

# The Laymen's Voice

official news of the  
Fifth Episcopal District  
of the African Methodist Church

George Jones ..... President

Fifth District Lay Organization

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# How To Organize A Local League

Taken from Constitution and By-Laws of The Connectional Lay Organization.

### LOCAL LAY ORGANIZATIONS:

The procedure to be followed in organizing Lay Groups in the local churches will depend to a large extent upon existing local conditions. Those who seek to organize, and who may not be familiar with the procedure, should consult the President of the Conference lay organization (if the conference has been organized), if not, advice may be obtained directly from the President of the Connectional Lay Organizations. It is highly advisable to obtain the full cooperation, good will and support of the minister.

The 1948 Edition of the A.M.E. Discipline outlines a procedure on page 342, paragraph 353B, which should prove helpful and beneficial in organizing local lay groups:

Quote, "The Pastor of each local church shall, within thirty days after the Annual conference, call a meeting of the members of the church for the purpose of organizing the Laymen's League in the local church. Said League to be amenable to the Quarterly Conference. The head of such League shall be a member of the Official Board.

**THE LAYMEN'S LEAGUE IN EACH CHURCH** shall elect by majority vote, the chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, chaplain and fix the time for regular meetings which should not be less than once each month. In the event the Pastor of the local church shall fail or refuse to call the meeting for the organization of the laymen's league, a majority of the Stewards shall call the meeting.

The league shall elect committees on: 1. Personal Evangelism. 2. Christian Stewardship. 3. Circulation of the church papers. 4. New areas of service. 5. Church and Ministerial support. 6. Training for Leadership. 7. Connectional Fellowship. Members of these committees shall number not less than three persons, and each committee shall report at each meeting of the league." Unquote.

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LOCAL** lay organization shall conform to the Constitution of Conference lay organizations, and the presidents of the lay organizations shall bear the same relations to the conference lay organization, as the conference president bears to Episcopal district lay organization.

### OBJECT AND PURPOSE

The object and purpose of this organization shall be: A. To encourage the Laity of our church to support the total program of the church in the local congregation, in the community, in the denomination and the world. B. To advocate respect and loyalty at all times to the Constituted authority and leadership of our church, and to manifest proper reverence for our Spiritual Fathers. C. To encourage, stimulate and educate the Laity of our church in the history, development and organic laws of African Methodism. D. To foster a systematic and regular study of the discipline of the AME church to the end that greater knowledge and information may be disseminated among the Laity and with the further purpose of encouraging Laymen to participate more largely in the general functioning and supervision of the AME church. E. To foster, influence and support all constructive and progressive legislation for the church.

**There shall be a Laymen's League in each local church and Laymen's League in each Annual Conference, and a Laymen's league in each Episcopal District.**

We are as much opposed to the disgruntled Layman, who seeks to use the local Lay Organization for his own purpose, as we are to the "Cringing", "Uncle Tom", "Yes Man" type, who lacks backbone and intestinal fortitude to stand up courageously for the thing he believes in. The men and women who are identified with this Lay movement must be Strong, Loyal Dependable, Courageous, God-fearing Laymen, who desire to permanently organize and to follow through until the entire membership, if possible, has been organized and made aware of the great constructive good which comes through organization.

## Mr. C. W. Stafford Reports on Conf.

The twenty-seventh session of the southern California Conference, and the second session of the Laymen's annual conference, is now history. Measured by the current standard of success, i.e. (money) this is hailed as the greatest conference in the history of the A.M.E. Church in this area. While the claim is true as regard the amount of money reported, but when viewed in the light of the announced purpose of the church, one wonders if after all, the stress now being placed on money, is in the best interest of the church.

In the church as in civil government, the greater the amount of money handled, the greater the temptation for questionable political activities. The danger of politics in the church, as in government, is that the lust for positions of power and influence make for intellectual dishonesty, and deceit. Morality is thrown out the window when it interferes with the position sought, anything short of outright violation of the law goes.

In such an atmosphere, the saving of souls are of secondary concern. We hold that the primary business of the church is, or should be the saving of souls. Therefore, when viewed from the point of view of the number of souls saved during the past year, our claim to greatness, make a sorry picture.

The Laymen of this conference adopted as a project at the beginning of the conference year just closed, a visit to each church in the conference. We succeeded in carrying out that plan, returning to some five or six churches the second time, our major aim was to revive the spirit of fellowship, evangelism, and comradeship. We have no way of knowing how well we succeeded in accomplishing our purpose. This we do know, we raised and turned over to the forty-two churches visited, \$1,263.13.

We have tried in our humble way to impress upon believers everywhere, that to be effective, the gospel of Jesus Christ must be rescued from its position of subservience to money and made the prime objective of the church.



REV. F. M. MASON

Presiding Elder of Columbus District of the Ohio A.M.E. conference, 51 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus 15, Ohio.

**Candidate for Bishopric in 1952**  
Pulpit and loyal churchman, Pastor 27 years. Presiding Elder 14 years.

A special friend to rising ministers.

