLO 9	Transparency of Connectional Budget	100%	No objections	Adopted
CLO 10*	Trustee Participation in the Negotiation of Pastor's Housing Allowance	100%	No objections	Adopted
CLO 11	Ministerial Training Board Composition	100%	No objections	Adopted
CLO 12	Stewardship and Finance Commission as a standing commission	100%	No objections	Adopted
CLO 13	Adjusting CONVO to assist in streamlining the legislation process for the General Conference	< 2/3	Majority	No Adopted
CLO 14	Supervision and Evaluation of Pastors	100%	No objections	Adopted

****Notes**

CLO 8 and CLO 10 adopted with amendments.

CLO 4- Dr. Lenora Brogdon-Wyatt (3rd) moved to strike college presidents from the proposed new wording. Seconded.

Proposed new wording: Included in this coverage shall be all bishops, general officers, college presidents, deans of theological seminaries, itinerant elders and all other ordained persons receiving an appointment to a pastoral charge, and salaried personnel of the connectional departments of the AME Church, including our hospitals, church schools and colleges.

Proposed wording with motion: Included in this coverage shall be all bishops, general officers, deans of theological seminaries, itinerant elders and all other ordained persons receiving an appointment to a pastoral charge, and salaried personnel of the connectional departments of the AME Church, including our hospitals, church schools and colleges.

Vote to strike college presidents- Yes- < 2/3 No- majority. Motion failed.

Vote to adopt CLO 4- Yes- Majority, No- < 2/3. Adopted.

CLO 5- (3rd) moved to strike Board of Trustees from the bill. Seconded.

Proposed new wording: The Board of Stewards and the Board of Trustees will work to assist the Pastor in implementing the most tax-advantageous compensation package by ensuring that the housing allowance is maximized per the attached housing allowance worksheet. Other benefits would be considered after the housing allowance has been maximized.

Proposed wording with motion: The Board of Stewards will work to assist the Pastor in implementing the most tax-advantageous compensation package by ensuring that the housing allowance is maximized per the attached housing allowance worksheet. Other benefits would be considered after the housing allowance has been maximized.

Vote to strike Board of Trustees- Yes < 2/3, No- majority. Motion failed.

Vote to adopt CLO 5- Yes- majority, No < 2/3

CLO 6- After much debate, it was noted that the figures in this bill were derived from the Connectional Budget of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2020-2024 Booklet located on Page 17, Retired Bishops Expenses and Page 2, Retired General Officers Travel.

CLO 8- Gloria Jeff (4th) moved to amend the bill to include 5 years' experience as a qualification. Seconded.

Proposed New Wording (Page 26, lines 42-47):

- b. Qualifications- These appointees must possess the formal education, professional certifications, and independence from the General Board to provide the expertise required to perform the duties of this commission. The Commission should be made up of certified public accountants, human resource professionals, internal audit and control experts, fraud examiners, organizational leadership professionals, attorneys, and others with similar financial, management and legal expertise.

Proposed wording with motion:

Qualifications- These appointees must possess the formal education, professional certifications, a minimum of five (5) years' experience, and independence from the General Board to provide the expertise required to perform the duties of this commission. The Commission should be made up of certified public accountants, human resource professionals, internal audit and control experts, fraud examiners, organizational leadership professionals, attorneys, and others with similar financial, management and legal expertise.

Vote to add minimum of five (5) years' experience to qualifications- Yes- majority, No- < 2/3. Motion carried.

Vote to adopt CLO 8 with amendment- Yes- majority, No- < 2/3

CLO 10- Faye Brown (5th) moved to add "selected by the Board of Trustees" into the proposed new wording. Seconded by Simeon Rhoden (5th).

Proposed New Wording- Section 1. Local Church Organization- Required

- A. They shall secure, by purchase or hire, a house for the pastor's family and also comfortably furnish it. In lieu of this arrangement, the pastor may be given a housing allowance. If a housing allowance is given, it is the Stewards' duty to negotiate a reasonable housing allowance with the pastor. If the church has a parsonage and the pastor choose not to reside in it, a designated member of the Board of Trustees shall be included in the negotiation of the pastor's housing allowance.

