

**CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
TO THE**

**CONNECTIONAL COUNCIL
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**



July 19-21, 2017

Knoxville Marriott - Knoxville, Tennessee

Dr. Mary J. Matthews, Connectional Lay Council President
Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr., Chairman Board of Lay Activities
Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, President, Board of Bishops
Bishop George E. Battle, Jr., Senior Bishop

**Report of the Connectional Lay Council President
To
The Board of Bishops and members of the Connectional Council of
The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**

Greetings in the matchless, marvelous and magnificent name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. It is with great pleasure, by the grace of God that I come before you to report on the rewarding labors of the Connectional Lay Council. I owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the Executive Board for their zeal and devotion to the work of the council.

The Audit Financial Statements. The CAMS Ministries Firm, Certified Public Accountant, certifies in an opinion letter dated May 11, 2017, that in their opinion, the enclosed financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Lay Council as of December 31, 2016, and the changes in its net assets for the year ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Membership Growth. Lay Council memberships continue to move upward. The total membership increased by 3,530, up from 36,759 to 40,289; and there is an increase of 145 Life Members. The number of Active Lay Councils have increased by 34, up from 1016 to 1050. The percentage of Active Lay Councils has increased from 66% to 74% - up by 8%. The overseas members are tracked through updates given by the presiding bishops. A statistical Membership Report is provided for your perusal.

Education. Throughout this quadrennium, the Education Committee, chaired by Dr. Joyce Perry Edwards, has been proactive in providing support for the educational ministry of the Connectional Lay Council (CLC). The work of the Education Committee primarily has been related to the initiatives and goals included in the CLC's 10th Quadrennial Strategic Plan. Special attention was given to providing information on the Quadrennial Theme: "Fortifying Our Faith While Focusing on Our Future through Worship, Leadership, Discipleship, and Stewardship."

In October 2016, the Committee completed the publication *An Effective Lay Council in the Local Church: Ideas for Lay Council Leaders*. This 30-page manual was written to provide practical ideas for developing and maintaining an effective Lay Council in the local church. It includes strategies that have been proven effective in organizing and revitalizing Lay Councils and other church auxiliaries. Ideas for this publication were received from laity throughout Zion. The committee secured these ideas by sending surveys to persons within their regions who were active in the Lay Council at the local, district, and conference, and connectional levels.

Additionally, the Education Committee is now preparing for distribution immediately after the 11th Quadrennial Lay Convention a thematic facilitator's guide on the 1st subtheme for this quadrennium: "*The Freedom Church: Refocusing on Our Purpose.*"

Young Adult Initiative. Miss Crystal Baily, Young Adult Initiative Chair has worked diligently with Mrs. Lula Howard to involve young adults in the Lay Council connectional meetings. For the

11th Quadrennial Lay Convention an information flyer was distributed through the regional directors to registering 200 interested Radical Revolutionary Freedom Church loving, trying to be like Jesus Young Adults for Knoxville to the Summer 2017 Quadrennial Lay Convention. Additional efforts to involve young adults include gaining information on their interests through surveys to encourage young adults to become interested and more involved in the Zion church.

Bishop George J. Leake, III Scholarship Fund. Dr. Regina Dancy, Chief Financial Officer of Hood Theological Seminary, continues to keep the Connectional Lay Council updated on the financial activity of the endowed scholarship. The fair market value for the scholarship as of March 31, 2017 was \$55,565.33. The objective of the Connectional Lay Council is to continue funding this endowed scholarship until it reaches \$100,000.

The current "Leake Scholar" is Sister Tami Forte Logan, Traveling Preacher from the Blue Ridge Annual Conference. She completed her Master of Divinity studies in December 2016, and graduated on May 20, 2017 (Summa cum laude - 3.92 GPA). She is a member of the Zion Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, Rutherfordton, N.C, the Hendersonville Presiding Elder District, and the Piedmont Episcopal district.

Connectional Lay Sunday/Centennial Celebrations. All local societies were encouraged to observe the CLC Centennial Year (1916-2016) during the Lay Sunday observances. Lay Council centennial pins were made available for order through Special Projects. I am exceptionally proud of the many people who supported the Lay Sunday offering recipient, the Harriet Tubman Home, with their financial offerings. The financial goal of \$50,000 was superseded. The Connectional Lay Council raised \$52,000.00 through offerings and donations.

Harriet Tubman Pilgrimage. This year the 43rd annual Harriet Tubman Pilgrimage Celebration was the first, since the ground on which it takes place, was formally established as the 414th unit of the National Park System; Harriet Tubman National Historical Park.

