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**REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAY MINISTRY**

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**36TH GENERAL CONFERENCE  
CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
MEETING, JUNE 23—JULY 2, 2006  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE**

Mr. Chairman, Senior Bishop, the College of Bishops, Members of the Judiciary Council, College Presidents, Pastors, Presiding Elders, Delegates, and my Fellow Laity – I greet you in the precious name of Jesus Christ who provides my every need.

I am pleased to report the state of Lay Ministry in the CME Church is vibrant, expanding, and never more crucial to the ministry and membership of our Zion. Many thanks for the inspiration and contributions that come from our local churches.

W.L. Graham Scholarship funds have grown from zero in 1998 to nearly \$90,000. This fantastic success sets the stage for building a very substantial endowment fund which the 13<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Lay Institute voted to set aside to help educate our male student/scholars.

Speaking of the Connectional Lay Institute October 5 – 7, 2005 in Louisville, Kentucky, we achieved overwhelming and spectacular success.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Connectional Lay Institute was historic for a number of extremely important reasons.

We were able to seat nearly 600 certified voting lay delegates receiving 100% cooperation from each Episcopal District in assembling delegate lists. Contested offices were elected electronically. We were able to conduct real time voting box surveys of the opinions of wide cross sections of the delegates on a wide range of matters and issues (see results following this report). We were able to successfully reduce delegate/local church expense and time commitment while dramatically enhancing convenience by convening the Lay Institute preceding the Annual CME Convocation. Registration (at 961) slightly exceeded the 12<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Connectional Lay Institute which made it the largest known registration for any previous Lay Institute in our history. The fellowship, debate, and deliberation was outstanding for two days. Each Annual Conference Lay Leader has been assigned an email address (see our departmental postings at [www.cmelayministry.org](http://www.cmelayministry.org) or visit [www.c-m-e.org](http://www.c-m-e.org) - our official CME Church web site).

Conference Lay Leaders need to register and login to assigned email address through the lay ministry site. Our departmental site also hosts our online ordering E-commerce site.

## **SURVEY SAYS**

Often our perceptions (assumptions) do not meet realities.

Because we preferred to question our assumptions we conducted perhaps the most extensive real-time plebiscite in the history of the CME Church during and throughout the Lay Institute. Responses were electronically tallied and immediately published through video display to Institute participants.

For example, one of the greatest objections we have heard during workshops is regarding the utilization of computers and technology. We are told that some churches don't have a computer or that our people are very resistant to there use.

While this objection has some resonance, our survey during the Connectional Lay Institute showed 86% of local churches actually do have a computer.

Moreover, 98% of the lay people believe technology can enhance ministries in their local church.

Additionally, there may be both message and opportunity in our survey results showing better than 90% support for women in ministry at all levels of our church including the Bishopric.

However, most critically, we must set about the mission to enhance training and the equipping of our local lay council membership. About 45% of our local lay councils did no training at all during the course of the past year.

To be sure, this is the main reason we found such a yearning for training at our previous 12<sup>th</sup> Connectional Lay Institute in 2001.

Our challenge is clear. We must build successful and repeatable models for reaching and teaching our local church membership.

Since it is dynamically and physically untenable to expect training to occur via local church workshops conducted by the General Secretary, we must deliver training and education as often as possible via electronic means.

Therefore, we have set about a course in 2006 and beyond to create these services and to meet these needs.

## **INTEGRATION**

Perhaps the biggest challenge of this Connectional Lay Institute was the necessity to work cooperatively and continuously with the Annual CME Convocation.

This resulted in greater savings and economy for all attendants.

We were able to integrate registration as well as some materials like our conference bags, some local committee staffing, copy services, piano & organ, and some hotel facilities.

Further, participants realized savings and economy due to one less packing occasion, two to three days less travel, better scheduling as to time of year, and one less travel expense.

Additionally, there was a discount for dual registration for both the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual CME Convocation and the 13<sup>th</sup> Connectional Lay Institute together.

We especially extend our appreciation to the Convocation Committee, Bishop Brown as Host Presiding Prelate, and Rev. Dr. Tyrone Davis as Convocation Director.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

We have already begun to execute web cast and conference calls on a periodic basis within the Executive Council of the Department of Lay Ministry.

