

FLORIDA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

Eleventh Episcopal District

African Methodist Episcopal Church

Day and ½ ANNUAL CONVENTION
April 17-18, 2026

Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Service

"Therefore, prepare your minds for action, discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when He is revealed."

1 Peter 1:13



OFFICER'S REPORTS

Mr. Donald L. Russell, Florida Conference President
Mrs. Rebecca Pittman, Florida Conference DOLA

Florida Conference Lay Organization

*Eleventh Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

Officers 2025-2027

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| President | Donald L. Russell |
| First Vice President | Carolyn Hill |
| Second Vice President | Yolanda Foxx-Palmer |
| Third Vice President | Jennifer Lawson |
| Recording Secretary | Annie McCelvy |
| Assistant Recording Secretary | Vera Gibbs |
| Corresponding Secretary | Ethel Wooten |
| Treasurer | La'Tasha Jones |
| Financial Secretary | Marrie W. McQueen |
| Chaplain | Barbara Patterson |
| Parliamentarian | Cassandra Jenkins |
| Historiographer | Sharon Russell |
| Director of Lay Activities | Rebecca Pittman |

Districts of the Annual Conference

Marianna District-Patricia McCallister

Quincy-Monticello District- Henry Lamar Love

Tallahassee District-Mary Silva

Pensacola-Panama City District-Charlie Nichols

Committee Chairperson

Budget & Stewardship Committee-LaDonna Hogue, Chair

Scholarship & Awards-Carolyn Hill, Chair

Constitution & Bylaws-Cassandra Jenkins, Chair

AMEV-Alert-Barbara Patterson, Chair

Officers Organizational & Effectiveness-Priscilla Salter, Chair

Lay Benevolence-Jennifer Lawson, Chair

Legislation Committee-Yolanda Foxx-Palmer, Chair



Office of the President The Florida Conference Lay Organization



Donald L. Russell

Druss63989@aol.com

Post Office Box 16532- Tallahassee, Florida 32317

Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Service

"Therefore, prepare your minds for action, discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when He is revealed."

1 Peter 1:13

Greetings to our Bishop, The Rt. Reverend Marvin C. Zanders, II, Presiding Elders of the Conference, The Reverends Dr. Carlton Taylor, Dr. Tan Moss, Ronald Williams, Gregory Gay, to the Officers and Members of the Florida Conference Lay Organization, delegates to our Day and ½ Annual Convention, visitors and friends. I count it all joy to have served in this capacity of President for the past 5 years. God has truly blessed us as we seek to serve the Church in such a time as this.

Since my tenure as President, we have focused this lay ministry of the Florida Annual Conference with the overall theme of SERVICE to Christ, the Church and the Community. Making room for others to serve (2022), Doing the work (2023), Equipping the laity for work and service (2024) and Revive our Souls again in this new season (2025). This year we have adopted a theme of "Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Service" with the scripture reference 1 Peter 1:13, from the New Revised Standard Version updated edition. Our focus is not just on what we do for God and Humankind but how serve. Our workshops will focus on what we need to as AME's to fulfill our mission. "The AME Way" should give us the general understanding on (1) what we do, (2) why do we do it, (3) and how we do it. The second workshop "Fired up and ready to Go" will focus on the 2026 mid-term election which is fast approaching. Information and strategies to assist each community will be shared to help us on mobilizing voters out to the polls.

As an Annual Convention, we will be remiss if the business of the organization does not take place. Therefore, each committee will report on the work that is done as well as how we will operate in the coming Conference Year. Our Officers are required to give an account of their stewardship as servant leaders of the Florida Conference Lay Organization. Finally, we will conclude our Convention with a Memorial Tribute, to remember and to Thank God, for the life's witness and service to our Church.

I trust that I have represented the Florida Conference Lay Organization well. I have attended all the required meetings of the Eleventh Episcopal District and the Florida Conference Lay Organization. All my reports and other pertinent information that was requested of me have been submitted within the allotted time. Our presence is also felt through-out the Conference as we have support the Components or our Conference in worship, in prayer and in Study.

Thank You again, for this opportunity to serve

I am, Donald L. Russell, President

First Vice President

Carolyn Hill

What have you done in terms of membership recruitment and retention for the Florida Conference Lay Organization?

At the Conference meeting, I received the District President's Report on the number of churches without an organized Lay and number of members in each district. I need the assistance of each district president and their 1st Vice President to assist with helping to get them active. I have encouraged smaller churches to combine together to become active. It will take the combined effort of all of us to recruit members.

