



African Methodist Episcopal Church Connectional Lay Organization Executive Board Meeting October 13, 2022

The Executive Board Meeting of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was held virtual via Zoom. It was called to order at 3:00 P.M. EST, October 13, 2022, by President Matikane Makiti.

Prayer- The meeting opened with a prayer by Audit Committee Chair, Jeffrey Presley.

Purpose- President Makiti

The purpose of this meeting is to look at the financial challenges of our church. Things have happened regarding the finances of this church, including the finances of the CLO, but specifically the finances of the A.M.E. Church. In terms of Legislation and Constitution & By-Laws, we are at a critical point in the life of the Connectional Lay Organization where we really need to make sure we come up with legislation to help us with the financial challenges of the church. President Makiti requested that we all encourage our conferences and episcopal districts to submit bills to benefit our church.

Jerry Turner (4th)- The current deadline for submissions to the Legislation Committee is November 1. Would the Legislation Committee be willing to extend the date for submissions?

- Libertha Mutambo- Chair, Constitution and By-Laws Committee- The Constitution & By-Laws Committee has extended the submission date to December 1.

Legislation- Mark Johnson, Chair (7th)

The Committee is actively working. Ideally, the deadline is November 10. The committee is open to extending the submission date but asks that all districts and or persons submitting legislation stay on task. An official announcement of the extension date will be distributed via the Corresponding Secretary. The new deadline is December 1 to coincide with the Constitution & By-Laws Committee.

Alfred Wolobah (14th)- The 14th District was not able to nominate anyone for the Legislation Committee. The district would like to nominate a representative for the committee at this time.

Constitution & By-Laws- Libertha Mutambo, Chair (15th)

The committee is extending the final submission date for proposed amendments to the Constitution & By-Laws to December 1.

In terms of our Constitution & By-Laws, all proposed amendments should be sent to the President and the Recording Secretary. The committee would like to request that the chair be copied in when submissions are made. This would make their work much easier instead of

receiving them six months before the Biennial. The final submissions should reach the Committee via the Secretary by January 3. If the chair is copied in, we could possibly look at a slight extension, but the committee will communicate if this is feasible later. The committee has communicated with several districts on the revisions of their constitutions. The remaining districts will receive feedback by the end of next week. The Proposed Amendments Template will be shared with the Executive Board and District Presidents following the meeting.

Church's Financial Challenges- President Makiti

Due to the financial challenges of the A.M.E. Church, most notably the retirement and pensions funds of our clergy, the CLO should formulate a response regarding the financial challenges that the church is experiencing. Therefore, President Makiti asked CLO 1st VP, Dr. Dorothy Henderson, for updates from the General Board. Dr. Henderson yielded to Jerry Turner, as she is not a commissioned member of Retirement Services.

Jerry Turner (4th)- Lay Commission Member of Retirement Services

The Commission has been working on two things.

1. Gathering information so that we will know what has been mishandled in the finances.
2. Developing a new pension plan as directed by the General Board in June.

The actuary has been hired and they have done their work. The information will be submitted to statistics and finance for their determinations and how we should move ahead. There are some legal issues as well. We will have to wait on those actions to transpire for other pieces to fall into place.

A new plan has been approved. It will be live and available in a short period of time. An official announcement will come from the CIO and Retirement Services. The company is Wespath Benefits and Investments. This company handles the retirement services for the United Methodist Church.

Dr. Lenora Brogdon-Wyatt (3rd)- The ministers in the 3rd District feel that there is no true difference. There is not a lot of confidence in the new plan. We have in the Doctrine and Discipline what has never been installed, and that is a Commission on Financial Management- Commission #7 (Page 240 in the Doctrine & Discipline). She recommended that we move forward as the Lay Organization and insist that this particular management program be put in place.

Gloria Byrd (6th)- The Lay Organization and Women's Missionary Society perform real audits. In addition to Dr. Lenora Brogdon-Wyatt's suggestion and in the process of supporting Bishops White and Zanders in what they are trying to accomplish, I recommend that we ask Bishops White and Zanders to consider hiring one company to audit all commissions instead of different companies. It doesn't have to be the same company every year.

Dr. Rodrick Moore (10th)- As a follow-up to Dr. Brogdon-Wyatt's suggestion, the nominating committee did bring up Commission #7 during General Board. They are looking at a process of applications in selecting members for Commission #7.

Bill Ayers (2nd)- Will pastors that lost funds be made whole and will the FBI and other legal agencies present their findings? Jerry Turner (4th)- President Turner did not want to speak out of turn but did offer the following information and advice. Once the actuary gets the information to Statistics and Finance, Statistics and Finance will make the final determination of what needs to be paid and how we are going to pay it, then an official statement will go out to pastors as to what they will be receiving. We will have to wait on legal authorities for legal findings. We do not have any jurisdiction. That is above the church.

Alfred Wolobah (14th)- In addition to reactivating the Commission on Financial Management, there should be an annex to that commission with inclusion of people with auditing experience.

