

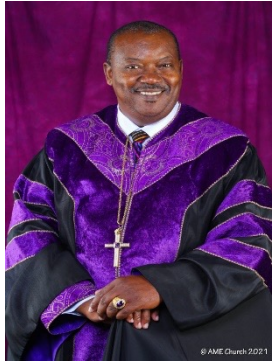
*FIRST EPISCOPAL  
DISTRICT  
PRESIDENT'S  
REPORT*

CHERYL HAMMOND HOPEWELL, PRESIDENT

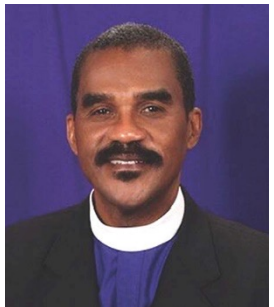
APRIL 2022



# Acknowledgments



Commission Chair  
Bishop Stafford J.  
N. Wicker



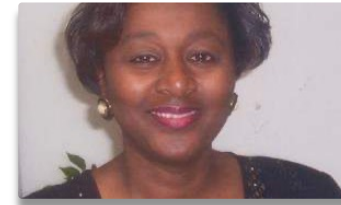
My Bishop of the  
First Episcopal  
District  
Bishop Julius H.  
McAllister, Sr.



CLO President  
Matikane Abednego Makiti



First District Lay President  
Cheryl Hammond Hopewell



CLO Dola  
Patricia Wright



First District Lay DOLA  
Thomas Davis



CLO YAR  
Jamesha Williams



First District Lay YAR  
Marcus Burnett



# *MEMBERSHIP*

- ▶ Number of active Lay Organization members in your district.
  - ▶ As of July 2021, we had 198 active Lay Organizations with 2,699 members.
  - ▶ That is a decrease of 254 members from where we were in July 2019 with 2,953 members. Being virtual through most of that time made it hard to know the exact numbers. Also, many persons in the First District passed during the pandemic including several lay persons.
- ▶ Number of Young adults who are members of the Lay Organization in your district.
  - ▶ We have 67 young adults in our District. That is an increase of 6% from 2019 where we had 64 young adults. While these numbers are reported from the local churches, we do not see this many working at the District level.

# TRAINING

- ▶ What training programs have you embarked on as a District?
  - ▶ Our District has had the following training programs:
    - ▶ At each of our District Meetings, have First Timers training sessions.
    - ▶ Restoring the Mission and Purpose of the Lay
    - ▶ How should Pastors and Laity respond to Pastoral Moves
    - ▶ Think like a Fish
    - ▶ Finding Healing and Liberation through our Faith
    - ▶ Connectedness of the Connectional Lay Organization
    - ▶ Baking our Praise
    - ▶ Nutrition and Health
    - ▶ Financial Freedom
    - ▶ Parliamentary Procedures
    - ▶ African Methodism and Church Membership

# *ACCOMPLISHMENTS*

- ▶ The District President presented at the last First District Planning Meeting on how we plan to “Think Outside the Box”.
- ▶ We successfully switched from in-person meetings to a virtual platform, while still having amazing and informative meetings and excellent workshops.
- ▶ We were able to hold a successful virtual Election of Officers.
- ▶ While we meet twice a year as a District in February Mid-Year training and our Annual Meeting in July, during the height of the pandemic, we had monthly game nights with teaching and training.
- ▶ During the height of the pandemic, we honored First Responders.

# CHALLENGES

- ▶ Not meeting in person was challenging. Although we moved to a virtual platform, some were unable to do that because they didn't have devices, didn't know how to access the platform or were tech challenged. We did have some join by phone but it was not the same as being in-person.
- ▶ Conferences could not have their usual fundraisers so they were strapped to pay District obligations, which left the District financially strapped.
- ▶ Virtual funerals were challenging. We were not able to visit with families of the deceased or meet in churches for funerals. If so, only a few could attend. It has been a sad time for the District and the families especially with our number of losses.



# *HOW CAN WE HELP*

- ▶ The best way the Connectional Lay Organization can help the District Lay Organizations is to keep the costs down as much as possible for registrations, hotels, travel, etc. Everyone is financially strapped and the high costs of meeting in-person don't help and don't allow all the people interested in coming to attend.
- ▶ It would help if the Connectional Lay Organization could make sure our dates are on the Connectional calendar. With this meeting, we are conflicting with the Connectional YPD LTI, which is being hosted in my District and I am not able to attend.

# *UPCOMING EVENTS*

- ▶ We are in our series of Annual Conferences so we have seven (7) Lay Witness Nights. They have all been virtual the last 2 years. This year there is a mixture of in-person, virtual and hybrid. We have had three so far with four more to go. Our Lay Witness Nights are always top notch with wonderful speakers.
- ▶ Our First District Lay Annual Meeting will be held in July 2022. This is a time where each elected officer, conference president and committee chair reports on their stewardship. While this is mostly a business meeting, we are always sure to get some training done and a worship service also.



# Mid-Year Training and Worship February 2022

- ▶ While we were virtual for the past two years, it was decided our February Mid-Year training would be in-person. The fellowship was wonderful, the meeting was exciting and the workshops were awesome. Our Bishop preached a powerful message for our worship experience. However, our numbers were down and the hotel costs were up so while it was good being together, we struggled financially with this meeting.



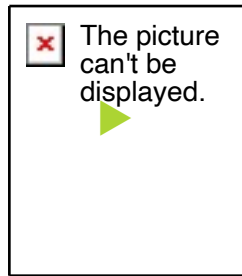


# Mid-Year Training and Worship February 2022 continued

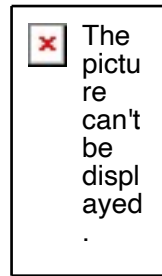


# THANK YOU!

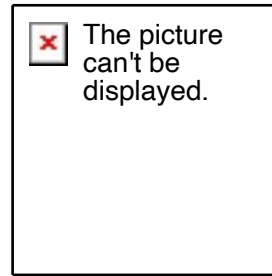
- ▶ The First Episcopal District Lay – 7 Conferences in one Dynamic District



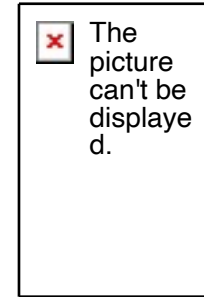
Bermuda



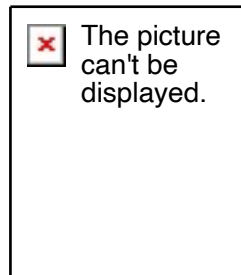
Delaware



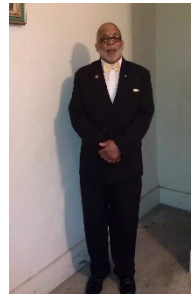
New England



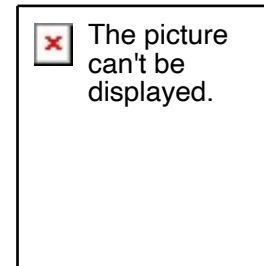
New Jersey



NY



Philadelphia



WNY