

From the Desk of the **Connectional Lay Organization President**

NOVEMBER 2022

Greetings!

Welcome to our new monthly communique. As your Connectional Lay Organization President, it is my desire to greet you in the matchless name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

As we approach the end of another calendar year, we have made much progress in our ministry but have much more work to do.

Since the 2021 Biennial, we have been quite busy. We staffed our committees and they have gone to work. Great effort was undertaken to assign a young adult to serve as vice-chairperson on each committee and at least one member from Districts from 14-20. This provides great diversity in committee interactions and work.

We celebrated Evangelism Sunday and Lay Witness Sunday. We held two virtual prayer services all under the direction of the Third Vice-President. Prayer is the lifeblood of our ministry, and we cannot forsake it. Without prayer, we cannot succeed.

We held two Executive Board meetings - one virtually and the other in-person in New Orleans. In New Orleans, we were hosted by Bishop Stafford J. Wicker and the 8th Episcopal District in grand fashion beginning with a Mardi Gras themed reception. Each meeting has provided the opportunity for members of the Executive Board to report on their work and stewardship.

We are in preparation of the next virtual Executive Board meeting on December 9 and 10. The meeting theme is commitment. Please see information at www.ameclay.org/events. Following this Executive Board meeting there will be one more before we head to Chicago in June for the 2023 Biennial Session. Excitement is building for the Biennial as plans unfold. Stay tuned for more information.

As we continue to work on the business of the Lay Organization, we cannot forget our civic duties.

Members in the United States have critical elections upcoming on November 8, 2022. I encourage you to vote and to work diligently to encourage others to vote.

The African Methodist Episcopal was founded on self-help and self-determination. Participating in the election process allows us to keep the traditions of our founders and positively impact our communities.

In addition to voting, this is also the season of Thanksgiving in many countries. The celebrations are observed around harvest time. The Canadian Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday in October. The United States will celebrate it on the fourth Thursday in November. Liberia also celebrates it on the fourth Thursday in November.

Thanksgiving in the UK is a Harvest Festival held in late September or early October. The Brazilian Thanksgiving, in November, begins at church but ends as a carnival. Grenada celebrates every year on the 25th of October. For the Christian, every day is a day of thanksgiving, so I wish you Happy Thanksgiving today and whenever your country celebrates.

Congratulations to Nomthimba N. Khoza, 19th District President, and the newly elected chairperson of LOADI (Lay Organization of Africa Development Initiative). We are excited for the work she will accomplish as LOADI approaches their 20th anniversary in 2024.

Happy Independence Day to our members in Zambia. The country gained independence on October 24, 1964, from the United Kingdom.

Until next month, may God richly bless and keep you.

In His Service,



Abe Makiti, President