This Executive Council comprises the General Secretary, the President of the Connectional Lay Council, the Presidents of Connectional Stewards, Stewardess, & Ushers and the newly established office Director of Connectional Christian Men's Fellowship.

Soon these conferences will involve our Connectional representation elected at the Connectional Lay Institute, as well as, the Annual Conference Lay Leaders, and other Department of Lay Ministry stakeholders.

We believe maintaining communications and providing frequent opportunities to engage in constructive discussions may provide for discovery of many solutions.

We believe we do not know all answers. Therefore, we must continue to make inquiry, prod, posit, survey.

Only if we know what people believe and what they think will we be able to appropriately strategize and effectuate tactical responses.

When we initiate responses, the church should expect that at some times we will embrace approaches popular among our members that comprise the conventional wisdom.

However, at other times we will try to remold and reshape opinion in a direction consistent with paradigm shifts we have observed.

In fact, we believe this is what lay leadership is all about.

For example, although we originally found a high level of resistance to technological innovation throughout the CME Church the lay ministry continued to pursue that direction. Consequently, the resistance has steadily declined.

### **COMMUNICATIONS OF INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY (CIT)**

Our CIT Ministry is reflective of our new theme for this quadrennial, “where there is vision, the people flourish”. Our directors, Theresa Duhart, Luran James, and Darran Caudle are providing dynamic and hands on leadership.

Our planning for the next quadrennial contemplates establishing CIT as an independent entity outside the Department of Lay Ministry.

Among other things CIT would include 1) Public Relations & Marketing; 2) Online Services & Computer Literacy; 3) CME TV featuring convention services, visual & learning tools, and multimedia operations.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING**

We feel urgency to extend the knowledge of both our members, potential clients, and other stakeholders regarding our faith, our heritage, and our capabilities.

We will build on our web blog and drive our efforts aggressively to better position the CME Church in terms of name recognition and the favorable building of the CME brand.

As much as our own church members “don’t know”, is it not reasonable to assume the world doesn’t know either? Certainly, they do not know enough about us, that is, the CME Church.

### **ONLINE SERVICES - CYBERCHURCH ANYONE?**

We remain in creative mode with ‘CyberChurch’ a secure, online, comprehensive church management solution where we have invested some \$40,000.

Our state of the art server system is located in our newly established office of the Department of Lay Ministry at the CME Headquarters in Memphis, TN.

We now offer custom web site building. CME Church, Episcopal, and Departmental sites will follow a standardized template. Our plan is to offer a plethora of online services including our own Internet Service Provider gateway.

### **CONVENTION SERVICES**

CME TV, is a “core creation” offering a convention services platform. We label this a core creation because we believe audiovisual services at every level of the CME Church – especially the local church – should be handled within the Lay Ministry Council.

Initiating this ministry will assist the Lay in promoting relevance, vibrance, and dynamism. These ministries will help attract youth and young adult to work in your lay councils.

We must be busy about the work of the Department in a detailed, documented, repeatable, scalable, and transparent manner.

### **CONSIDER THIS**

Have you ever considered how Jesus, without any electronic aid, was able to communicate with probably 10,000 people all at one time?

Jesus and the disciples clearly had to utilize acoustically friendly environments. That is to say, they possessed technical literacy.

They did advance planning, secured the necessary licenses, and it is not unreasonable to assume they advertised – distributed leaflets, flyers, and hand bills ‘Jesus of Nazareth Speaking Today’.

So then, they were technocrats, information technologists, and maybe even geeks.

Jesus and the disciples wanted as many folk as humanly possible to hear about Him, to see Him, to know Him, to follow Him.

Jesus and the disciples in preaching and teaching were contemporary urban technocrats.

## **VISION**

We believe the era of the horse and buggy has both literally and figuratively passed.

Yet there are those who posit in this 21<sup>st</sup> century information age that effective persuasion may only take place by the departmental General Officer traveling to different regions to conduct training sessions. Such a mentality equates to an argument the best cross country travel in the United States remains the horse and buggy.

There are those who seem to suggest that if many members of our Zion are not yet ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> century the church must do its level best to delay its arrival.

Notwithstanding, this potentially pervasive attitude, this General Secretary believes there is a latent and more potently pervasive urgency to develop these multimedia ministries rapidly and close our technological gap versus the majority populace.

