



# Office of the President The Florida Conference Lay Organization



Mr. Donald L. Russell

[Druss63989@aol.com](mailto:Druss63989@aol.com)

Post Office Box 16532- Tallahassee, Florida 32317

April 28, 2023

Greetings Everybody; To the Established protocol of the Lay Organization, surly we honor our Episcopal Leadership, Bishop Frank Madison Reid, III-our Presiding Prelate, and Mrs. Marla Hall Reid our Episcopal Supervisor; The leadership of the Connectional Lay Organization, Mr. Matikan Abednego Mikiti our Connectional Lay Organization President, Ms. Patricia H. Wright our Connectional Director of Lay Activities, Ms. Jazman Williams or Connectional Young Adult Representative; Our Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization leaders, Ms. Patricia H. Wright, President, Ms. Teresa White, Director of Lay Activities, and one of our own, Ms. Ashley Blakely, or Young Adult Representative; Our Conference ecclesiastical leaders, Presiding Elders Carlton Taylor, Valarie Walker, Tan Moss and Ronald Williams, to the Executives of the Lay Organization on all levels, to our Pastors and Ministers of the Florida Annual Conference, and our loyal lay members of the Conference, to our out of Conference guest, visitors and friends, and to All of God's Children assembled for this Day and ½ Convention of the Florida Conference Lay Organization, I greet you all in the Joy of the Lord.

Our Convention Theme, "Doing the Work" depicts who we are as lay members in the Florida Annual Conference. For we teach and train in our Conference, Districts of the Annual Conference and Local Churches- during meetings and in other opportunities that presents itself to us. However, we do not stop there, for we as lay members do the work of ministries in our local churches which supports every community in our Conference. We love Justice by joining forces with our clergy and community leaders to speak truth to power, we exercising our voice to encourage others to not only to register, but to educate ourselves on the social issues and to mobilized our community to vote through our AMEV-alert. We love kindness by giving of our time and talents to work with the outreach ministries of our local churches. Members of the Organized Lay Organization are those who operate the cloth closets and food pantries, we work to provide assistance in vaccine sites, senior services and many other outreach programs to help those in need in our communities. We continue our walk with God, in all we do or say. As an Organization of the Church, in every meeting, every event, we invoke God's



# Office of the President

## The Florida Conference Lay Organization



Mr. Donald L. Russell

[Druss63989@aol.com](mailto:Druss63989@aol.com)

Post Office Box 16532- Tallahassee, Florida 32317

presence in the mist, and we constantly seek to hear God whisper as we fulfill His just command. We are doing good deeds, we are planting good seeds, and that is where we want the Lord to find us.

We have planned this convention, to give you a glimpse of the work, witness and services performed by the Florida Conference Lay Organization, this conference year. With our Officers' reports, committees' insight and recommendations, Young Adult Representative Message, we will see that the work we are doing is all divine. We will celebrate men of the Church leading by example as we include our annual Men of Distinction recognition during our opening Worship Celebration. We will not forget those who has made an impact in the life of the Church and our Organization, so will take that moment to remember during our Memorial Celebration. Our health moment is designed to minister to the physical well-being of our members as we continue to do the work of the Church. We have invited ACTS 2 project (African American Caregiver Training and Support) project to share with us the resources available for those of us who are caring for an elderly love one with dementia. Our first workshop topic "Do you know your church" will remind us on just what it means to be an AME's and assist us as we live in this presence age to be all that God called us to be in the AME Church. Our second workshop on the Electoral College will help us follow the process of being elected a delegate or alternative to the General Conference 2024. Our Director of Lay Activities will have moments throughout the Convention, to celebrate our presence as we meet in person on tomorrow, for the first time since COVID-19 has reared it's ugly head. To conclude our convention, our own, Eleventh Episcopal District 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President John W. Love will preside over our Conference election, as many of us seek to serve the Florida Conference Lay Organization for the next two years. Doing good deeds, planting good seeds, that is where we want the Lord to find us, in the Florida Conference Lay Organization.

Thank you, members, for all that you have done for the advancement of the Lay Ministry through-out the Florida Annual Conference, to God be the glory.

I am Donald L. Russell, President  
The Florida Annual Conference  
African Methodist Episcopal Church