



CLEDC MEMBERSHIP

African Methodist Episcopal Church
Judge Derek Anderson, Chairman
Administrative Board Minutes

December 18, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT:

CLEDC Administrative Board

**Judge Derek Anderson
Chairman**

**Matthew Douglas
President**

**Jerry Turner
Vice President**

**Carolyn Walker-Kimbro
Recording Secretary**

**Cheryl Hammond
Hopewell
Treasurer**

**Roxie Ball
Financial Secretary**

**Melvin Davis
Betty Draper
Shirlane Hendrickson
Thomas
Adrienne Morris
Carl Settles**

Derek Anderson, Chairman
Matthew Douglas, President
Jerry Turner, Jr., Vice President
Carolyn Walker-Kimbro, Secretary
Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Treasurer
Roxie Ball, Financial Secretary
Kathy Drayton (Invited observer)
Melvin Davis
Shirlane Hendrickson
Adrienne Morris
Carl Settles
Bettye Draper

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Anderson at 9:34 AM EST. Prayer was offered by Sis. Roxie Ball.

In his welcoming comments Chairman Anderson noted that 4 time zones were represented at this meeting, which truly made it connectional. He introduced Sis Cathy Drayton, treasurer of Connectional Lay Organization (CLO).

President Douglas provided a brief summary of the CLEDC presentation to the CLO Executive Board. During that meeting Chairman Anderson presented the slate of officers elected for the CLEDC.

Dr. Jerry Turner moved that the treasurer, financial secretary and president be bonded and be the authorized signers for the PNC Bank account. Motion was seconded by Sister Hendrickson. Motion passed. The CLEDC administrative board agreed that it will take at least 2 of the 3 signatories to receive money from the account.

For clarification, Sis Drayton explained how the CLO bonding worked. She stated that the CLO board members bonding is not adequate since it is limited to \$50K coverage. Chairman Anderson was asked to research what type of bonding might be more effective. He checked with bonding at his job with the State of Ohio and with Bro Henderson, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the AME Church. CFO recommended that we have coverage for up to \$5 million for criminal charges. Chairman Anderson and Sis Drayton will meet with the company broker (HUB International Mid-South) to discuss specifics. Officers and elected board members will also be included in the coverage (director and policy type). He

will report at the January 8th meeting the results. Administrative Board members agreed with the recommendations.

An issue raised by Dr. J. Turner expressing concern of requiring more than one signature on the checks. Distance is a primary issue. The finance team was tasked to come back to the Admin Board with a recommendation on what/how we will function in that regard. Sis Drayton asked about account executives vs. signers. Sis Hopewell will check with our bank. Sis Walker-Kimbrow moved and Bro Melvin Davis seconded the motion that the persons authorized to sign (Hopewell, Douglas and Ball) also serve as the account executives. In the current environment of church finances, Chairman Anderson has spoken to legal advisors who strongly recommended that the CLEDC NOT become too entangled with the CLO or the CLO commission because of its tax-exempt status. CLO wants oversight but we have to remember that oversight also entails responsibility and the CLO should not be included in the CLEDC management chain because of the independent, tax-exempt status of the CLEDC. The CLEDC will not report to the CLO commission, but we will continue to provide updates to the CLO. Sis Drayton's participation in CLEDC Admin Board meetings was questioned by Pres Douglas. Chairman Anderson replied that she is here at his request and that she has no legal standing or voting rights with the CLEDC. Derek will send Sis Walker-Kimbrow the Non-Disclosure agreements (NDA) currently used by the Judicial Council for all members of the CLEDC admin board.

CLO President Makiti has not yet appointed the CLO members who would be represent the CLO as part of the CLEDC Board. Sis Drayton and Mr. Henderson were mentioned as possible members.

A discussion about the status of activities regarding the collection of loss funds followed. Atty Rita Belin, previous Admin Board chairperson, will continue to lead this effort, along with Pres Douglas, Sis Cheryl Hammonds Hopewell and Sis Roxie Ball. Our intent is not to keep secrets from the CLO, but because of the legal ramifications we must maintain separation of duties and responsibility. Sis Hopewell stated that much of this information should be shared with the CLO so that there is no confusion about who is "in charge". Dr. J. Turner recommended that we issue an official statement recapping Atty Belin's presentation to the CLO during the last Biennial, what we are doing now, and what we are in the process of doing to help rebuild confidence in the organization. Pres Douglas expressed his agreement with the recommendation. Chairman Anderson also commented that we should acknowledge the historical facts with a recommendation of what we want to do going forward.

It was noted that some members of the CLO think that the CLEDC is operating illegally and that our elections were not valid. Chairman Anderson repeated the position that the meeting was scheduled by the CLO president, all District presidents were informed, a quorum was present (8 districts must be present to constitute a quorum), the CLO parliamentarian was present, and elections were valid. We will continue to operate within the parameters of the CLEDC charter. Heightened anxiety about finances does not mean that the CLEDC will be maligned because of past actions. This is a new board with a new way forward.

Sis Drayton asked if we had considered hiring a forensic auditor to help us with the recovery. President Douglas explained to the board the different approaches the board has used in the past to try to recover funds with limited funds available with which to hire investigators. Our latest recommendation to find an investigator who will work for a percentage of funds recovered is ongoing. Chairman Anderson suggested that we provide a document that details the steps taken to date. Pres Douglas suggested sending Atty Belin's Power Point presentation from the biennial that provides much of that information. Sis Hendrickson suggested closing that chapter and moving forward. Chairman Anderson stated that with

the Board's approval, he would put together a timeline that tells what we have accomplished, when it was done, and where we are.

Sis Hopewell reminded the board that she needs a letter to the bank with the authorized signatories included, along with the minutes of the meeting where this was done.

President Douglas stated that a committee to review and/or rewrite the CLEDC Constitution and Bylaws was needed. Chairman Anderson appointed the following persons to serve on that committee:

Pres. Douglas, Chairman
Melvin Davis
Shirlane Hendrickson
Kathy Drayton (ad-hoc ex- officio.)

Due to time constraints, we did not get into an in-depth discussion of the "Re-Imagined CLEDC" at this meeting. However, it was suggested that such a discussion might be premature until we have approved a new Constitution and Bylaws.

In his closing remarks, Chairman Anderson expressed his gratitude for the hard work the board has continued to provide even with the lack of support and criticism encountered over the past few years. He shared his Christmas Greetings and closed the meeting with prayer at 11:15 AM EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn A. Walker-Kimbro
Carolyn A. Walker-Kimbro, Secretary
CLEDC Membership