We do not believe when new vision is cast it is immediately embraced. However, we feel a great portion of the landscape we are sowing is simply a journey “back to future.” We earlier discussed the reflection of technical literacy exhibited by Jesus’ disciples.

By reaching back and embracing the best of our past we establish the most effervescent course to our future.

By continuing to more and more widely cast this vision we bring more and more adherents.

We believe this sojourn – honor for the past, vision for the future – will light our Zion and all who serve it.

For where there is vision the people flourish.

### **WWJD & WWJHMD**

My pastor, Rev. Linda Jordan, has preached, the ministry in which we are engaged is without graduation or even final matriculation. We must continue to grow and pursue greatness. *Greatness as measured not in the strength of our numbers but, in the power of our ideas.*

There must be a constant search for congruence between the high ideas of “what would Jesus do (WWJD)” and, as Bishop Gilmore has written, “what would Jesus have me do (WWJHMD)”.

If we can build these models and mediums we will realize the true but, often latent power of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. That is, the will of the people to develop and embrace practices which best execute the will of the Lord.

Moreover, as Lay Leaders we will meet the daunting – perennial task of the age providing the vision so that the laos (“the people of God”) will thrive – for *where there is vision, the people flourish.*

We have greatly appreciated the earnest work of our Standing Committee of Lay Ministry during these past four years. We entrust the resolution in this appendix which was approved by the Connectional Lay Institute, to the Standing Committee on Connectional Ministries for your consideration and affirmative disposition at this General Conference.

We extend much gratitude to our Chairman, Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr., my Presiding Prelate, Bishop Paul A.G. Stewart, Sr., and my wonderful wife, Mrs. Wanda Faye Taylor. Finally, we greatly appreciate the twenty-two sojourners who ventured with us to the motherland in Nigeria this year. It was our best year ever and we look forward to bigger and better things in 2007.

**13<sup>th</sup> QUADRENNIAL CONNECTIONAL LAY INSTITUTE SURVEY**

Question #	Choice #	Correct Answer		All Participants
<b>1</b>			<b>Has a Lay Board been established in your local church?</b>	
	1	Yes		84.4%
	2	No		15.6%
			Number of Respondents (N)	147
<b>2</b>			<b>Does your local church have regular Lay meetings?</b>	
	1	Yes		60.3%
	2	No		39.7%
			N	141
<b>3</b>			<b>Are there young adults represented on your local Lay board?</b>	
	1	Yes		45.5%
	2	No		54.5%
			N	132
<b>4</b>			<b>Are the Lay ministries thriving in your Presiding Elder's District?</b>	
	1	Yes		71.6%
	2	No		28.4%
			N	141
<b>5</b>			<b>Does your local church celebrate annual Lay Day?</b>	
	1	Yes		87.0%
	2	No		13.0%
			N	138
<b>6</b>			<b>Has training been held for your local Lay board over the past year?</b>	
	1	Yes		55.3%
	2	No		44.7%
			N	141
<b>7</b>			<b>Has training been offered for the officers in your local church during the past year?</b>	
	1	Yes		64.0%
	2	No		36.0%
			N	136

<b>8</b>		<b>Do the lay members in your local church need additional training?</b>	
	1	Yes	97.7%
	2	No	2.3%
			N 133
		<b>Do you attend training or development classes to help you to work more effectively in your area (s) of ministry?</b>	
<b>9</b>			
	1	Yes	85.0%
	2	No	15.0%
			N 133
		<b>What is the greatest challenge facing Lay ministries in the local church?</b>	
<b>10</b>			
	1	Not enough dedicated or disciplined persons	18.2%
	2	Untrained lay persons	0.0%
	3	Financial resources	27.3%
	4	Leadership issues	18.2%
	5	Physical church building	36.4%
			N 110
		<b>Do you support women in the ministry?</b>	
<b>11</b>			
	1	Yes	95.7%
	2	No	4.3%
			N 138
		<b>Would you support a female as your pastor?</b>	
<b>12</b>			
	1	Yes	90.4%
	2	No	9.6%
			N 125
		<b>Would you support a female as your presiding elder?</b>	
<b>13</b>			
	1	Yes	96.0%
	2	No	4.0%
			N 125
		<b>Would you support a female as your presiding prelate?</b>	
<b>14</b>			
	1	Yes	91.4%
	2	No	8.6%
			N 128

