



African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Second Episcopal District  
Lay Organization



*Connectional Theme:*  
"Living a Global Witness Ministry that  
Transforms, Transcends and Liberates"

## Second Episcopal District Mid-Winter Gathering

# REPORTS

Hilton Charlotte Airport  
2800 Coliseum Centre Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28217

Thursday, February 20, 2025 ~ 5:15 pm

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, *Presiding Prelate*  
Rev. Dr. A. Qismat Alim, *Host Presiding Elder*  
Rev. Dr. Steven L. Lyons, *Presiding Elder*  
Rev. Dr. Abdue Knox, *Host Pastor*  
Sister Penny Oliver, *SED President*  
Sister D. Faye Conley, *SED Director of Lay Activities*  
Brother Adam Johnston, *Young Adult Representative*  
Sister Barbara Myers, *Conference President*  
Sister Azzie Y. Conley, *Conference Director of Lay Activities*



**African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Second Episcopal District  
Lay Organization**



*Connectional Theme:  
"Living a Global Witness Ministry that  
Transforms, Transcends and Liberates"1*

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**African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Second Episcopal District  
Lay Organization**



**AGENDA**

Call to Order	President Penny Oliver
Prayer	Brother Kenneth Woods, Chaplain
Welcome	Sister Bobbi Hague Host Church President
Greetings	Bishop Reginald T. Jackson 132 <sup>nd</sup> Elected & Consecrated Bishop African Methodist Episcopal Church
Minutes	Sister Jackie C. Kanipe Assistant Recording Secretary
Financial Report	Dr. Edna Watson/Sister Azzie Y. Conley

**REPORTS**

First Vice President Jean Richie  
Conference Presidents (one highlight)  
39<sup>th</sup> CLO Biennial Updates – Director of Lay Activities D. Faye Conley  
CLO Scholarships – Chair Alvin White  
SEDLO Ways & Means Committee – Chair Alvin White

Lay Benediction

*African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Second Episcopal District Lay Organization  
Virtual Component Meeting*

*September 4, 2024*

*President Matthew Douglas called the meeting to order at 8:04 PM.  
Chaplain Kenneth Woods led devotion with prayer and the reading of Luke 9:1 and 6-10 scriptures.*

*President Douglas greeted all virtual attendees and thanked everyone for joining. He stated the meeting was at capacity but Sis. Chenay Saunders increased the capacity to allow others to join and 150 joined totally.*

*No roll call nor treasury report was called for on this meeting.*

*President Douglas announced that the 132<sup>nd</sup> Elected Bishop, Bishop Reginald T. Jackson was assigned to the SED and will have a leadership meeting on September 6, 2024, at 10:00 AM. The meeting will be held at Ebenezer AME Church, Fort Washington, MD.*

*President Matthew Douglas asked for everyone to be in prayer as he made the announcement that he was stepping down as the SEDLO President effective immediately. He resigned per Article 7, Section 6 as his wife accepted a position in Ohio and they have moved to their new location. Sis. Penny Oliver who currently serves as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President will assume the role as president. He consulted with Bishop Jackson and Sis. Penny Oliver and all welcome prayers.*

*President Douglas announced that an official letter was received from Dr. Felecia Commodore as she has resigned from the position of SEDLO Director of Lay Activities.*

*President Douglas stated that he will be making an official notice to President Makiti. He also stated he will be collaborating with Sis. Penny Oliver as long as she needs him. Also, questions will be able to be asked and addressed at a later time.*

*Bro. Matthew Douglas, former SEDLO president presented President Penny Oliver. President Oliver stated she was still in shock, but you never know what God has in store for you. She thanked Bro. Douglas for all he did for the SEDLO. She ended her statements with "let us work together."*

*Bro. Matthew Douglas ended the meeting with encouragement to attend the leadership meeting with Bishop Jackson or view on the website of Ebenezer AME Church.*

*Meeting Adjourned.*

*Submitted by  
Monica Davis, SEDLO Recording Secretary*

**Second Episcopal District Lay Organization  
2025 Founder's Day and Mid-Winter Meeting Report**

***Through God's grace and mercy, the Second Episcopal District Lay Organization is "Living a Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends, and Liberates" with the talents and gifts God has provided (Luke 4:18-19). Our primary focus is moving from membership to discipleship through membership recruitment, training and working together with Pastors and Laity through the local church organization/reorganization. This report salutes the leadership of Immediate Past President Matthew Douglas embraces the newly issued A.M.E. Quadrennial theme: "Revive Our Souls Again: Reconnecting the A.M.E. Connection."***