I reported to the Episcopal 1st Vice President the number of churches in the conference, the number of churches without an active lay organization, and number of members in the Florida Conference. Accuracy of membership was stressed.

How have you represented the FCLO, as First Vice President This Conference Year?

I attended Local, District, Conference, Episcopal and Connectional meetings, Christmas Fellowship, Executive Board meetings, Lay Retreat, and Mid-Year Conference.



Second Vice President

Yolanda Foxx-Palmer

What have you done in terms of Strategic Planning for the Florida Conference Lay Organization?

The report provides a comprehensive overview of my engagement in connectional strategic planning initiatives and activities conducted throughout this Conference Year, including participation in the 39th Biennial Convention, All-Level Second Vice Presidents Strategic Planning Sessions, and ongoing Organizational Effectiveness efforts.

How have you represented the FCLO, as Second Vice President This Conference Year?

It has been both an honor and a privilege to represent the Florida Conference Lay Organization in these collaborative efforts, as we work collectively to strengthen our organization and advance its mission of developing servant-leaders across all levels.

Third Vice President

Jennifer Lawson

What have you done in terms of Evangelism for the Florida Conference Lay Organization?

I attended FCLO and QMDLO meetings both monthly and quarterly. I continue to pray for this Organization that we will continue to train and reclaim our AME members. I also assisted our President by presiding over the opening session of some of the meetings.

How have you represented the FCLO, as Second Vice President This Conference Year?

I attended In-Person and ZOOM meetings and some Executive Board Meetings of the QMDLO, FCLO and EEDLO. I also attended the EEDLO Lay Learning Retreat.

*****This has been a great year continuing to learn the work of Evangelism by performing the duties of the FCLO 3rd Vice President. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.*****



Recording Secretary

Annie McCelvy

Have you recorded attendance and have taken accurate minutes during all Florida Conference Lay Organization meetings when present? YES

How have you represented the FCLO as Recording Secretary This Conference Year?

- Attended and recorded minutes and attendance on May 31, 2025, August 30, 2025, and January 31, 2026, Quarterly Meetings.
- Attended and recorded minutes and attendance on May 8, 2025, August 21, 2025, and March 21, 2026, All Hands Executive Board Meetings.
- Attended the 81st EEDLO Annual Convention in West Palm Beach, FL June 2025
- Attended the CLO 39th Biennial Convention in Atlanta, GA, July 2025

- Attended the 160th Session of the Florida Annual Conference Lay Witness Worship, August 2025.
- Attended the Eleventh Episcopal District Planning Meeting, November 2025.
- Attended the Florida Conference Lay Organization Christmas Fellowship, December 2025.
- Attended the EEDLO Virtual Retreat, February 2026.
- Attended the Eleventh Episcopal District Mid-Year Convocation, March 2026.



Assistant Recording Secretary

Vera Gibbs

Have you assisted the Recording Secretary in all duties as outlined for that office?

Yes, I have assisted the Recording Secretary in all duties as outlined for that office to include recording the minutes for the 3rd Quarterly meeting as well as taking notes for all the Quarterly meetings as well as for all of the All-Hands Executive Board meetings.

How have you represented the FCLO as Assistant Recording Secretary This Conference Year?

I have attended the following meetings:

- FCLO Quarterly meetings and Executive Board meetings
- EEDLO Retreat 2026
- EEDLO Planning Meeting and Mid-Year Meeting
- Annual Conference
- 39th Biennial Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia
- Tallahassee District-Bi-monthly meetings

Corresponding Secretary

Ethel Wooten

Have you shared congratulations, well wishes, condolences and other news about laity, as directed by the President? Yes, I have when I receive in a timely manner and directed by the President.

How have you represented the FCLO as the Correspondence Secretary This Conference Year?

I have to thank God for his blessings; I have not been able to attend all the meetings. I did attend The Annual Conference as the Delegate from my church. I attended EEDLO meetings, workshops. Connectional workshops on grief, and the annual meeting, then all zoom meetings for the FCLO and Districts for Lay and the local church. Looking forward to another year of service.



Treasurer

La'Tasha Jones

Have you received and disbursed all funds in accordance with the approved budget? YES

How have you represented the FCLO as treasurer this conference year?

