

Connectional Lay Organization
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Spring Executive Board Meeting
April 24, 2013

Report of the Young Adult Representative

To: Bishop W. P. DeVeaux, Chairperson of the Lay Organization Commission of the General Board
Dr. Willie C. Glover, President of the Connectional Lay Organization (CLO)
Mrs. Edith Bartley Cartledge, Director of Lay Activities for the CLO
Officers and Members of the Connectional Lay Organization Executive Board
Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Greetings in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

It is my profound pleasure to submit the following report covering the activities of the office of the Young Adult Representative (YAR) of the Connectional Lay Organization from October 2012 to April 2013 as well as plans for the 33rd Biennial session.

This is my final report to this Executive Board as an officer and I make it with mixed emotions. Anything worth doing presents challenges, and this situation has been the case with my tenure in office. I am pleased with the progress that we have made, however, and am hopeful that the Connectional Lay Organization will achieve its goal of recruiting and retaining younger members. I leave proud of the work done and grateful to the Episcopal District YARs and Directors of Lay Activities, my staff and this Executive Board for their support.

In His Service I remain,

John Thomas III
Young Adult Representative of the Connectional Lay Organization (CLO YAR)

General YAR Status Update

Status of the Episcopal District YARs

Pursuant to the recommendations of the 30th and 31st Lay Biennials, the CLO YAR is in the process of ensuring that the YAR is established at *all levels* of the Connectional Lay Organization. Key to the YAR diffusion strategy is the implementation of Episcopal District YARs. Several Episcopal Districts have elected new YARs and no new elections will be held prior to the Biennial. (data as of 4/25/2013):



1 st	Vacant
2 nd	Ms. Felecia Commodore
3 rd	Ms. Reneicia Frazier
4 th	Mr. Michael Cousin
5 th	Ms. Jene'l Sconier
6 th	Mr. Jason Ferguson
7 th	Ms. Jamesha Williams
8 th	Ms. Bobbie Hollins
9 th	Mr. Justin Lawrence
10 th	Mr. Brandon Livingston
11 th	Ms. Eboni Curry
12 th	Ms. Natalie Horton
13 th	Ms. Melinda Robinson
14 th	Vacant
15 th	Mr. Josef Van Der Westhuize
16 th	Mr. Eon Nedd
17 th	Ms. Chama Bowa
18 th	Mr. Tsepo Mosoeunyane
19 th	Mr. Lesiba Tsebe
20 th	Vacant

Actions Taken by the CLO YAR

The YAR has received invitations to attend the following Episcopal District functions:

- 12th Episcopal District Lay Convention
- 7th Episcopal District Lay Convention

Participation in the 12th Episcopal District Lay Convention has been confirmed. Attendance at the 7th Episcopal District Lay Convention will be subject to work commitments.

With the acknowledgment of the Connectional President, the CLO YAR will be attending the AME Zion Connectional Lay Council Quadrennial Convention in Montgomery, AL.

The invitation was extended in acknowledgement of the efforts to coordinate and work with the AME Zion Young Adult Lay Initiative.

Other Lay Organization Activities

- Attendance at 13th Episcopal District Lay Meeting (March 2013)

Biennial Plans

Similar to the 2011 Biennial, the CLO YAR will be coordinating a variety of Young Adult training and networking events. The prospective list is as follows:

- Two Young Adult Networking opportunities (one in the hotel, one off-site)
- Young Adult Explosion/Hour of Power
- General Education Plenary

The Connectional Director of Lay Activities and the YAR have collaborated on the workshop offerings and all delegates will have the same curriculum.

Episcopal District Presidents please identify Young Adult delegates to the Registration Committee so that we can reach out to them before the Biennial.

Closing

All good things come to an end and it is my prayer that the Connectional Lay Organization has found my tenure in office to be pleasing and profitable. To be a “young” (or emerging) adult is to be in transition. As I have personally transitioned and grown, I have had the privilege to see our programming and outreach towards Young Adults flourish.

Change is not easy and I understand that at times we have had to stretch ourselves out of our comfort zones in working with Young Adults. It is my hope and wish that my tenure will be remember not for the process, but for the progress and strides that we are making. All families have growing pains, but they are still families and work together.

I commend to the Connectional Lay Organization my successor Ms. Felecia Commodore from the 2nd Episcopal District. Please support and encourage her in this most important work.

Finally, I thank the 13th Episcopal District for their endorsement of my candidacy and support in this office. I also thank this Executive Board for their understanding and forbearance—in particular our President, Connectional Director of Lay Activities, Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

May God bless the AME Church and the Connectional Lay Organization!