

THE LAYMEN'S VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWS
of the Fifth Episcopal District
of the
AFRICAN METHODIST CHURCH
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Send all news releases to your
conference president by the 20th
of each month.

Active Leaders in Lay Activities

Woods Puget Sound Conference
John A. Woods, representative
of the Puget Sound Conference,



Mr. Woods

joined Bethel A.M.E. church, Yakima, Washington in 1927. He was lay delegate to the general conference in Kansas City. He has been trustee and is now a steward and district steward in his church.

Mr. Woods is serving his 40th year as an employee of the National Bank of Commerce in Yakima.

Phillips California Conference
George L. W. Phillips, Redlands, Calif., member of the executive committee of the 5th district lay organization has served 25 years in A.M.E. churches in Boston, Mass., Allen Chapel, Providence, R. I., and 10 years in Riverside, California. He is a Mason, Eastern Star, Odd Fellow and past Exalted Ruler of I.B.P.O.E. of W.



Mr. Phillips

Joseph T. Ansell, Jr., president of the North Missouri Conference Laymen's League, was born in Macon, Mo., where he received his elementary schooling. He completed his high school work at Western College in Macon and graduated from Western University, Quindaro, Kas., in 1921. Mr. Ansell is a member of Bethel A.M.E. church in Macon where he serves as trustee, steward and chairman of Ways and Means Committee. He is a veteran of World War I and is married to the former Alma Hortense McElroy.



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A Consecrated Progressive Leader

BY COLEY W. STAFFORD
PRES. SO. CALIF. CON. L. L.

The well thought out and progressive legislation program outlined by our beloved leader, has served as a giant generator to inspire the Laymen of the Southern California Conference and the entire Fifth Episcopal district. Probably the one item that appeals to laity and clergy alike more than any other single proposal in the entire history of our great church is, his suggestion that our pension department be put on an actuarial basis to the end that the purpose of this progressive legislation may ever rebound to the sole benefit of those for whom it was intended.

Fifth District Laymen Endorse Plan

At the recent meeting of the Fifth district Laymen's meeting at Kansas City, Kansas, the league passed resolutions recommending



ATTORNEY H. L. DUDLEY
Connectional President
Laymen's League, A. M. E. Church

that the pension department be placed under the Insurance Commissioner of the State in which the department is located.

To me no sight is more tragic than that of an indigent citizen who have given his useful life to the ministry of Christ and at the very sun set of life find himself ill clothed, ill fed and ill housed.

Such legislation should be enacted in the 1952 General Conference without a desenting vote. This will encourage large contributions by the Laymen and many ministers will contribute to the fund thereby increasing their annual income upon retirement.

Leavenworth, Kas. Laymen Report

The Laymen's League of Bethel A.M.E. church met Sunday, July 7 at 3 p. m. Mr. Leonard McClanahan, vice president of the local organization presided.

The following program was rendered: Solo by Mrs. Louis La Flore, address by Mrs. Georgia Marshall, district vice president of the Fifth Episcopal District, Oakland, Calif. Reports of the Annual Laymen's conference were given by delegates Mrs. Sadie J. Anderson and Prof. E. M. Lawson. A floral presentation was made by Mrs. Leona Davis to the guest speaker. The following committees were appointed by president, Mr. Richard W. Warren: Christian Stewardship, Mrs. Lizette Alexander; New Eras of Service, Mrs. Alice Hester and Mrs. Leona Davis; Church and Ministerial Support, Mrs. Bertha G. Taylor; Training for Leadership, Prof. E. M. Lawson; Finance Committee, Mrs. Sadie J. Anderson;

Laymen's Friend



BISHOP WALKER

The Rt. Rev. D. Ormonde Walker, presiding bishop of the Fifth Episcopal District who opened his first series of annual conferences Wednesday morning, Aug. 9, in Tacoma, Wash., has been affectionately known as the 'laymen's friend.' He is credited with introducing more legislation favoring the laymen than any other bishop.

A series of articles written by Bishop Walker, of interest to laymen, will appear in The Voice.

Valiant Hearted Soldiers Needed

How much more is the church's need for strong men and women than our nation's need for the same? The Scripture says "many are called, but few are chosen." When our Bishop Walker called the Laymen of the 5th district to Kansas City, Kansas to organize, some heard and they answered. Where there is a will there is a way. I am grateful to members and friends of 8th and Towne who supported efforts to go. We were so inspired, I do believe our delegations will be doubled in Denver, Colo., in 1951. The California Conference was the greatest distance away, and yet had the largest delegation under our able president, Coley W. Stafford.