- Prepared an itemized report of the finances of the organization and reported at each quarterly meeting.
- Deposited funds in a timely manner once received
- Attended All Quarterly Meetings
- Attend the EEDLO Lay Learning Retreat

Financial Secretary

Marrie McQueen

Have you maintained an independent record of all funds received for the Organization? YES:

- As Financial Secretary, I have maintained an independent set of records of all financial transactions and assisted with the work in concert with the treasurer.
 - During in-person conference meetings, I assisted the treasurer, received and recorded funds from the district presidents; made public financial reports to the conference body.
 - During virtual conference meetings, I received email notices of all funds received by the conference treasurer
 - I served as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee

How have you represented the Florida Conference Lay Organization this Conference Year? YES:

- Represented by serving on all levels of the Lay Organization
 - Attended Tallahassee District lay Organization meetings; served as the Ralph and Joyce Wilson & Eileen Warner Scholarship committee chair
 - As Local DOLA, planned and participated in local lay workshops
 - Attended Florida Annual Conference
 - Attended Episcopal Lay Organization workshops
 - Maintains good and regular standing on all levels, paying all required financial obligations



Chaplain

Dorothy Barbara Patterson

Have you made adequate preparation for each Bible Study and Devotional Service?

Yes, I have made adequate preparation for each.

How have you represented the FCLO as Chaplain this Conference Year?

As Chaplain, I have represented the FCLO this conference year by attending in person and virtual meetings, workshops, and other activities on all levels of the Lay Organization.

Historiographer

Sharon K. Russell

Have you gathered, assembled and maintained records of Activities this Conference Year? YES, the official meeting Agenda Packages and Executive Board Meeting Agenda and other pertinent information/activities are saved on UBS Flash Drive

How have you represented the FCLO as Historiographer this Conference Year?

- Attended Florida Conference Lay Quarterly Meetings
- Attended Lifetime Achievement/Christmas Fellowship
- Attended EEDLO Lay Learning Retreat 2026
- Attended Connectional Lay Biennial in Atlanta 2025
- Attended Lay Witness Night at Florida Annual Conference 2025



Parliamentarian

Cassandra Jenkins

Have you advised the President or Presiding Officer in matters concerning questions of Parliamentary procedure?
Yes

How have you represented the FCLO, as Parliamentarian this Conference Year?

- I participated in the FCLO meetings, Executive Board meetings, and events hosted or sponsored by the FCLO.
- I advised the President and organization concerning questions of parliamentary procedures when requested.
- I helped coordinate the proposed amendments process for the FCLO Constitution and Bylaws Committee.
- I coordinated development of the 2025 and 2026 Convention Standing Rules.

- I participated in various trainings and webinars hosted or coordinated by the Connectional Lay Organization, the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization, and the AME Church.

Director of Lay Activities

Rebecca Pittman

It has been almost a year since we assembled for an occasion such as this.

My! How time flies?

Have you implemented training program and courses of studies in accordance with the mission and purpose of the Lay Organization? *Yes*

How have you represented the FCLO as DOLA this Conference Year?

I have presented workshops that I thought were of interest.

I helped to present the activities for the Florida Conference.

- a- Attended meetings and Events Locally, District, Conference and Episcopal.
- b- Helped others when needed.
- c- I hope I can be of greater service to all Districts in the Florida Conference this year.

With your help we can do something new and greater.



FLORIDA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



President's Statistical Report

Annual Convention
April 17, 2026



Name of District: TALLAHASSEE

District President: Mary Silva

1. Number of Churches in District: 28
2. Name/Location of Churches without an Organized Lay Organization.
 1. Springhill/Brim Fountain Circuit
 2. Jeslamb
 3. Union Bethel Circuit
 4. Aucilla Circuit
3. Total number of Members in each Local Church within your District: 149
4. Which Objective(s), as listed in Article II of our Constitution, did your District address, since our last meeting? A, B, C, D, G, I, K, L
5. Number of workshops held in the District since last Conference Meeting:
Theme or subject(s) discussed:
 - Vision, Mission and Objective of the Connectional Lay Organization
6. Who is the Elective Delegate to the 82nd Session of the EEDLO Annual Convention?
Name: Marrie McQueen Email: marriemcqueen@comcast.net
Phone Number: Local Church: New Mt. Zion
(Note: Conference will assume the financial responsibility for registration plus a small stipend for this delegate)
7. Who is the Elected Delegate for the 40th Biennial Session of the CLO?
Name: Email:
Phone Number: Local Church:
(NOTE: Conference will assume the financial responsibility for registration only for this delegate)
8. List any special programs/activities supported by your District. In the process of awarding the Ralph L. & Joyce Wilson and the Eileen S. Warner Scholarships to deserving students.

I certify that the information in this President's Statistical Report is correct to the best of my knowledge:

Mary Brown Silva

Name/title

April 13, 2026

Date