**2024-2025**

- ***Our local lay memberships are currently being received for 2025. Active lay organization members are 4,113 representing 214 active lay organizations. All 79 churches in the North Carolina Conference are organized and active.***
- ***Ninety-two active young adults with four out of five conferences have a Young Adult officer. Many of the lay young adults serve in District, Conference, and local leadership roles in the Women Missionary Society, Young People's Division, Sons of Allen and in their community.***
- ***Successfully held the election of officers for the five annual conferences***
- ***Conducted and participated in voter registration drives and "Souls to the Polls" events***
- ***Partnered with the District and Conference WMS to hold joint human trafficking focus group sessions***
- ***Supported the District RAYAC and attempted to attend each RAYAC Conference annual gathering***
- ***Active participation at all levels in the Connectional Lay Organization 1<sup>st</sup> VP meetings with the implementation of the Membership Recruitment and Retention Strategy Plan***
- ***Issued a District wide call to join the Lay Organization***
- ***Partnered with Ministerial Alliance DC & Vicinity for a bowling tournament***
- ***Shared AME, CLO, District, Conference laity communications on ALL levels***
- ***Working hand in hand with our new Episcopal leader, Bishop Reginald T. Jackson to provide support in the implementation of the vision "The Church At Its Best".***
- ***Conference Presidents have an ongoing dialogue with the Presiding Elders and Pastors in their respective conferences to ensure that the pulpit to pew relationship is fluid and we are working united in advancing the kingdom and not editing it to meet our needs.***

**TRAINING**

- ***Provided the local churches and encourage on the conference level on the topics: How to Conduct a local election; We formed a lay organization, Now***

*what?; Leading from the Second Chair: Learning how to be a leader regardless of what position you hold*

- *Clergy and Lay General Conference Delegates training - Overview of proposed legislation; How the legislation process works, Deconstructing the General Conference; What is required of the lay delegates?*
- *Conference Presidents and Director of Lay Activities Biennial training on the election of Biennial delegates at the local and conference level*
- *Plans under way for Officers Training and 2026 Lay Convention*

#### **CHALLENGES**

- *Hurricane Helene brought major destruction to the state of North Carolina impacting two of the Conferences; Collaboration with the District and Conference Women's Missionary Society, Presiding Elders of the North Carolina and Western North Carolina conferences in collecting gift cards, establishing and sharing distribution and drop off sites, as well as, needed supplies.*
- *The COVID 19 pandemic is still with us and the struggle to engage previous members of the lay to rejuvenate their participation has been challenging. We continue to explore ways to bridge the gap between those who simply just want to go to church and those who are actively looking to serve.*
- *How can we rebrand and retool the organization on all levels to attract members of our churches to be engaged on all levels of the organization?*
- *Getting ALL of our churches to establish a local Lay Organization. Enforcement and support from our Elders is paramount to achieve this.*

*It is with a servant's heart, I submit this report Penny S. Oliver, SEDLO President.*

To: 2<sup>nd</sup> Episcopal District Lay Organization President, Sister Penny S. Oliver; District Officers, and lay members of the 2025 Mid-Winter Meeting @ Mid-Winter Meeting, February 20-22, 2025, Charlotte Hilton Hotel

Beloved:

We are members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.), the very first organization forged on North American soil to valiantly forge an unwavering quest for respect and the rights of persons of African descent to worship God in dignity. Unlike any other denomination up to that point, the African Methodist Episcopal Church grew out of the struggle for equality and the right to worship Almighty God in our own way. Our founders and their followers had no doubt that God loves all His children equally and therefore were committed to fight for the right of equality and lean on the Everlasting Arms of our Heavenly Father, who promised to fight the battle for believers of His Word.