The 2017 Harriet Tubman Home pilgrimage began with the rededication of the Thompson AME Zion Church at 7 p.m. Friday on May 26, 2017. The church was rededicated as the Harriet Tubman AME Zion Church at the ceremony. On Saturday, May 27, I was afforded the delightful pleasure to serve as the keynote speaker for this event. On behalf of all AME Zion church supporters (laity and clergy) of the Lay Sunday offerings and donations; I had the great privilege of presenting a check to Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, Presiding Prelate of the North Eastern Episcopal District/Chairman of The Harriet Tubman Home Board, and Ms. Karen Hill, Executive Director of Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. in the amount of \$52,000 for the Harriet Tubman home.

Launching of the New CLC Website. The Connectional Lay Council contracted with its longtime technology partner, Sirius Networks LLC of Charlotte, N.C. to develop, design and maintain this new, highly technical web endeavor. The newly designed resource pages continue to be one of the most visited areas of the web site, providing items frequently used by the local churches, districts, conferences and Episcopal Districts. The Connectional Lay Council also contracted with Sirius to redesign its logo along with a forward-looking brand strategy that delivered a stunning high-definition new logo package that is sure to be a support to every future creative endeavor.



The Lay Council Logo was accepted during the tenure of Dr. Betty V. Stith and was presented by the late Dr. Coleman DuPont Rippey who was first vice president at the time. The focus is on the Holy Bible of which must be an integral part of our lives and that is why it is placed in the center. "Come With Us to Christ" was our first Quadrennial Convention theme in Charlotte, North Carolina. Black signifies our pride as a race of people. Gold signifies our striving toward purity.

Eleventh Quadrennial Lay Convention. It is an exciting time for the Connectional Lay Council and we have worked diligently to provide for the edification and needs of all who will attend the convention. We have planned lay academies, and discussion groups that will provide a broad range of options to assist the laity in "disseminating information" and "promoting any other interest of the kingdom of God." The presenters are among the most spirit-filled and talented in Zion. The information they provide will afford everyone the opportunity to continue to develop their skills and abilities as lay leaders and clergy.

The "Fit, Fabulous, & Healthy" 3K/5K Walk/Run. The Walk/Run took place within the various conferences of our 10 domestic Episcopal Districts from June 1, 2016 - December 30, 2016. The Walk/Run was open to all members of the A.M.E. Zion Church, our families, neighbors, and friends. The purpose of this health and wellness event was to raise funds for the 11th Quadrennial Lay Convention charities: The Love Kitchen; which provides meals, clothing and emergency food packages to homebound, homeless and unemployed persons. And the Beck Cultural Exchange Center Knoxville, TN, the place "Where African American History & Culture Are Preserved." The amount raised for these two charities is \$4,752.42.

Necrology. Since we last met, our hearts have been touched with grief as some of our members have fallen asleep. We are grateful to God for the lives and contributions of loyal Zionites who have exchanged labor for reward. Because of their loyalty, dedication and steadfastness, the church prospered. They will surely be missed, but their legacy will live on.

ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES:

- August 8, 2016. Lay Sunday observance speaker at David Stand AME Zion Church, Lancaster South Carolina
- August 20, 2016. Traveled to Knoxville, TN to Knoxville Marriott for Quadrennial Lay Convention site visit.
- August 20 - September 4, 2016. Attended 21st World Methodist Conference in Houston, Texas
- September 28 - October 3, 2016. Lay Academy presenter and participant in Grand Celebration for Bishop Hilliard K. Dela Dogbe in Accra, Ghana, Western West Africa
- October 8, 2016. District Lay Council Banquet speaker; Chattanooga, Tennessee
- October 9, 2016. Lay Sunday observance speaker, Union AME Zion Church, Wilton, NC
- October 16, 2016. Lay Sunday speaker, Broadway Temple AME Zion Church, Louisville, KY
- October 30, 2016. Lay Sunday observance speaker, Norrington AME Zion Church, Lillington, North Carolina
- November 5, 2016. Presented Western Episcopal District Lay Academy, First AME Zion Church, Los Angeles, California
- November 6, 2016. Lay Sunday observance speaker, First AME Zion Church, Los Angeles, California