At the close of the meeting, some of us motored to beautiful Wilberforce University to attend their 97th commencement exercises. I was, and am still, thrilled over the beautiful buildings, especially our new \$200,000 building, Payne Seminary. Dr. J. H. Lewis is the Dean. As I sat in the beautiful auditorium, I learned it was decorated by our matchless President Dr. Charles L. Hill, and a few students after school hours, economizing and sacrificing for the benefit of the school. Beautiful commencement, it was both solemn and brilliant. Board of Trustees meeting was open to all. The school is located in a very nice residential neighborhood. I visited Bishop and Mrs. Ransom's beautiful home where refreshments were served. Bishop and Mrs. Walker entertained the 5th district visitors with a delicious fried chicken and ham dinner. We all certainly enjoyed it and were made to feel at home. I hope others will visit Wilberforce; it reminds me of Beverly Hills, California.

Pray, work and talk Wilberforce.

Mrs. Camilla Leftridge
Los Angeles, California

Membership, Mrs. Leonard McClanahan and Mr. Staff Johnson; Program, Mrs. Alice Hester and Miss Leona M. Davis.

The President Speaks

Message Gets Program Under Way

This is my first official writing since the reorganization of the district.

I have quite a few things to talk about. I am numbering them by subjects as follows:

First—Our Paper. It will play an important part in the organization of every church in our district. See that each church is contacted and every member in that church. Co-operation and co-ordination will strengthen the organization.

Second—Constitution and By-Laws. Please write the secretary, Mr. Henry H. Glass, 2106 E. 27th street, Kansas City, Mo. They are fifteen cents (15c) a copy.

Third—Appointments. I have appointed a three member advisory Board: P. G. Porter, Olathe, Kas., Mrs. M. I. Smith, Denver, Colo., and H. H. Pettigrew, Los Angeles.

Fourth—Executive committee meetings. I would like to have a meeting of the executive committee one day prior to the meeting of the Bishops and Connectional Council next February, 1951 at Los Angeles, Calif.

Fifth—Youth. I am interested in getting the youth active and participating more fully. Plans will be released in the near future.

Please see that your conference is fully informed on every suggestion. If any conference president delays or fails to respond it will hurt the program.

Your Co-worker
George Jones, President.

Aggressive Leadership Will Strengthen Church

In praising the recent action of the Bishops Council in the Morris Brown situation, Abram L.



GEORGE JONES

George Jones, president of the Fifth District Laymen's League, was born on a farm near Oskaloosa, Kas., and attended the schools there. Mr. Jones served as farm extension agent for the Kansas Vocation school at Topeka for two years.

He has been Lay delegate to the General Conferences four terms and is active in Lay programs.

Simpson, Washington, D. C., said in a recent communique that the same thing could be done by legislation with regards to all activities in an Episcopal district. Mr. Simpson said that laymen should be considering legislation to be perfected at the next meeting of important facts.

Aggressive leadership is needed in this entire fight, he stated. He spoke of the inspiration, new hope and increasing pride which laymen throughout the connection are showing as a result of increased lay activities.

Voice of the Laymen

DR. J. LOUIS RANSOM, President
Kansas Conference Laymen's
Organization

The Lay group of the African Methodist Episcopal church numbering one million strong desire to speak: Hear the Voice of the People!

We do not like the escapade shaping up at Morris Brown college. Repercussions of church strife in Georgia, a stronghold of African Methodism, is being felt throughout the entire connection and presents an embarrassing picture for us in the eyes of the public. The Bishops of the A.M.E. church as Stewards of the "Church of Allen" must place the Cause of the Church before the interest or future of anyone who is involved in the controversy at Morris Brown college. Justice and fair play are the pertinent questions to answer. Any compromise with wrong will prove to be a subversive influence in our Church. This issue at Morris Brown college is a challenge to the Clergy and Laity of Georgia. In this case we see the authority of the Bishops' Council transcending the authority of the presiding Bishop of the Episcopal district and the duly elected trustees of the school. Under the organic laws of Methodism this authority prevails but if such authority is arbitrarily exercised in the wrong directions, it will de-

stroy the moral and spiritual structure of the A.M.E. church.

Morris Brown college as a Church school is linked with the destiny of Wilberforce, Paul Quinn, Edward Waters and other A.M.E. church institutions. Any dishonesty in a public trust at any of these institutions is not confined to that institution alone but the evil influence becomes infiltrated in the Church life throughout the entire Connection and the Educational areas of Wilberforce and other schools will be alert and apprehensive.

The Organized groups of the laity of the A.M.E. church are loyal to the Church and its officials in office of public trust, but we are not immuned to the spirit of revolt when provoked by un-Christian practices of dishonesty in high places, miscarriage of justice and the abuse of power.

The Lay Organization of the Fifth Episcopal District are loyal to Bishop Walker and stand ready to carry out any assignment he gives us as part of his administrative policy. Bishop D. Ormonde Walker and Bishop John A. Gregg, my Episcopal ideal leader, are two of the most liberal and fair-minded leaders we have ever had in the Fifth District. Lay groups in the Fifth District will yet prove to the General Church the value of lay organizations in lay Christian leadership.