We established our Church, and one might ask “what now is the need for a Lay Organization?” As the Church grew and became more complex in its operations, fulfilling greater and greater responsibilities; and helping the burgeoning body of Christians to survive and prosper in what was then the New World, there arose an awareness of the need for specialized training to empower lay persons to support the “Church of Allen.” People then, as well as today, might ask questions about the need for a Lay Organization, such as the following:

- 1) “I have committed myself as a member of an A.M.E. Church; so, how do I know how I might be of greater service to the church and to God?”  
Answer: Being engaged as a member of the Lay organization will open windows of opportunity to be a better disciple and to offer my talents and gifts to serve the Church and God in a more meaningful way. The Lay Organization is commissioned to teach, train, and empower its members for lay ministry and how to function in a global leadership body, following the tenets of Jesus Christ.
- 2) “Who should be a member of the Lay Organization?”  
Answer: Any person who is not ordained clergy can be a member and is encouraged to become a member.
- 3) “What is the purpose of the Lay Organization?”  
Answer: Because the A.M.E. Church is a church that operates “by method”, it is important to have an understanding of the of church operations; “the purpose of the Lay Organization is to organize and train lay persons so that they may maximize their Godgiven abilities and skills to improve and extend the Kingdom to create happiness, peace, and harmony among its members”.
- 4) To accomplish the purpose of the Lay Organization, the following objectives were adopted:
  - a) To instill in the membership of the church a love for, and appreciation of the history, traditions, principles and development of African Methodism by encouraging, motivating, and educating all lay persons.
  - b) To keep forever alive the sacred memory of Richard Allen, the illustrious founder of the A.M.E. Church.

- c) To always advocate respect and loyalty to constituted authority and leadership.
- d) To encourage the laity to support the total program of the church in the local congregation, in the community and throughout the Connection.
- e) To foster a systematic and regular study of The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and parliamentary procedure, to the end that greater knowledge and information may be disseminated among the laity, and with the further purpose of encouraging lay members to participate more largely in the general functioning and supervision of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- f) To foster and support all constructive and progressive legislation for the church that promotes the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- g) To encourage development, recognition and utilization of the most appropriate operational practices and modern technology in conducting the activities of the A.M.E. Church.
- h) To promote the spread of personal evangelism through activities designed to prepare lay members for appropriately conveying Gods Word.
- i) To provide training in Christian stewardship, which causes lay members to recognize that the connotation of stewardship addresses more than giving money.
- j) To increase the circulation of church periodicals.
- k) To provide for the orderly and systematic training of lay people, especially officers, in order that they might more effectively perform their service responsibilities.
- l) To promote activities that will result in harmonious fellowship for lay people throughout the Connection.
- m) To help in the support of A.M.E. educational institutions.
- n) To provide financial support to advance Connectional programs.

(The above objectives are a part of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Connectional Lay Organization.)

The Composition of the Lay Organization:

- The local church Lay Organization
- The Presiding Elder District Lay Organization (where one exists)
- The Annual Conference Lay Organization
- The Episcopal District Lay Organization
- The Connectional Lay Organization (which encompasses all Lay Organizations throughout African Methodism across thirty-nine countries and five continents.

According to A.M.E.C. records, more than ninety percent of the membership of the A.M.E. Church is composed of lay members. Thus, it stands to reason that an educated and functionally prepared, Christ-centered lay membership, working along with the clergy, more greatly ensures a credible, accountable, and empowered pathway forward for the Church and its potential for positive impact in the local church, the community, the Episcopal District and the World!

You are already a member of an empowered body of Christians, and we invite you to come join us and maximize your skills and knowledge as you become more greatly empowered to serve Christ!

Note: The Lay First Vice Presidents will be Each month on the Fourth Thursday of the Month at 7:00PM EST unless otherwise shared due to conflicts. The Zoom is set up for occurrence (s) Meetings using the same Meeting ID and Passcode.



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87575047885?pwd=V0tJVTNyN3FiVVNkbE5YU004Q1BSZz09>

Meeting ID: 875 7504 7885

Passcode: 936271

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,87575047885#,,,,\*936271# US (New York)

+13017158592,,87575047885#,,,,\*936271# US (Washington DC)

In His Service,

*Jean Wilson Richie,*

First Vice President, SEDLO

Membership Recruitment and Retention Strategy Plan  
for the Second Episcopal District Lay Organization

All un-ordained members of the church are laity – Missionaries, Sons of Allen, etc.

Goal: All churches in each annual conference organized before the deadline for including information on annual conference reports.

To recruit members:

- Show love, kindness, respect, support and encouragement to everyone.
- All members of the laity should be involved in recruitment and retention.
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP of the Conference Lay will identify churches that do not have organized

Lay Organizations and reach out to those churches about establishing a lay organization.

