

Nona Yvonne Simpkins

Former Fifth Episcopal District Lay President
(September 1997 – September 2005)



Nona Yvonne Simpkins is a Life Member of the 5th Episcopal District Lay Organization, serving in the Missouri Conference under the leadership of The Reverend Clarence Franklin at Rock Chapel AME Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

In 2010, Nona retired from Barnes Jewish Hospital where she worked in the Anesthesia Department after 40+ years of employment. Nona has two sons, a daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren who keep her busy enjoying life.

Nona has served in a multitude of positions throughout her tenure as a Layperson on the Local, Conference and District levels.

On the local level, she served off and on for over 20 years as the President at Gregg Chapel AME Church until she passed the proverbial baton on to Jackie Payton.

Nona was the proud President of the Missouri Annual Conference from 1997 through 2005 when the seat was passed on by-election to fellow Missourian Lamar Rose. Nona has also served as Recording Secretary, 2nd Vice President, Historiographer, and DOLA, all on the Conference level.

On the District level, Nona has served under the tutelage of some of the best Laypersons in all African Methodism such as Tom Sutton, Fred Stewart, Betty Thompson, Samantha Kendall, and Ruth Burns. And as The Lord would have it, she counts Ruth Burns' daughter, Brenda Simpson, as one of her best friends today. Nona is a great source of information to Brenda as she navigates her first term as President of the Missouri Annual Conference Lay Organization.

From 1991-1993, she served as interim 2nd Vice President for the District Lay. In 2007, President Tom Sutton submitted Nona's name to be the Lay representative on the 5th District Planning Committee for 2008 General Conference where she served as 2nd Vice Chairperson in charge of the souvenir journal. Nona has served on numerous committees and has received numerous awards and accolades including but not limited to Outstanding Local Lay President, Outstanding Leadership Award, and the JD Williams Award. She is currently serving on the 5th District Constitution and Bylaws committee.

Nona's accomplishments are too many to list here. She is an AME Layperson through and through. She has been an active member of the Lay Organization since 1980. Her first Biennial Convention was in 1981, and her first District Convention was in 1982 and she has been a delegate to the General Conference six times. Nona learned from the best and taught all the rest! Nona is an excellent teacher on the doctrine and discipline of the AME Church as well as the Constitution and By-Laws of the Lay Organization. As evidenced by the names mentioned here of current and active members of the Lay Organization, the knowledge, and wisdom Nona has poured into her friends and fellow laypersons will forever be her legacy. In the words of current 5th District Director of Public Relations Pamela Williams, "Nona he has been a great mentor and wonderful source of knowledge to all who know her."

Submitted by:
William "Bill" Dickens
5th District Historiographer
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