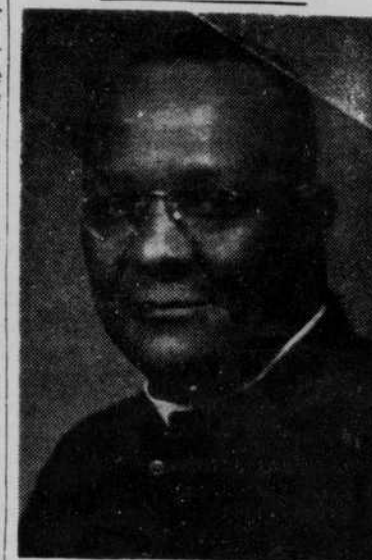
Believe in financing Colleges, Universities, Theological Seminaries and Church expansion.

Feels that every mission church should pay, or be helped to pay their pastor not less than \$25 per week.

He has a program which he feels will benefit the great A.M.E. church. He craves your support in 1952.

## World Community Day Observed

Church women of more than eighty Protestant denominations, organized in some 1800 state and local councils, United Church Women of the National Council of the Churches are preparing to observe their annual "World Community Day" on Friday, November 2nd. In preparation for the day, some hundreds of thousands of church women across the nation are working on two projects. One is the raising of an "Ecumenical Scholarship fund" to bring to the United States Christian young people from overseas for specialized training for leadership in their home communities. The other is the making or collecting of blankets and warm clothing to be given to refugees and homeless people in Europe and Asia. "Live thy faith" is the watchword of the day. Our A.M.E. Woman's Missionary Society is a part of this group of church women and it is expected that in many of our churches there will be active participation in the observance of World Community Day.



G. WAYMAN BLAKELY, SR.

pastor  
**BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH**  
9th & Broadway Little Rock, Ark.  
**CANDIDATE FOR BISHOP 1952**  
Your Prayers, vote and influence solicited —

## The President Speaks

Dear Presidents:

As Douglas Hospital has been accepted as our project for financial aid, I am asking each president to use his own plans, in this effort, to collect from his Conference as large a percentage as possible on the basis of twenty-five cents per adult member and ten cents per child. No doubt, you have some members who will be glad to pay for several adults or children.

I have appointed President Parks, of the Nebraska Conference, and President Owens, of the Southwest Missouri Conference, as the financial committee to receive these funds with Henry W. Glass for their bonded secretary. All money is to be sent to the secretary, Mr. Glass, whose address is 2106 E. 27th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, and he is to deposit it in the Douglas State Bank in the name of the A.M.E. Laymen's Douglas Hospital Gift Fund, George Jones, President. The District Lay President deposited \$100.00 towards this fund: \$93.20 being a personal donation and \$6.80, 100% for his church. He is sending this receipt to the secretary.

Our Bishop is in appreciative accord with our efforts. Also Superintendent Rev. Eugene Kelly of the hospital, who says it is a very timely project and his cooperation is ours. I hope you will be able to formulate a plan that will bring results for the benefit of this service-rendering institution, Douglas Hospital, which is located within our boundaries.

In cooperation with our Bishop and the hospital superintendent, it has been suggested that this gift be presented about December 15, 1951, as a Christmas gift.

Yours for the good of the church and all it stands for,

GEORGE JONES  
District Lay President

To All Laymen of the Fifth Episcopal District:

The above letter addressed to the Conference Presidents is also your letter. This is purely a free-will Laymen's gift to our struggling Douglas Hospital. Whoever gives a twenty-five cent piece or a ten-cent piece will have a big part in spreading Christmas joy to many more unfortunate than yourselves.

I hope, Laymen, that you will not wait for your Conference President to contact you, but that you will contact him and your pastor and make your church a



part to contribute something to this gift fund.

Laymen of the Eleventh Episcopal District raised \$10,000 for their Edward Waters College. With cooperating laymen, you will be joyfully surprised to see how easily forty thousand persons can raise a large, appreciative, and needed fund for our Douglas Hospital.

Let us hope for success.  
GEORGE JONES  
District Lay President

### No. Missouri Conference Re-elect J. T. Ancell

When Joseph T. Ancell, president of the North Missouri conference lay organization called the meeting to order in St. Joseph, Missouri Saturday, October 6th, delegates were eagerly awaiting their turn to make their reports. Others were eager to listen, have questions answered, and learn more about the lay movement. Reports were good. The president's annual address and report were acclaimed and he was re-elected. George Jones, president of the Fifth district lay organization, Mrs. Rubie W. Shakespeare, editor of The Laymen's Voice, and Dr. Fred D. Jordan, pastor of Ward Chapel, Los Angeles and candidate for Bishopric, were among visitors introduced.

An inspirational gospel choir thrilled a capacity audience in a feature program Saturday evening.

Other officers elected for the year were: Mr. Oscar Smith, 1st vice president; Mr. Eugene Washington, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Vergie Burgess, secretary; Mrs. Ada A. Bell, assistant secretary; Mr. Howard Hoffman, treasurer and Mrs. Mable Holt, chaplain.