- a. The 2021 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Section III, Article XV, Section 4, page 525, reads “The pastor of each Station or Circuit shall, within thirty (30) days after the close of the Annual Conference, call a meeting of the members of the Station/Charge or Circuit for the purpose of organizing a Lay Organization where none exists.”
- b. Conference presidents/1<sup>st</sup> VP to assist pastors, as needed, to help organize.
- c. Reach out to those churches through email to the Pastor and/or visit the churches.
- d. Identify a lay person who is active in the local church and a member of the organized lay to have a conversation with them. Sometimes church members are apprehensive about starting a Lay Organization because they are unsure about the process.
- e. Invite non lay members to attend a lay meeting on local or conference level.
- f. Partner with a church that has an organized lay and the 1<sup>st</sup> year the two churches could hold

meetings and conduct activities together to support the unorganized laity of the church.

- If unsuccessful, notify Presiding Elders
  - a. Have Presiding Elders become advisors to the Conference Lay Organization.

APPROVED: MAY 28, 2024

- b. Include Lay Organization as part of the PE agenda for all District meetings, etc.
- Pastors encourage all appointed and elected officers of the local church to become members of the Lay Organization.
- Offer no fee lay membership to all young adults (age 35 and under) for one year. Once they join the goal is to get them involved with specific tasks.
- Conduct two virtual interest meetings and allow for Q and A about the organization (Oct/Nov and Mar/Apr).

#### Retention

- Churches with existing and active Lay Organization reach out to churches who are not organized, to gain insight on non-activity. Conduct an open conversation with laity who are not members of the organized lay – Listen, Share, and Encourage! Tell them about your commitment to membership.
- Keep new/all members involved. Call/email/text and remind them of conference lay meetings.
- Quarterly lay outings that combine education about the organization and fun (this can also be done as a cluster).
- Create a cluster of churches – Conference President and Vice Presidents each will have a cluster and meet with them once per year for open discussion.

SEDLO Membership Recruitment and Retention Strategy Plan Committee:

Jacqueline H. Thomas - Baltimore Conference  
Chenay Saunders - Washington Conference  
Valerie Terry - Virginia Conference  
Arlene Lawson - North Carolina Conference  
Betty Parker - Western North Conference  
Jackie Kanipe - Western North Conference  
Jean Wilson Richie - SEDLO 1<sup>st</sup> VP



**African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Second Episcopal District Lay Organization  
Mid-Winter Report  
February 20, 2025**

**PRESIDENT:** ALVIN R. WHITE

**CONFERENCE NAME:** BALTIMORE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN THE CONFERENCE:** 58

**NUMBER OF CHURCHES WITH ACTIVE LAY ORGANIZATIONS:** 39

**2024 MEMBERSHIP:** 564

**MEMBERSHIP SINCE JANUARY 1, 2025:** 354 to date as of 2/18/2025

**MAJOR GOALS FOR THE CONFERENCE YEAR:**

*Since 2020 the vision for each year has been to provide means for Evangelism training throughout the Baltimore Conference. Plans are to begin a five (5) week, 90-minute course training for Evangelism.*

*The positions of Secretary and Financial Secretary, which has been vacant for over a year has been filled.*

*Participated in both the Eastern District and Baltimore District conventions. Endorsed and participated in Voter Registration and Voters to the Pole Campaigns and hosted "EVERY VOTE COUNT" T-SHIRT Fundraiser.*

**DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES PROJECTS EXECUTED OR PLANNED BY THE CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION (use as much space as necessary).**

<b>EXECUTED</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>
<i>September - November 2024</i>	<i>Every Vote Count - T-Shirt Initiative</i>	<i>Successful Fundraiser</i>

<b>PLANNED</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<i>5 Week Training Course</i>	<i>Evangelism Training</i>	<i>Launching March 17, 2025</i>

**LIST CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED THIS CONFERENCE YEAR.**

*It was difficult to maintain exact minutes because of vacant Secretary position, which was resolved in January 2025.*

*LIST YOUR SUCCESSES THIS YEAR.*

*Successful fundraiser. Plans to execute long planned Evangelism Training program for the Baltimore Conference.*

*DESCRIBE THE ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERSHIP PLAN/PROGRAM.*

*Plan to revise the "Local President Council" as means to recruit new members.*



*African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Second Episcopal District Lay Organization  
Mid-Winter Report  
February 20, 2025*