- November 9-13, 2016. Attended Central NC Annual Conference, Simon Temple AME Zion church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- December 3, 2016. Attended Eastern North Carolina Regional Lay Council meeting at York Memorial AME Zion Church, Greenville, North Carolina
- December 26-28, 2016. Attended Truthville 2016 CED Meeting in Washington, DC
- January 10, 2017. Attended ceremony in Washington DC where Mrs. Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior, signed a memorandum formally establishing the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, NY. Additionally, I attended a meeting with Ms. Karen Hill and others at the US Department of Treasury, Bureau of Engraving and Printing. During the meeting, we were allowed to view the picture of Harriet Tubman that will be presented from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for the twenty-dollar bill.
- January 14, 2017. Attended the Grand Celebration honoring the 40th Year in Ministry for Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr. at the St. Paul AME Zion Church, Canton, Mississippi
- January 15, 2017. Attended Sunday morning worship service at the Cathedral AME Zion Church, Jackson, Mississippi
- January 26-27, 2017. Attended the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District Convocation held at the North Raleigh Hilton, Raleigh, North Carolina
- February 4, 2017. Presented Lay Academy for the Palmetto Conference Lay Council hosted by Jones Memorial AME Zion Church, Columbia, South Carolina
- February 21-25, 2017. Attended International Ministers & Lay Association meeting/The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Board of Bishops meeting held at the Atlanta Airport Marriott 4711 Best Road College Park, Georgia
- March 20, 2017. Attended the Homegoing Celebration for Mrs. Mildred Jackson Sadler, service held at St. Stephens A.M.E. Zion Church, Gastonia, North Carolina
- March 25, 2017. Lay Academy presenter at the Eastern North Carolina Regional Lay Council meeting at York Memorial AME Zion Church, Greenville, North Carolina
- April 26, 2017. Lay Academy presenter at Cameron Grove Church, Broadway, North Carolina
- May 20, 2017. Attended Hood Theological Seminary Commencement, held at Livingstone College, Salisbury, NC and received an Honorary degree of *Doctor of Humane Letters*
- May 26-27, 2017. Keynote speaker for the 43rd annual Harriet Tubman Pilgrimage Celebration, Auburn, NY
- June 7, 2017. Speaker for the Gertrude Hood Scholarship Luncheon held during the New England Annual Conference, held at Cross Street A.M.E. Zion Church, Middletown, Connecticut
- June 12, 2017. Traveled to Knoxville, Tennessee to the Knoxville Marriott/ Civic Auditorium and Coliseum for Quadrennial Lay Convention business meeting.

In conclusion, I am very thankful to the conferences, districts and local lay presidents, officers and members of the Lay Council for the sacrifices and labors of love in the ministry of the Connectional Lay Council. Additionally, I am thankful for the presiding elders and pastors who have organized lay councils in their districts and local churches and for their leadership. I am most grateful to all of my Episcopal leaders for the continued support given to me as I attend to the work assigned to my hands. *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Phil. 3:14*

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary J. Matthews

Mary J. Matthews,
General President, Connectional Lay Council

**THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OF THE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2016**



Church Accounting Management & Stewardship

**John W. Spann Jr.
Certified Public Accountant**

**THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OF THE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH
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J. Welton Spann Jr.

Certified Public Accountant
PO Box 16880 Charlotte NC 28297
704.577.7341 Phone
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Report of Independent Auditors

THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

Charlotte, North Carolina

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of The Connectional Lay Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (CLC), which comprise statements of financial position as of December 31, 2016 and the related statement of activities for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

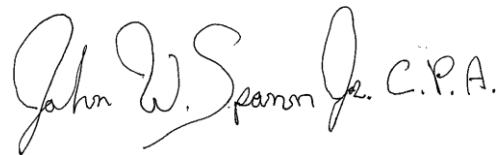
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Council as of December 31, 2016, and the changes in its net assets for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Spann Jr. C.P.A." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

CAMS Ministries
John W. Spann Jr. C.P.A.
Charlotte, North Carolina
May 11, 2017

**THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OF THE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2016

Assets

Checking	\$	51,514
Saving and Temporary Restricted		<u>142,175</u>
Total Cash on Hand		193,689
Special Projects Inventory		2,502

Total Assets \$ 196,191

Liabilities and Assets

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$	189,884
Temporarily Restricted (Note 2)		<u>6,307</u>
Total Net Assets		196,191

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ 196,191

See notes to the financial statements

**THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OF THE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**

Statement of Activities

For The Year Ending December 31, 2016

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Support and revenue:			
Allocation	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Membership Dues	114,289	-	114,289
Lay Sunday (Note 3)	25,614	-	25,614
Bishop George J. Leake Scholarship Fund (Note 2)	-	2,530	2,530
Special Projects	30,030	-	30,030
Refunds and Reimbursements	485	-	485
Convocation/Convention	83,790	-	83,790
Interest and Investment Income	34	1	35
Total support and revenue	\$ 279,242	\$ 2,531	\$ 281,773
Expenses			
Program Services			
Special Projects	\$ 15,898	\$ -	\$ 15,898
Contributions	30,950	-	30,950
Travel and Lodging	27,119	-	27,119
We Care	600	-	600
Convocation (Note 4)	62,244	-	62,244
Registrations	2,635	-	2,635
Total Program Services	\$ 139,446	\$ -	\$ 139,446
Supportive Services			
Stipends	18,518	-	18,518
Office Expense	17,591	-	17,591
Office Assistance	6,900	-	6,900
Administrative Expenses	2,998	75	3,073
Phone/Receptionist Services	2,600	-	2,600
Accounting	7,200	-	7,200
Refunds	995	-	995
Database Membership	12,400	-	12,400
Website Management	18,619	-	18,619
Surety Bond	419	-	419
Total Supportive Services	\$ 88,240	\$ 75	\$ 88,315
Total Expenses	\$ 227,686	\$ 75	\$ 227,761
Change in net assets	\$ 51,556	\$ 2,456	\$ 54,012
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 138,328	\$ 3,851	\$ 142,179
Net assets, end of year	\$ 189,884	\$ 6,307	\$ 196,191