Proposed New Wording with motion- Section 1. Local Church Organization- Required

- A. They shall secure, by purchase or hire, a house for the pastor's family and also comfortably furnish it. In lieu of this arrangement, the pastor may be given a housing allowance. If a housing allowance is given, it is the Stewards' duty to negotiate a reasonable housing allowance with the pastor. If the church has a parsonage and the pastor choose not to reside in it, **a designated member of the Board of Trustees, selected by the Board of Trustees**, shall be included in the negotiation of the pastor's housing allowance.

Vote to add "selected by the Board of Trustees"- Yes- majority, No- < 2/3. Motion carried.
Vote to adopt CLO 10 with amendment- Yes- 100%, No – no objections.




The Legislation Committee stated that four additional bills needed to be brought to the body. President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell (1st) and Judge Starr Battle (2nd) voiced concerns of introducing new bills that many districts were not aware of. Districts should be allowed to discuss bills before the Biennial Convention.

Vote to allow the Legislation Committee to submit new bills to the body- The body was split. Being that the body was split, reading of new bills will not take place.

Commendations were extended to Mark Johnson and members of the Legislation Committee by the 7th, 11th, and 2nd Episcopal Districts.

Sandra Nelson (5th) moved that the secretary of the Legislation Committee, or the Legislation Committee be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross-references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Society in connection with. Seconded.

Discussion

-  Gloria Jeff (4th) asked that one condition be implemented. The information should be provided to all districts no less than 30 days prior to the CONVO.
-  Guy Howard (6th) questioned the mechanism for notifying the body.
-  Chairperson Mark Johnson (7th) noted that each Episcopal District will be made aware of any changes.

Additional commendations were extended from the 5th, 10th and 12th Districts.

Memorial Committee Report- Chaplain Charlie Nichols, Chairperson

Prayer offered by Chaplain Nichols and Scripture: John 14:1-6. This service was a tribute to those who were no longer with us.

🏳️ Michael Cousin, Jr. (4th) noted that he would like to recognize Sis. Mary Beth Wright, Former 4th District President and Supervisors Sylvia Talbot and Lucinda Crawford Belin for the Memorial Committee Report. Received with thanks by Chaplain Nichols.

Reports- The Biennial Convention received and accepted the following reports with commendations for DOPR Dianne H. Battle from the 9th Episcopal District and commendations for CLO Historiographer Bill Ayers, CLO Assistant Recording Secretary Edna Watson, and Technology Chairperson Chenay Saunders from President Mathew Douglas and the 2nd Episcopal District.

1. Director of Public Relations
2. Historiographer
3. Evaluations Committee

Time and Place Committee- Mary Mootoo- Chairperson

2025- 6th Episcopal District (Atlanta, Georgia)

2027- Unknown

2029- 9th Episcopal District (Alabama)

President Nomthimba Khoza (19th) stated that Districts 14-20 were not included in the committee. The 19th District is willing to host but they feel excluded from the process. Chairperson Mootoo apologized for the miscommunication and stated that the committee would reconvene after the Biennial. President Khoza (19th) asked for a timeline. The committee will have a report by the next Executive Board Meeting.

Resolution Committee- Alfreda Brooks, Chairperson

The Resolution for the 38th Biennial Session was received.

Recording Secretary Monique Green read “A Resolution About the Status of Mr. Larry Hollie.”

Vote to adopt resolution- Yes- Majority, No- < 2/3. Resolution adopted.

6th Episcopal District Presentation for the 39th Biennial – President Alfreda Brooks and Delegation- Welcome to the 6th Episcopal District by President Alfreda Brooks, Michael Brown, and Martinique Mix. Come join the 6th Episcopal District in hosting the 39th Lay Biennial Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

President Jerry Turner, Jr. (4th) thanked the 4th District for hosting. The 19th Episcopal District extended commendations to CLO 2nd Vice President Simon Letsoko and CLO President Matikane Makiti.

Traveling Meditation- Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford, Sr.- Text: “Take It Off” Mark 10: 46-50

Lay Benediction in song.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monique H. Green".

Monique H. Green, Recording Secretary
Connectional Lay Organization

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edna Watson".

Edna Watson, Assistant Recording Secretary
Connectional Lay Organization