**PRESIDENT: Glen White**

**CONFERENCE NAME: Washington**

**NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN THE CONFERENCE: 80**

**NUMBER OF CHURCHES WITH ACTIVE LAY ORGANIZATIONS: 28**

**2024 MEMBERSHIP: 668**

**MEMBERSHIP SINCE JANUARY 1, 2025: 438**

**MAJOR GOALS FOR THE CONFERENCE YEAR:**

Empower and mobilize laity by fostering active engagement in social action initiatives, increasing participation in community service, and building strategic partnerships with faith-based, civic, and advocacy organizations. This will be achieved through targeted training, outreach programs, and collaborative efforts that address social justice issues, voter education, economic empowerment, and community development, ensuring that laity is equipped to make a meaningful impact both within the church and in the broader community.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES PROJECTS EXECUTED OR PLANNED BY THE CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION (use as much space as necessary).**

EXECUTED	DESCRIPTION	RESULTS
Get Out to Vote Initiative	Enabled a multifaceted approach to enhance voter participation, focusing on forums, voter education, and	Enhance voter turnout through education, registration, and innovative solutions, addressing barriers and fostering a more

<b>EXECUTED</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>
	registration efforts.	inclusive democratic process.
Fall Lay Institute	Education & Empowerment	Provided an engaging and informative experience for attendees, focusing on lay involvement, legislative updates, financial literacy, technology, health, and leadership development.
Lay/Clergy Event	Bowling	Fostered fellowship, strengthened relationships between clergy and laity, and engaged the community in a fun, interactive setting

<b>PLANNED</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Updating Conference Bylaws	Incorporating technology and recent activities into bylaws	In progress
Lay/Clergy Event	Bowling	Planning
No Church Left Behind	Membership and Recruitment	Planning
Spring Institute	Education & Empowerment	Planning
WAC Person of the Year	Community and Fellowship	Planning
Lay Master Classes	Education	Planning

## **LIST CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED THIS CONFERENCE YEAR.**

- Incorporating Technology - embracing digital tools allows us to stay connected, informed, and engaged in the work of the church—whether through virtual meetings, online resources, or social media outreach
- In person Meetings - while technology provides convenience, in-person meetings remain essential for building relationships, fostering meaningful discussions, organizing and strengthening our impact in the church and community

## **LIST YOUR SUCCESSES THIS YEAR.**

- Fall Lay Institute
- Christmas Outreach
- Continued Clergy Collaboration
- Activated/Reactivated 3 local lay organizations

## **DESCRIBE THE ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERSHIP PLAN/PROGRAM.**

The WCLO for the 2024-2026 conference year participated and are working under the SEDLO Membership plan with a focus on the following areas:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> VP of Conference Lay will identify churches that do not have organized Lay Organizations and reach out to those churches about starting Lay Organizations.
  - a. We've identified that the Washington Conference has 28 active local lay organizations, 10 inactive and 42 churches without a local lay. Since the beginning of this conference year, 3 churches have activated/reactivated their local lay organizations and 5 are being coached to do so within the next few months.
  - b. New Lay Organization/Reactivation Materials are being developed to kickstart activities with local lay organizations
2. Create cluster of churches - Conference President and Vice Presidents each will have a cluster and meet with them once per year for open discussion.
  - a. A cluster concept has been discussed with a few churches to identify how a cluster lay organization can be established to provide the membership numbers and support of churches in the same area
3. Partner with pastors and local church leadership to align Annual Conference Reports and WCLO membership reporting

- a. Building social capital with clergy members
  - b. Informing and sharing knowledge about local lay and possibilities to engage in new and different ways
  - c. Connect with churches through emails to the Pastor and/or visit the churches.
4. Build social capital with non-clergy members
5. Partnering with the Bishop and Presiding elders to present and speak at all Washington Conference and Presiding Elder District meetings





*African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Second Episcopal District Lay Organization  
Mid-Winter Report  
February 20, 2025*

**PRESIDENT:** *W. Germain Favor*

**CONFERENCE NAME:** *Virginia*

**NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN THE CONFERENCE:** *66*

**NUMBER OF CHURCHES WITH ACTIVE LAY ORGANIZATIONS:** *25*

**2024 MEMBERSHIP:** *472*

**MEMBERSHIP SINCE JANUARY 1, 2025:** *Currently compiling membership*

**MAJOR GOALS FOR THE CONFERENCE YEAR:** *Increase membership, establish three new local Lay Organizations*

**DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, PROJECTS EXECUTED OR PLANNED BY THE CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION** *(use as much space as necessary).*

<b>EXECUTED</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>

<b>PLANNED</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<i>Annual March Meeting</i>	<i>The Conference big meeting and awards ceremony which culminates the year</i>	<i>In the last stages of planning.</i>

**LIST CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED THIS CONFERENCE YEAR.** *Getting more participation for meetings.*