<b>15</b>	<b>Do you read your Bible every day?</b>		
	1 Yes		43.9%
	2 No		56.1%
		N	123
<b>16</b>	<b>Do you read your Bible at least three times a week?</b>		
	1 Yes		85.4%
	2 No		14.6%
		N	82
<b>17</b>	<b>Do you attend Sunday School at your local church?</b>		
	1 Yes		85.7%
	2 No		14.3%
		N	126
<b>18</b>	<b>Do you attend Bible study/prayer meeting at your local church?</b>		
	1 Yes		77.2%
	2 No		22.8%
		N	127
<b>19</b>	<b>Have you helped to bring a person to Christ during the past year?</b>		
	1 Yes		57.8%
	2 No		42.2%
		N	102
<b>20</b>	<b>Does your local church have a Web site?</b>		
	1 Yes		52.9%
	2 No		47.1%
		N	119
<b>21</b>	<b>Do you believe that technology can enhance the ministries at your local church?</b>		
	1 Yes		98.3%
	2 No		1.7%
		N	118
<b>22</b>	<b>Does your local church have a computer?</b>		
	1 Yes		86.1%
	2 No		13.9%
		N	115

**APPENDIX RESOLUTION RECOMMENDATION  
DEPARTMENT OF LAY MINISTRY**

**APPROVED BY THE 13<sup>TH</sup> QUADRENNIAL  
CONNECTIONAL LAY INSTITUTE**

## **RESOLUTION**

### CHAPTER 51 THE DEPARTMENT OF LAY MINISTRY

#### 1135. The Department of Lay Ministry

1. There shall be in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church an organization known as the Department of Lay Ministry.
2. The Department shall be organized and governed according to by-laws consistent with the Discipline of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.
3. The Executive Officer shall be a General Secretary (**General Officer**) elected according to the provision set forth by the General Conference.
4. The Department of Lay Ministry shall seek to achieve the following objectives:
  - a) Introduce positive role models for males through enrichment programs, i.e., Scouting, career days, net-working with mentoring organizations such as Big Brothers, etc.
  - b) Seek, daily, Christ's Way of Life, to bear witness to the Way in business dealings and in social contacts.
  - c) Develop leadership for participation in politics and civic affairs so as to become more effective in the local community.
  - d) Study the doctrine, polity, history, and traditions of Christian Methodism.
  - e) Enhance Christian fellowship in the local church among the lay by promoting responsible Christian living.
  - f) Design and disseminate resource materials for workshops and study courses meaningful to the needs and concerns of lay people.
  - g) Encourage out-reach ministry in the local church.
  - h) Promote Christian stewardship through programs of nurture, leading to commitment of time, talents and resources.
  - i) Participate in the observance of Connectional Lay Day on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Sunday in October.
  - j) Promote and provide recreational facilities and equipment for children and youth of the church.
  - k) Establish a Scouting program.

## 1135.2 Christian Methodist Men's

1. A distinctive men's organization known as The Christian Methodist Men's Fellowship is established within the Department of Lay Ministry at all levels.
2. The purpose of this ministry shall be to help the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church:
  - a) Minister to the needs and concerns of men in the C.M.E. Church.
  - b) Address the systemic problems African-American males face under the social, economic, and political conditions of the nation and the world.
3. The General Secretary of the Department of Lay Ministry shall name a Director of Christian Methodist Men's Fellowship at the Connectional level who shall have responsibilities delineated in Departmental bylaws adopted at the Connectional Lay Institute.

