

**EAST CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION
142ND SESSION OF THE EAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ANNUAL REPORT
CONFERENCE YEAR 2016-2017
NOVEMBER 2017
PHILLIS FILER, PRESIDENT**



STATISTICS

- 3 DISTRICTS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
- 78 CHURCHES
- 61 CHURCHES WITH AN ORGANIZED LAY ORGANIZATION
- 17 CHURCHES WITHOUT AN ORGANIZED LAY ORGANIZATION
- 98 AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

CHURCHES WITHOUT AN ORGANIZED LAY

Alachua-Central District

- Saint Paul A. M. E. Church (Windsor)- Gainesville
- A. M. E. Church of the Master – Jacksonville
- New Bethel A. M. E. Church - Jacksonville

South District

- Mt. Zion A. M. E. Church, Green Cove
- Mt. Olive A. M. E. Church, East Palatka
- Bethel A. M. E. Church, Spring Glenn
- Saint James A. M. E. Church, Welaka
- Mount Olive A. M. E. Church, Williston
- Bethel A. M. E. Church, Trenton
- New Hope A. M. E. Church, Bronson
- Union Bethel A. M. E. Church, Crescent City
- Saint Paul A. M. E. Church, Mayport

Suwannee-North District

- St. James A. M. E. Church, Lake Butler
- Fort Union A. M. E. Church, Live Oak
- Macedonia A. M. E. Church, Fernandina Beach
- Mount Olive/ Mount Zion A. M. E. Church, Padlock
- New Bethel A. M. E. Church, Jasper

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Held Quarterly Meetings in each of the Districts of the Annual Conference wherein there were relevant workshops ranging from duties of the varying offices within the church to understanding the roles of the members. Also there were workshops that demonstrated the importance of marketing the church better and recognizing the importance of each group within the church in growing the church. Workshops presented have been taken back to the Districts and local churches to further training efforts on all levels.
- Increased the number of persons attending the Quarterly Conference Meetings.
- Twenty eight (28) persons from the East Conference attended the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Retreat hosted by the Central Conference at St. Paul A. M. E. Church, Ocala.
- Twenty six (26) delegates from the East Conference attended the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Convention held June 20-23, 2017 in Fort Lauderdale. Members of the Conference participated by doing presentations and/or facilitating workshops.
- East Conference Lay represented the Conference at the 35th Session of the Connectional Lay Biennial held August 6-11, 2017 in Columbus, Ohio at which the second female in the history of the Connectional Lay was elected in the person of Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell. We had 7 registered delegates.
- East Conference held a Lay Training on August 26, 2017 which was hosted by Ebenezer A. M. E. Church, Live Oak where Reverend Charles Graham is the Pastor. There were 126 persons registered which included both Laypersons and Pastors. The event was outstanding with workshops being presented by Sis. Sarah Roberts, 1st Vice President of the East Conference Lay and the Reverend Tan Moss, Pastor of Greater Grant A. M. E. Church, Jacksonville. Sis. Roberts presented on Leadership while Rev. Moss presented on evaluation tools for use with our leaders. The event was culminated with a Hymn-a-Rama wherein several of the Pastors sang the hymns as we learned the history of the hymns. It was both an educational and spirit-filled event.
- Met all financial obligations to the 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization.
- Achieved 14 of the 14 objectives of the Lay Organization as outlined in the *Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*.
- Attended and participated in trainings and events held in the local churches within the East Conference. President spoke at Lay Day at Saint Andrews A. M. E. Church, Jacksonville Beach. Saint Paul A. M. E. Church, Jacksonville held a Lay Training on September 23, 2017 wherein the presenter was Sis. Pat Wright, Episcopal District Lay President and Sis. Evelyn Welch Graham, LEDP Chair. Members of the East Conference attended the training. The topic was: "Growing to Serve and Serving to Grow". The two day event culminated on Sunday, September 24, 2017 with President Wright bringing the message.
- East Conference Lay continued to work on all levels to have students to apply for the Scholarships awarded by the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization for students who will be entering Colleges/Universities in the fall 2017. Currently there is the Selmo Bradley Scholarship and the Willie Williams Music Scholarship. There

were 5 scholarships given out at the 73rd Annual Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Convention wherein one of the students awarded the Selmo Bradley Scholarship was Jade Kierra-Dell Freeney from Historic Mount Zion A. M. E. Church, Jacksonville wherein her Pastor is Rev. Pearce Ewing. Jade received a \$2,000 scholarship. To date the Eleventh Episcopal District has given over \$120,000 in scholarships to youth throughout the Eleventh Episcopal District with the East Conference youth having received many of these scholarships.

- Assisted Edward Waters College through the Marion Bacon White Textbook/Supplies Award at Edward Waters College which is a continuous financial award by the Episcopal District Lay Organization since 2004. Freshmen through senior students may apply during any semester for this award to aid in the purchase of textbooks and class lab supplies.
- Two members from the East Conference Lay received awards at the 73rd Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Convention: Sister Ella Hill from Bethel A M. E. Church, LaCrosse was the recipient of the Hall of Fame Award and Sister Loretta Coppock from Saint Paul A. M. E. Church, Jacksonville was the recipient of the President's Award which is the Soldier of the Cross Award.
- Participated in the LEDP (Lay Economic Development Program) which is designed to assist churches needing assistance. Currently from the East Conference there are two members on the Board of Directors, as well as the Executive Director, Staff Secretary, and Staff Treasurer. This year thanks to dues and events such as the LEDP Luncheon which is held at MidYear, assistance was given to Saint Andrews A.M.E. Church, Jacksonville Beach to assist with needed repairs at their church.
- East Conference Lay have been working with the local churches to ensure that each one has an active organized Lay Organization per the *Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*.

GOALS FOR 2018

- Hold the elections of officers for both the East Conference and the Districts of the Annual Conference.
- To strengthen by 10% the work of the Lay Ministry in collaboration with the Pastors.
- Reduce the number of churches that do not have an organized Lay Organization.
- Work on increasing the number of Young Adults in the East Conference Lay Organization.
- Recruit, Reclaim, and Retain!