See notes to the financial statements

**THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OF THE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**
Statement of Activities
For The Year Ending December 31, 2016

Note 1- Organization and Purpose

The Connectional Lay Council (CLC) was created to organize the laity of The AME. Zion Church in each Annual and District Conference and local church in the Connection to the end that the objectives of: Deepening the spiritual life, Disseminate information, Cultivating the denomination loyalty, expanding the denomination through education and evangelism and promoting any other interest of the Kingdom of God.

Note 2 – Summary of significant accounting policies

Basis of accounting – The financial statements of the CLC have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting whereby revenues are recognized when earned and expenditures are recognized when incurred. This basis of accounting conforms to accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America.

Basis of presentation – The CLC’s financial statement presentation follows the recommendations of Financial Accounting Standards Board in Accounting Standards Codification (FASB ASC) Topic 958-205, *Not-For-Profit Entities - Presentation of Financial Statements*. Under ASC 958-205, the CLC is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets and permanently restricted net assets. Net assets are defined as follows:

Unrestricted net assets – Unrestricted net assets include resources, which are available for the support of the CLC’s operating activities.

Temporarily restricted net assets – Temporarily restricted net assets include resources that have been donated to the CLC subject to restrictions as defined by the donor. These restrictions are met by the action of the CLC and/or passage of time. When the restriction expires as a result of the lapse of time requirement or achievement of the specified purpose stipulated, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Permanently restricted net assets – Permanently restricted net assets consist of endowment and similar type funds in which the donors or other outside sources have stipulated, as a condition of the gift instrument, that the principal is to be maintained in perpetuity, and invested for the purpose of producing present and future income, which may be expended. The CLC currently has no permanently restricted net assets.

Note 2 – Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Use of estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and cash equivalents – For purposes of the statement of financial position and the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes balances on deposit in financial institutions, cash on hand and interest bearing money market accounts with an original maturity date of three months or less.

Functional allocation of expenses – The costs of providing the CLC’s various programs and supporting services have been summarized on a functional basis in the Statement of Activities. Certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

Program services – Comprises activities that contribute to the CLC mission to disseminate information, to cultivate denominational loyalty, to expand the denomination through education and evangelism, and to promote any other interest of the Kingdom of God.

Supporting services – Includes activities such as management and general services required to ensure an adequate working environment, provide administrative support and manage the CLC’s financial and budgetary functions.

Income tax status – The CLC is a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and from state income taxes under similar provisions of North Carolina tax laws. Consequently, no provision for income taxes has been made in the accompanying statements.

Note 3- Temporarily restricted net assets- The CLC administers the Bishop George J. Leaks, III Scholarship Fund. The fund promotes and executes ways and means for providing continuous financial support for A.M.E. Zion Students who are attending Hood Theological Seminary and committed to entering into the ordained ministry.

Temporarily restricted net assets consist of the following as of December 31;

Net assets, Beginning of year	\$ 3,851
Cash contributions to Schoarhsip Fund	2,530
Interest Earned	1
Service fees on account	(75)
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 6,307</u>

**THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OF THE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For The Six Months Then Ended June 30, 2017



Church Accounting Management & Stewardship

John W. Spann Jr.
Certified Public Accountant

**THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OF THE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**
Statement of Financial Position
As of June 30, 2017

Assets

Checking	\$ 105,831
Saving and Temporary Restricted	<u>174,857</u>
Total Cash on Hand	280,688
Special Projects Inventory	2,502

Total Assets 283,191

Liabilities and Assets

Net Assets

Unrestricted	275,253
Temporarily Restricted (Note 3)	<u>7,938</u>
Total Net Assets	283,191

Total Liabilities and Net Assets 283,191

See notes to the financial statements

**THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OF THE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**
Statement of Activities
6 Months Ended June 30, 2017