## 1135.3 Connectional Lay Institute & Connectional Lay Council

1. This organization shall meet once every four years simultaneously with the Connectional Lay Institute Meeting (cf. 1135.10).
2. Delegated to the Institute shall be:
  - a) Elected lay members with full membership status at any CME Church, provided said member is in good standing and is at least eighteen (18) years of age or has been emancipated by marriage, at the time of the election of delegates by said local council. Participatory delegates (non-voting) shall be unlimited.
  - b) Each local Lay Council or local church is entitled to two "voting delegates which shall be elected by the local council, then certified by the Quarterly Conference meeting immediately prior to the Annual Conference which immediately precedes the Connectional Lay Institute. Local Lay Councils, churches, or pastoral charges may elect one (1) additional "voting delegate" to the Connectional Lay Institute in the same manner as in the *Book of Discipline* [ ¶ 213. §3 (d):] for the election of additional Annual Conference delegates. i.e. each local Lay Council or local church shall have the right to elect one (1) additional delegate to the Connectional Lay Institute for every three hundred (300) members; and one for a major fraction of three hundred (151). The Local Lay Leader in conjunction with the Regional Conference Lay Leader shall be authorized to substitute a voting delegate with other local Lay Council members in the event of delegate absence from the Connectional Lay Institute.
  - c) All delegates (participatory and voting) to the Connectional Lay Institute may participate in all deliberative actions of the Connectional Lay Council (Connectional Lay Institute), providing only voting delegates shall cast ballots for final actions or adoption of resolutions.
3. The voting delegates to the Connectional Lay Institute shall elect a President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer to the Connectional Lay Council Ten (10) vice presidents shall be elected to the Connectional Lay Council by their respective Episcopal District delegations convening at the Connectional Lay Institute.

4. The duly elected President of the Connectional Lay Council (Connectional Lay Institute) shall be the Episcopal District Representative on the General Connectional Board Standing Committee on Lay Ministry.
5. This body shall have the authority to make its own By-laws which shall conform to the Discipline of the CME Church.
6. The purpose of this body shall be:
  - a) To make a serious study as to how lay programs are implemented.
  - b) To recommend ways of improving the role and image of the laity.
  - c) To assist the Department of Lay Ministry in involving more laity in its programs.
7. Resolutions for considerations by the Connectional Lay Institute shall be signed for the purpose of confirmation and must conform to the Methodist tradition and the Discipline of the CME Church.

#### 1135.4 **Conference** Regional Lay Council

1. There shall be in every Region a Lay Council. The Regional Lay Leader shall be elected at the Annual Conference by the lay delegates to the Conference.
2. Officers: the Regional Lay Leaders shall be nominated by the District Lay Leaders in joint consultation with the Presiding Elders. Nominations from the floor **may** be made by delegates. The other regional lay officers shall be 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Lay Leader, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Lay Leader, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and Worship Leader. They shall be elected in the regular conference Lay business session. The District Lay Leaders and the Presiding Elders in joint session shall have the authority to fill vacancies at interim (in the office of Regional Lay Leader)The District Lay Leaders and the Presiding Elders in joint session shall have the authority to fill vacancies at interim (in the office of **Conference Regional** Lay Leader).
3. This **Council** shall hold one annual meeting in conjunction with the Annual Conference and such other meeting deemed necessary and/or upon the call of the Lay Leader.
4. This department shall submit a written report to the Annual Conference and to the **General Secretary of the** Department of Lay Ministry.
5. The minutes of all meetings of the **Council** shall be kept in a permanent journal by the Secretary.

## 1135.5

1. The **Conference Regional Lay Council** shall carry out the program of lay **ministry** as outlined under the direction of the General Department of Lay Ministry by promoting the following objectives:
  - a) Establishing a vigorous lay teaching ministry.
  - b) Organizing studies in Christian stewardship.
  - c) Lay people's work in general.
  - d) Developing and maintaining a sound and workable financial system in every local church.
  - e) Fostering adequate support for the ministry.
  - f) Making full payment of budget assessments.
  - g) Assuring the proper financial and budgetary provision for all other church obligations.
  - h) Promoting personal evangelism.
  - i) Establishing a Lay Speaking Bureau.
  - j) Adhering to parliamentary procedures.
  - k) Developing a Bible Study Program.
  - l) Studying the history of our Great Zion.
  - m) Initiating programs to develop more committed lay persons.
  - n) Training church officers in the full understanding and discharge of the duties inherent in their office.
  - o) Work cooperatively with members of the Department for Christian education at every level of the church to promote and support the activities of the Division of Scouting Ministries, which Division shall be a part of the quadrennial meeting of the Lay Institute.

## 1135.6 District Lay **Council**

1. The District **may** be organized into zones.
2. The Zone Leaders shall submit a written report to the District Council.
3. The District **Council** shall submit an annual written report to the Conference Lay **Council inclusive of any Zone(s)**.
4. The District Lay Leader shall preside at District **Lay Council** meetings. The Lay Leader shall be elected by the Lay delegates to the District Conference in session. Other officers shall be elected by the District **Lay Council**.
5. **The other District Lay Council officers shall be 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Lay Leader, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Lay Leader, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and Worship Leader.**
6. The District **Lay Council** shall meet as often as necessary to effectively carry out the work of the **Council**.
7. The **Council** shall conduct the program of lay **ministry** outlined under the direction of the Department of Lay Ministry by promoting the listed objectives **of the Conference Regional Lay Council**.
8. The minutes of all meetings of the **Council** shall be kept in a permanent journal by the Secretary.