**LIST YOUR SUCCESSES THIS YEAR.**

*None*

**DESCRIBE THE ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERSHIP PLAN/PROGRAM.** *In the process of establishing a membership plan/program for the 2025/2026 conference year.*



*African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Second Episcopal District Lay Organization  
Mid-Winter Report  
February 20, 2025*

PRESIDENT: Elbert N. Davis

CONFERENCE NAME: North Carolina Conference

NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN THE CONFERENCE: 79

NUMBER OF CHURCHES WITH ACTIVE LAY ORGANIZATIONS: 79

2024 MEMBERSHIP: 1,256

MEMBERSHIP SINCE JANUARY 1, 2025: 1,256

MAJOR GOALS FOR THE CONFERENCE YEAR: Facilitate sessions that will teach, train and empower all lay participants and continue to attend and participate in all annual, district and connectional level functions to analyze and proactively plan for the coming year.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES PROJECTS EXECUTED OR PLANNED BY THE CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION (use as much space as necessary).

EXECUTED	DESCRIPTION	RESULTS
Conduct monthly lessons as training for laity throughout the conference.	Using the Lay Study Guide and other resources, a powerpoint presentation is shared as a visual aid to follow-up and illustrate the lesson.	Positive feedback that has resulted in informative sessions that are immediately shared with local lay presidents to empower and further enhance training.
Annual Christmas Lay Prayer Breakfast held Dec, 21, 2024 at Bethel AME Church Selma, NC	Planned the program and processed all details with officers and members of the NCCLO while working together as a team.	Very Encouraging and complementary. Attendance was overflowing and promising for a followup in the year 2026.

North Carolina Conference Lay Scholarship 2025	Selection of the NCCLO scholarship recipient Mr. Demetrice Williams, Jr, East Carolina  University Greenville, NC. Major: Medical field	Award \$2000. Will be given March 22, 2025 One Day with the Lay. St Luke AME Church  Fayetteville. All Stakeholders who supported Mr. Williams educational and spiritual journey are invited to attend.
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PLANNED	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Mid-Winter Mtg. Charlotte, NC	SEDLO Prayer Breakfast Feb 2,2025	Executed with the NCCLO Members participating
One Day with the Lay St Luke AME Church Fayetteville, NC	Saturday, March 22, 2025 10am	Coordinating and planning program
Annual Conference Lay Night	Thursday, May 21, 2025 7pm.	Coordinating with host  Church, presiding elders, pastors and  NCCLO laity for program success.

LIST CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED THIS CONFERENCE YEAR: Maintaining and growing membership.

LIST YOUR SUCCESSES THIS YEAR: In additions to monthly training Lay Lessons, we have the honor and pleasure of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-Arlene Lawson and Advisor-Dr. Edna Watson provide lay trainings.

DESCRIBE THE ORGANIZATION’S MEMBERSHIP PLAN/PROGRAM.

The North Carolina Conference Lay Organization uses the talents of the President and the Vice Presidents to help coordinate local church membership and communicate with all church Pastors and local lay Presidents either privately or in our regular monthly meetings. This coverage may include cluster meetings, visits to churches and a combination of other media communications to advocate membership as well as offer assistance on how to conduct and execute a successful Local Church Lay organization.

We thank all members for all their hard work and dedication to the North Carolina Conference Lay Organization! We pray to be even more successful this upcoming conference year.

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Elbert N. Davis  
NCCLO President

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Date



*African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Second Episcopal District Lay Organization  
Mid-Winter Report  
February 20, 2025*

PRESIDENT: Barbara R. Myers

CONFERENCE NAME: WNCCLC

NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN THE CONFERENCE:  
83

NUMBER OF CHURCHES WITH ACTIVE LAY  
ORGANIZATIONS: 49

2024 MEMBERSHIP: 1155

MEMBERSHIP SINCE 01/01/ 2025: 269

We are very proud of the representation of the WNCCLC on the SEDLO Executive Board, Ms. Penny Oliver, SEDLO President, Mr. Adam Johnston, YAR, Ms. Jacqueline Kanipe, Assistant Secretary, Ms. Azzie Conley, Financial Secretary and Mr. Kenneth Woods, Chaplain. We are thankful to God for their work but moreover thankful to HIM for allowing us to use our God given skills and abilities to move the church and his kingdom forward, especially in times like these, remembering we are "The Church at Its Best". This report contains information about the work we as a conference is doing in support of the church and God's plan for our lives.