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Support and revenue:			
Allocation	\$ 12,500	\$ -	\$ 12,500
Membership Dues	77,055	-	77,055
Lay Sunday	29,490	-	29,490
Bishop George J. Leake Scholarship Fund (Note 3)	-	1,630	1,630
Special Projects	9,591	-	9,591
Board of Lay Activities	16,000	-	16,000
Convocation/Convention	76,305	-	76,305
Interest and Investment Income	23.28	1	24
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 220,964	\$ 1,631	\$ 222,595
Expenses			
Program Services			
Special Projects	\$ 10,575	\$ -	\$ 10,575
Contributions	55,178	-	55,178
Travel and Lodging (President)	5,804	-	5,804
We Care	450	-	450
Convention	17,500	-	17,500
Registrations	1,237	-	1,237
Total Program Services	90,744	-	90,744
Supportive Services			
Stipends	9,134	-	9,134
Board Meetings	709	-	709
Office Expense	5,298	-	5,298
Office Support	6,625	-	6,625
Administrative Expenses	1,715	-	1,715
Phone/Receptionist Services	1,300	-	1,300
Accounting	4,625	-	4,625
Database Membership	6,200	-	6,200
Website Management	9,246	-	9,246
Total Supportive Services	44,852	-	44,852
Total Expenses	\$ 135,595	\$ -	\$ 135,595
Change in net assets	\$ 85,369	\$ 1,631	\$ 87,000
Net assets, beginning of year	189,884	6,307	196,191
Net assets, end of year	\$ 275,253	\$ 7,938	\$ 283,191

See notes to the financial statements

**THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OF THE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**

Statement of Cash Flows

6 Months Ended June 30, 2017

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Change in Net Assets	\$	87,000
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets		
<i>Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities</i>		<i>87,000</i>

INVESTING ACTIVITIES

<i>Net Cash Provided By Investing Activities</i>		<i>-</i>
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FINANCING ACTIVITIES

<i>Net Cash Provided By Financing Activities</i>		<i>-</i>
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CHANGE IN CASH \$ **87,000**

CASH, BEGINNING \$ **193,688**

CASH, ENDING \$ **280,688**

See notes to the financial statements

**THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OF THE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2017

Note 1- Organization and Purpose

The Connectional Lay Council (CLC) was created to organize the laity of The AME. Zion Church in each Annual and District Conference and local church in the Connection to the end that the objectives of: Deepening the spiritual life, Disseminate information, Cultivating the denomination loyalty, expanding the denomination through education and evangelism and promoting any other interest of the Kingdom of God.

Note 2 – Summary of significant accounting policies

Basis of accounting – The financial statements of the CLC have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting whereby revenues are recognized when earned and expenditures are recognized when incurred. This basis of accounting conforms to accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America.

Basis of presentation – The CLC’s financial statement presentation follows the recommendations of Financial Accounting Standards Board in Accounting Standards Codification (FASB ASC) Topic 958-205, *Not-For-Profit Entities - Presentation of Financial Statements*. Under ASC 958-205, the CLC is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets and permanently restricted net assets. Net assets are defined as follows:

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Permanently restricted net assets – Permanently restricted net assets consist of endowment and similar type funds in which the donors or other outside sources have stipulated, as a condition of the gift instrument, that the principal is to be maintained in perpetuity, and invested for the purpose of producing present and future income, which may be expended. The CLC currently has no permanently restricted net assets.

**THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL OF THE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2017

Note 2 – Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Use of estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and cash equivalents – For purposes of the statement of financial position and the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes balances on deposit in financial institutions, cash on hand and interest bearing money market accounts with an original maturity date of three months or less.

Functional allocation of expenses – The costs of providing the CLC’s various programs and supporting services have been summarized on a functional basis in the Statement of Activities. Certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

Program services – Comprises activities that contribute to the CLC mission to disseminate information, to cultivate denominational loyalty, to expand the denomination through education and evangelism, and to promote any other interest of the Kingdom of God.

Supporting services – Includes activities such as management and general services required to ensure an adequate working environment, provide administrative support and manage the CLC’s financial and budgetary functions.

Income tax status – The CLC is a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and from state income taxes under similar provisions of North Carolina tax laws. Consequently, no provision for income taxes has been made in the accompanying statements.

Note 3- Temporarily restricted net assets- The CLC administers the Bishop George J. Leaks, III Scholarship Fund. The fund promotes and executes ways and means for providing continuous financial support for A.M.E. Zion Students who are attending Hood Theological Seminary and committed to entering into the ordained ministry.