Robert Turner (9th)- What about an internal investigation of the Church?

Jerry Turner (4th)- That has already happened. Essentially, we must wait on an official statement.

Mark Johnson (7th)- Statement from The Legislation Committee

In reference to Commission #7, The Legislation Committee has received recommendations from a financial expert in the form of legislation related to Commission #7, Financial Management. We are taking this proposed bill and recommendations and concerns very serious. We are working hard to present a thorough bill that highlights or will make this committee ideal and fair. We are deliberating if we are to reach out to that special committee of the General Board now rather than wait until the General Conference. I too heard this special committee will be looking to formalize this commission more likely as it is written in the Discipline. It is our hope that they go further and be more inclusive of financial experts and enable lay persons to be a part of this commissions plans even though it is outside of the church.

Gloria Byrd- I move that President Makiti should select certain members to respond to what the church is trying to do in regard to the pension fund. It was seconded by Bill Ayers (2nd). Motion Carried.

President Makiti will contact five persons to come up with a response within 2 weeks and inform the Commission Chair, Bishop Wicker. The response will be shared with the Christian Recorder and the General Secretary/CIO by October 28th. Robert Turner (9th) extended commendations to President Makiti for holding this meeting and addressing this issue.

Bill Ayers (2nd)- When are reports for the December Executive Board Meeting due? Reports are due at the end of the month.

The meeting adjourned with a prayer by Dr. Lenora Brogdon-Wyatt (3rd).

Respectfully Submitted,



Monique H. Green
CLO Recording Secretary

Edna Watson

Edna Watson
CLO Assistant Recording Secretary

**African Methodist Episcopal Church
Connectional Lay Organization Roll Call**

Name	Date		
Elected Officers	10-13-22		
Commission Chair, Bishop Stafford Joe Nathan Wicker	A		
President, Matikane Abednego Makiti	P		
1 st Vice President, Dr. Dorothy Henderson	P		
2 nd Vice President, Simon Letsoko	A		
3 rd Vice President, Lovie Aaron	P		
Recording Secretary, Monique Green	P		
Assistant Recording Secretary, Edna Watson	A		
Corresponding Secretary, Cheryl Hammond Hopewell	P		
Treasurer, Kathy Drayton	EXCUSED		
Financial Secretary, Lyndia Mayo, I	P		
Chaplain, Charlie Nichols	A		
Parliamentarian – (Consultant) Wanda Sims	A		
Director of Lay Activities, Patricia Wright	A		
Director of Public Relations, Dianne H. Battle	P		
Historiographer, William “Bill” Ayers	P		
Young Adult Representative, Jamesha Williams	A		

**African Methodist Episcopal Church
Connectional Lay Organization Roll Call**

Name	Date		
Episcopal District Presidents	10-13-22		
1st District – Cheryl Hammond Hopewell	P		
2nd District – Matthew Douglas	A		
3rd – Dr. Lenora Brogdon-Wyatt, PhD	P		
4th – Jerry Turner	P		
5th– Lamar Rose	A		
6th – Alfreda Brooks	P		
7th - Keith Britton	P		
8th – Patricia Campbell	EXCUSED		
9th – Bernella Knight Rose	EXCUSED	1ST VP- ROBERT TURNER-P	
10 th Dr. Roderick Moore	P		
11th – Patricia Wright	A		
12th – Natalie Horton	P		
13th – Christopher M. Wilson	P		
14th – Garfield Mason	EXCUSED	Alfred Wolobah-P	
15th – Mr. Lomex Mzwanele Sisilana	A		
16th – Shirlane Hendrickson Thomas	A		
17th – Caesar Kalenga	P		
18th – Phillip Tlhage	EXCUSED		
19th – Nomthimba N. Khoza	P		
20th – Qedindala Khumalo	A		

**African Methodist Episcopal Church
Connectional Lay Organization Roll Call**

Name	Date		
Advisors	10-13-22		
Advisor, President Emeritus Dr. Willie C. Glover	EXCUSED		
Advisor, Gloria Byrd	P		
Advisor, Daphne Chuma	P		
Advisor, Alfred S. Goliath	P		
Advisor, Marcus T. Henderson	A		
Advisor, Thelma Kennedy-Malveaux	A		
Committee Chairpersons			
AME V-Alert, Jacquelyn DuPont Walker	A		
Election Committee, VACANT			
Organizational & Officers Effectiveness, Keith Britton	P		
Constitution & Bylaws, Libertha Mutambo	P		
Budget & Finance, Cynthia Gordon-Floyd	P		
Global Development, Herbert Mngadi	A		
Music Committee, Earl Knight, III	A		
Nominating Committee, Betty Tuggle	P		
Legislation Committee, Mark A. Johnson	P		
Audit Committee, Jeffrey Presley	P		
Social Action, Reginald McGill	A		
Educational Institutions, Dr. Jeffery Norfleet II, EdD	A		
CLEDC, Judge Derek Anderson	A		
Technology, Chenay Saunders	A		
Disaster Relief, Dorothy Ealy	P		