#### 1135.7 Local Lay Council (cf ¶ 522)

#### 1135.8 Connectional Laity Day

1. The **Conference** Regional Lay **Council**, the District Lay **Council**, and the Local Lay **Council** shall observe Connectional Laity Day on the second Sunday in October **annually**.
2. Newly elected local lay officers shall be presented to the local churches and, with the Pastor's consent, the presentation ceremony **in the lay manual may** be used.
3. All local church Lay **Councils** shall take a free-will offering on Connectional Laity Day **and forward the same to the General Secretary of Lay Ministry of** the Department of Lay Ministry.

#### 1135.9 Workshops

1. The Conference Lay, the District Lay, and the Local Lay **Councils** must **conduct** workshops to **extend a vigorous lay** teaching ministry in accordance with the listed objectives.

#### 1135.10 Connectional Lay Institute

1. The Department of Lay Ministry of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church shall sponsor a Connectional **Lay** Institute which shall **proceed** the Annual CME Convocation in the year preceding the General Conference.
2. **The General Secretary of Lay Ministry, the officers of the Connectional Lay Council, the Standing Committee on Lay Ministry of the Connectional Board, and the Chairman of the Department of Lay Ministry shall work cooperatively with the Annual CME Convocation to effectuate an effective Lay Institute.**
3. The theme for the Connectional Lay Institute shall be the quadrennial theme for the Department of Lay Ministry.
4. The officers of the Connectional Lay **Council** shall participate in all planning aspects of the Connectional Lay Institute and shall **assist in formulating** the agenda for the Institute in cooperation with the General Secretary of Lay Ministry and the Standing Committee on Lay Ministry.

1135.11 Charters. Each local church shall have a Local Lay Council with a charter issued by the Department of Lay Ministry. **Once chartered the certification shall last in perpetuity for the Local Lay Council so it is not necessary to recertify the organization.**

### **The Connectional Lay Institute**

720.2 The Connectional Lay Institute began in 1965 as a program unit of the Department of Lay Ministry as a means of bringing together at the national level every four years the laity of the CME Church for study, fellowship, empowerment and mutual support. Its officers are a president, one vice president from each Episcopal District, a secretary, **assistant secretary, and** a treasurer. It has under its auspices the Connectional Stewards, **Connectional** Stewardess, and **Connectional** Ushers, each of which shall have a president and one vice-president from each Episcopal District. The Connectional Lay Institute is constituted by representatives from local congregations of the denomination.

### **Connectional Lay Day**

708. There **shall** be observed in each charge every second Sunday in October Connectional Lay Day. The observance should emphasize the participation of lay persons in the total program of the Church and encourage the increase of such participation.

### **Local Lay Council**

522. There shall be in each church a **Local Lay Council** .

- 1.The **Council** shall be responsible for the program of lay ministry in the church in accordance with the objectives and structure outlined by the General Department of Lay Ministry (cf. 1002.2 and 1135.5).
- 2.Any member of the local CME Church who indicates a desire to do so may join the **Local Lay Council**. Upon joining, such persons will be given a membership card.
- 3.The **Local Lay Council** shall be under the direction of a Lay Leader elected by the **Local Lay Council** membership. The Local Lay Leader shall be a member of and subject to the Quarterly Conference. The Lay Leader shall preside at **Local Lay Council** meetings.
- 4.The **Local Lay Council** membership shall elect the other officers. **The other officers shall be 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Lay Leader, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Lay Leader, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Worship Leader, and Parliamentarian (if desired).**
- 5.The **Local Lay Council** shall establish the local chapter of the Christian Methodist Men's Fellowship (cf. 1135.2).
- 6.The **Local Lay Council** shall submit a written report to the District Lay Council .
- 7.The **Local Lay Council** must observe Connectional Lay Day.
- 8.The membership of the **Local Lay Council** shall elect delegates to the Connectional Lay Institute (cf. 1135.3).