Temporarily restricted net assets consist of the following as of June 30, 2017;

Net assets, Beginning of year	\$ 6,307
Cash contributions to Schoarhsip Fund	1,630
Interest Earned	1
Service fees on account	-
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 7,938</u>



CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Connectional Lay Council
COME WITH US TO CHRIST
A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Connectional Lay Council
Consolidated Membership Report
June 30, 2017

	Membership Totals by Type			Total Memberships	Total Number of Churches (*)	Number of Churches		% of Churches w/active Memberships
	1 Year	4-Year	Life			w/active Memberships	Memberships	
Piedmont Episcopal District <i>Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.</i>	9,488	42	423	9,953	227	198	87%	
Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District <i>Bishop Kenneth Monroe</i>	8,156	15	572	8,743	312	262	84%	
Midwest Episcopal District <i>Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr.</i>	1,685	2	186	1,873	110	62	56%	
North Eastern Episcopal District <i>Bishop Dennis V. Proctor</i>	4,280	53	470	4,803	152	111	73%	
South Atlantic Episcopal District <i>Bishop Mildred B. Hines</i>	4,458	8	397	4,863	159	108	68%	
Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District <i>Bishop W. Darin Moore</i>	2,734	24	541	3,299	156	110	71%	
Alabama-Florida Episcopal District <i>Bishop Seth O. Larley</i>	4,774	1	155	4,930	244	170	70%	
Southwestern Delta Episcopal District <i>Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr.</i>	1,217	2	114	1,333	75	46	61%	
Western Episcopal District <i>Bishop Saccab Powell</i>	288	4	104	396	36	16	44%	
Sub Total	37,080	151	2,962	40,193	1471	1083	74%	
Central Southern Africa Episcopal District <i>Bishop George D. Crenshaw</i>								
Western West Africa Episcopal District <i>Bishop Hilliard K. Dogbe</i>				12,609				
Eastern West Africa Episcopal District <i>Bishop Uduak Effiong</i>				7,276				
Angola Annual Conference				16,000				
Bahamas Islands Annual Conference				16				
Grand Total				76,094				

**Piedmont Episcopal District
Lay Council Membership Report
June 30, 2017**

	Membership Totals by Type			Total Memberships	Total Number of Churches	Number of Churches		% of Churches With Active Memberships
	1 Year	4-Year	Life			w/active Memberships		
PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL DISTRICT	9,488	42	423	9,953	227	198		87%
Blue Ridge Conference	497	1	10	508	27	18		67%
Asheville District	151	0	4	155	13	8		62%
Hendersonville District	346	1	6	353	14	10		71%
West Central North Carolina Conference	2,503	24	142	2,669	87	78		90%
Greensboro District	653	22	82	757	24	20		83%
Wadesboro/Monroe District	488	0	26	514	22	17		77%
Concord District	644	2	10	656	20	20		100%
Rockingham District	718	0	24	742	21	21		100%
Western North Carolina Conference	6,488	17	271	6,776	113	102		90%
Charlotte District	1,308	12	114	1,434	18	18		100%
Lincolnton District	952	0	67	1,019	20	17		85%
North Charlotte District	1,455	3	42	1,500	19	16		84%
Salisbury District	765	2	38	805	17	16		94%
Statesville District	766	0	2	768	18	14		78%
Winston Salem District	1,242	0	8	1,250	21	21		100%

**Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District
Lay Council Membership Report
June 30, 2017**

	Membership Totals by Type			Total Memberships	Total Number of Churches	% of Churches	
	1 Year		Life			w/active Memberships	With Active Memberships
	4-Year	1 Year					
Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District	8,156	15	572	8,743	312	262	84%
Albemarle Conference	591	2	30	623	41	31	76%
Edenton District	276	2	13	291	22	19	86%
Elizabeth City District	315	0	17	332	19	12	63%
Cape Fear Conference	2,909	8	127	3,044	91	78	86%
Clarkton District	1,046	2	32	1,080	24	19	79%
Wilmington District	467	6	24	497	23	16	70%
Wilson District	685	0	31	716	19	19	100%
Goldsboro District	711	0	40	751	25	24	96%
Central North Carolina Conference	3,366	4	330	3,700	119	102	86%
Dunn/Lillington District	241	1	64	306	16	13	81%
Durham District	834	2	134	970	24	24	100%
Fayetteville District	1,033	1	84	1,118	19	18	95%
Laurinburg District	493	0	27	520	19	15	79%
Raleigh District	482	0	14	496	19	18	95%
Sanford District	283	0	7	290	22	14	64%
North Carolina Conference	1,290	1	85	1,376	61	51	84%
Beaufort District	132	0	32	164	24	15	63%
New Bern District	776	1	34	811	19	19	100%
Washington District	382	0	19	401	18	17	94%