MAJOR GOALS FOR THE CONFERENCE YEAR: 2024-2025:

1. Schedule in person visits and/or zoom meetings with churches to increase involvement of the membership across the conference and encourage partnership of churches whose congregations are small and could benefit from the support of a sister church, believing together we can move mountains
2. Enhance communication via the use of technology to improve our registration, linkage to members and documentation efforts and update our website as we work to empower our members to become active and knowledgeable participants in the work of the church and lay ministry through the scriptures, the Doctrine and Discipline of the church and as advocates for justice in our communities.
3. Continue to work to develop a link of WNCCLC with other Components across the church, embracing our similar goals and with more manpower to do the work of educating our members and making disciples inside and outside the church.
4. Return to in-person meetings, across the conference, taking into consideration months where the weather could be a factor.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES PROJECTS EXECUTED OR PLANNED BY THE CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION (use as much space as necessary):

EXECUTED	DESCRIPTION	RESULTS
Meetings August 2024	<u>In person:</u> St. James AME Church, Winston Salem, Rev. R. Phillip Lynch Mr. Byron Barbre, Lay President	52 - Sis. Azzie Conley, WNCCLDOLA, gave a very informative presentation from study guide- page57, "Who Will Be Our Jeremiah"? 5 points: We must stand for Truth and Justice, even in the midst of lies and injustices, even faithful people suffer in a sinful world; knowing even in a sinful world, God gives us a choice to live if we surrender; and God has high expectations of leaders. A speaker presented updated information regarding voting, handout and Q&A. Our host were welcoming and feed us both physically and spiritually.
October 2024	St. Paul AME Church, Mt. Airy Rev. Jasper Hemphill, Pastor Ms. Katie Lightfoot, Lay President	37 – hosting their 1 <sup>st</sup> mgt, new site and distance may have impacted attendance? President Myers share referenced study guide -page 51, "Yes You Can", a road map to educate, and mobilize voters. Encouraged to pay special attention to Takeaways or Key Learning. Our church and family should be our first stop.  51 – Election of CLO Delegates and approval of expenses; election of Outstanding Lay Person and Young Adult. Able use technology to hold election, without any problems. Sis. Azzie Conley, WNCCLDOLA, shared information on zoom courtesy and training from the study guide – page 13, "A Call To Leaders and Followers": Key points- Leaders and followers must be submissive to God, Leaders and Followers Must Love All Mankind, and Leaders and Followers Be Your Best Selves. The work is divine and we must be focused on building the kingdom of God here on earth; therefore, we must work together to accomplish set goals.
January 2025	<u>Virtual:</u>	
August-October 2024	GOTV Campaign (Across the conference)	Launched a voter empowerment, education and registration campaign in partnership with the. WNCCLDOLA – members worked in many areas texting (196,216), education through face-face, distribution of sample ballots and voting guides, attendance at local Board of Election meetings, poll workers, door-door canvass, and post card writing. We used

our gatherings to challenge our members to vote, organize efforts in the local church and community because “Democracy Is On “.

September 2024	Annual Lay Prayer Breakfast –  Mt. Zion AME, Hillsborough  Rev. Gwendolyn I. Benjamin, Pastor  Ms. Danita Thompson, Lay President	143 – Theme: “Steadfast Seekers of Social Justice: Together, We Can Transform, Transcend and Liberate”; Scripture: Micah 6:8. We included clergy and laity, component leaders, young and mature lifting up praise to God through song and prayers. Our special guest was the Drama Club from Northern High School, Durham performing “The Importance of the Vote”, very though provoking. We awarded 4 scholarships as part of the Joseph McKinney Scholarship, and concluded with our memorial service. We were greeted with big smiles upon stepping on the property and the men of the church prepared a breakfast that made us want to stay all day. Our special guest escorted by our own PE Anita Thompson was Representative Renee Price, NC House who spoke on the subject “Democracy is On the Ballot”.
November 2024	Clergy Lay Institute  Bethel AME Church, Greensboro  Rev. Dr. Clay Barrow, Pastor  Ms. Chaynel-Blake Nichols, Lay President	77 – Theme: “The Church at It’s Best”, WNCCLC: Called to do Better! Our Presenters were: Rev. Dr. Bridgette Gloster, Pastor Emmanuel AME Church – Financial & Quarterly Reporting and Online Giving Platform; Ms. D. Faye Conley, SEDLO DOLA, The Power of the LAY Organization; Rev. Dr. Abdue Knox, Pastor Greater Bethel AME Church – What is the Ministerial Efficiency Committee? And, Mr. Paul D. Williams, St. Joseph AME Church – Health Update-Seasonal Illness, Vaccines and more. Presiding Elder Dr. Steven Lyons shared insight into his expectation of pastors and laity as we complete the work of the church within and outside. Much discussion was generated and we left energized for another day. The church made us feel welcome and worked to meet our every need, including the nourishment of our bodies. We thank the clergy for serving as program participants and their willingness to share their knowledge as we work together to build God’s kingdom.