**Midwest Episcopal District
Lay Council Membership Report
June 30, 2017**

	Membership Totals by Type				Total Memberships	Total Number of Churches	Number of Churches		% of Churches With Active Memberships
	1 Year		4-Year				w/active Memberships	Memberships	
	1 Year	4-Year	Life	Total					
Midwest Episcopal District	1,685	2	186	1,873	110	62		56%	
Indiana Conference	74	0	9	83	9	4		44%	
Indianapolis District	49	0	9	58	6	3		50%	
Evansville District	25	0	0	25	3	1		33%	
Michigan Conference	445	1	84	530	35	15		43%	
Chicago District	232	0	22	254	18	6		33%	
Detroit District	168	1	57	226	14	7		50%	
Western Michigan District	45	0	5	50	3	2		67%	
Kentucky Conference	329	1	23	353	19	10		53%	
Louisville District	185	1	19	205	8	4		50%	
Madisonville District	23	0	1	24	6	2		33%	
Bardstown District	121	0	3	124	5	4		80%	
Missouri Conference	64	0	48	112	13	4		31%	
Kansas City District	17	0	26	43	7	2		29%	
St. Louis District	47	0	22	69	6	2		33%	
Tennessee Conference	773	0	22	795	34	29		85%	
Chattanooga District	256	0	2	258	15	13		87%	
Knoxville District	283	0	9	292	9	8		89%	
Maryville District	234	0	11	245	10	8		80%	

**North Eastern Episcopal District
Lay Council Membership Report
June 30, 2017**

	Membership Totals by Type			Total	Total Number of Churches	Number of Churches w/active Memberships	% of Churches With Active Memberships
	1 Year	4-Year	Life	Memberships			
North Eastern Episcopal District	4,280	53	470	4,803	152	111	73%
New York Conference	2,508	11	151	2,670	60	47	78%
Westchester District	1,450	10	84	1,544	25	14	56%
New York City District	761	0	44	805	18	17	94%
Long Island District	297	1	23	321	17	16	94%
New England Conference	706	40	96	842	30	22	73%
Boston District	239	4	27	270	15	11	73%
Hartford District	467	36	69	572	15	11	73%
Western New York Conference	466	1	52	519	20	13	65%
Buffalo District	193	1	23	217	6	3	50%
Rochester Syracuse District	221	0	10	231	7	6	86%
Albany District	52	0	19	71	7	4	57%
New Jersey Conference	600	1	171	772	42	29	69%
Camden District	170	0	84	254	24	14	58%
Jersey City District	430	1	87	518	18	15	83%

**South Atlantic Episcopal District
Lay Council Membership Report
June 30, 2017**

	Membership Totals by Type				Total Memberships	Total Number of Churches	Number of Churches		% of Churches With Active Memberships
	1 Year		Life				w/active Memberships	Memberships	
	4-Year	8	397	4,863					
South Atlantic Episcopal District	4,458	8	397	4,863	159	108	68%		
Palmetto Conference	657	4	85	746	46	28	61%		
Columbia-Camden District	344	1	64	409	22	13	59%		
Spartanburg District	313	3	21	337	24	15	63%		
Pee Dee Conference	1,680	1	163	1,844	44	29	66%		
Cheraw-Bennettsville District	1,612	0	86	1,698	19	19	100%		
Lancaster District	68	1	77	146	25	10	40%		
South Carolina Conference	1,791	0	95	1,886	45	37	82%		
York District	514	0	39	553	15	10	67%		
Rock Hill District	499	0	40	539	14	11	79%		
Chester District	778	0	16	794	16	16	100%		
Georgia Conference	330	3	54	387	24	14	58%		
Atlanta District	117	3	46	166	8	4	50%		
Augusta District	19	0	2	21	5	2	40%		
Conyers/Winders District	194	0	6	200	11	8	73%		

**Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District
Lay Council Membership Report
June 30, 2017**

	Membership Totals by Type				Total Memberships	Total Number of Churches	Number of Churches w/active Memberships	% of Churches With Active Memberships	
	1 Year		4-Year						Life
Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District	2,734	24	541		3,299	156	110	71%	
Virginia Conference	985	0	240		1225	44	42	95%	
Newport News District	345	0	63		408	14	14	100%	
Norfolk District	286	0	80		366	16	16	100%	
Petersburg District	354	0	97		451	14	12	86%	
Philadelphia-Baltimore Conference	1110	23	221		1354	60	31	52%	
Philadelphia Eastern Shore District	98	0	43		141	15	8	53%	
Baltimore District	324	17	48		389	15	7	47%	
North Virginia District	115	1	23		139	4	3	75%	
Washington District	499	3	99		601	13	9	69%	
Harrisburg District	74	2	8		84	13	4	31%	
East Tenn. - Virginia Conference	97	0	31		128	21	15	71%	
Bristol District	64	0	6		70	7	5	71%	
Johnson City District	13	0	0		13	8	4	50%	
Bluefield District	20	0	25		45	6	6	100%	

**Alabama-Florida Episcopal District
Lay Council Membership Report
June 30, 2017**

	Membership Totals by Type			Total Memberships	Total Number of Churches	Number of Churches w/active Memberships	% of Churches With Active Memberships
	1 Year	4-Year	Life				
Alabama-Florida Episcopal District	4,774	1	155	4,930	244	170	70%
Alabama Conference	623	0	15	638	47	28	60%
Opelika District	188	0	3	191	15	8	53%
Tuskegee District	149	0	6	155	15	6	40%
Union Springs District	286	0	6	292	17	14	82%
Cahaba Conference	145	0	3	148	25	7	28%
Greensboro-Demopolis District	68	0	0	68	12	3	25%
Selma District	77	0	3	80	13	4	31%
Central Alabama Conference	1,067	0	24	1,091	35	33	94%
East Montgomery District	564	0	17	581	16	16	100%
West Montgomery District	503	0	7	510	19	17	89%
South Alabama Conference	589	0	22	611	36	28	78%
Brewton District	291	0	9	300	12	10	83%
Greenville District	298	0	13	311	24	18	75%
West Alabama Conference	1,391	0	59	1,450	41	38	93%
Jefferson District	383	0	22	405	17	17	100%
Mobile District	331	0	16	347	11	9	82%
Jackson District	677	0	21	698	13	12	92%
North Alabama Conference	788	1	7	796	35	25	71%
Birmingham District	264	1	6	271	18	10	56%
Tuscaloosa/Bessemer District	524	0	1	525	17	15	88%
Florida Conference	94	0	11	105	12	6	50%
East Pensacola District	67	0	6	73	5	3	60%
West Pensacola District	27	0	5	32	7	3	43%
South Florida Conference	77	0	14	91	13	5	38%
Miami District	0	0	1	1	3	0	0%
Tampa District	8	0	1	9	3	1	20%
Jacksonville District	10	0	10	20	3	2	67%
Central District	59	0	2	61	2	2	100%

**Southwestern Delta Episcopal District
Lay Council Membership Report
June 30, 2017**

	Membership Totals by Type				Total Memberships	Total Number of Churches	Number of Churches		% of Churches With Active Memberships
	1 Year	4-Year	Life	Total			w/active Memberships	Memberships	
Southwestern Delta Episcopal District	1,217	2	114	1,333	75	46		61%	
Arkansas Conference	58	0	16	74	9	6		67%	
Pine Bluff/Wilnot District	36	0	6	42	5	4		80%	
Little Rock/Hot Springs District	22	0	10	32	4	2		50%	
West Tenn. Mississippi Conference	90	0	10	100	16	6		38%	
Memphis-Pope District	39	0	4	43	9	3		33%	
Batesville District	51	0	6	57	7	3		43%	
South Mississippi Conference	694	1	58	753	24	14		58%	
Canton-Panola District	159	0	19	178	12	7		58%	
Canton-Sharon District	631	1	39	671	12	7		58%	
Louisiana Conference	250	0	6	256	15	12		80%	
New Orleans District	73	0	4	77	6	5		83%	
Roseland District	177	0	2	179	9	7		78%	
Texas Conference	113	1	23	137	8	6		75%	
Houston District	44	1	11	56	5	3		60%	
Dallas Ft. Worth District	69	0	12	81	3	3		100%	
Oklahoma Conference	12	0	1	13	3	2		67%	
Oklahoma City District	12	0	1	13	3	2		67%	

**Western Episcopal District
Lay Council Membership Report
June 30, 2017**

	Membership Totals by Type			Total Memberships	Total Number of Churches	Number of Churches w/active Memberships	% of Churches With Active Memberships
	1 Year	4-Year	Life				
Western Episcopal District	288	4	104	396	36	16	44%
Alaska Conference	22	0	21	43	2	2	100%
Anchorage District	9	0	21	30	1	1	100%
Fairbanks District	13	0	0	13	1	1	100%
Oregon/Washington Conference	78	4	9	91	4	3	75%
Cascade District	78	4	9	91	4	3	75%
Southwest Rocky Mountain Conference	52	0	24	76	10	4	40%
Los Angeles District	52	0	24	76	8	4	50%
San Diego District	0	0	0	0	2	0	0%
California Conference	136	0	47	183	17	7	41%
Bay Cities District	71	0	35	106	9	5	56%
Central Valley District	65	0	12	77	8	2	25%
Arizona Conference	0	0	2	2	1	0	0%
Phoenix District	0	0	2	2	1	0	0%
Colorado Conference	0	0	1	1	2	0	0%
Denver District	0	0	1	1	2	0	0%