PLANNED	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Membership Blast	Planning an event that encompasses the entire WNCC on designed days/times as we	Discussion – Possible implementation after annual conference using the Disciple as footprint,
Membership and spiritual growth – strategic plan, discipline and Bible as our guide	revive, revisit, recommit and join together as laity and clergy to do the work of the church – committing to the work assigned as we become the “Church at Its Best”.	
Ways and Means Committee	Develop a process to aide in the financial stability of the WNCCLO as to allow for new avenue to minister to our people and support training and attendance at meetings and conventions	Discussion - meeting within the next two weeks

LIST CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED THIS CONFERENCE YEAR.

1. Filling of significant vacant positions – I.e., 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Young Adult Representative and Parliamentarian
2. Clarity by some as to the specific roles and responsibilities
3. Challenging from within, realizing the why we are here, bigger picture

LIST YOUR SUCCESSES THIS YEAR.

1. Membership increases with more interest, participation and desire to learn
2. Support from the Presiding Elders and clergy
3. Developing partnerships
4. Held all conference meetings
5. Supported our members and communities as we provided information to encourage participation in voting

DESCRIBE THE ORGANIZATION’S MEMBERSHIP PLAN/PROGRAM.

1. Officers reaching out to their counterparts on the local level and participating in meetings inclusive of their counterparts on the district level in an effort to build relationships, education, information sharing, team building and to aide in the recognition of the importance of our role ensuring adherence to the

vision, mission and objectives of the lay and how it impacts on the growth of the church both physically and spiritually.

2. Filling the vacant 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Position and the roll out in a more formal way the Membership Strategic Plan.

We are thankful to all who continue with us on this walk and give God all the praise as he leads us toward the mark of the high calling. We weathered the aftermath of Hurrigan Helene and are grateful to all who supported our members across the state during their time of need. As we continue to work to return our lives to some form of normalcy we solicit your continued prayers, what ever you did to lighten the load is appreciated. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve and pray we are making a difference as we join together in fellowship and love.

Submitted on behalf of the WNCCLO by Barbara R, Myers, President



## 39<sup>th</sup> CLO BIENNIAL UPDATES

REGISTRATION: Early Registration due TODAY!

March 1, 2025: \$345

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Due to the CLO 3/1/2025

SUGGESTED ATTIRE FOR CLO BIENNIAL JULY 7-11, 2025					
DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY, ETC.	TOP	BOTTOM	ACCESSORIES
MONDAY	AM/PM	TRAVEL	CONFERENCE T-SHIRT/POLO	DENIM	
	PM	OPENING SERVICE	WHITE	WHITE	SEDLO STOLE
TUESDAY	AM	BUSINESS/ELECTION	CARDIGAN	TAN/KHAKKI	WHITE TOP
WEDNESDAY	AM	BUSINESS	WHITE	NAVY	SEDLO PIN
	PM	GALA	EVENING/DRESS TO IMPRESS		
THURSDAY	AM	BUSINESS	NAVY & WHITE	WHITE	
	PM	FREE TIME			
FRIDAY	AM	CLOSING SESSION/TRAVEL	SEDLO ROYAL POLO/T-SHIRT	DENIM	
LADIES, FEEL FREE TO WEAR THE NAVY PASHMINA AS NECESSARY					

Contact your Conference President of the designee' to order:

1. SEDLO pins @ \$10.00 each
2. SEDLO stoles @ \$25.00 each
3. Navy shawls @ \$10.00 each

## CLO SCHOLARSHIPS

**Chair: Brother Alvin White**

link to access the 2025 Connectional Lay Organization Scholarships  
is:

<https://www.ameclay.org/applications-for-scholarship.html>

**Completed applications should be submitted** to Mr. Alvin White,  
Chair of the SEDLO Scholarship Committee,  
(alvin512004@yahoo.com) **by March 15, 2025.**