

MINUTES
86th Annual Meeting of the
International Ministers and Lay Association
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Tuesday, February 14 – Thursday, February 16, 2023
The Hyatt Regency Los Angeles Airport
6225 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, California

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Opening Worship Service and Annual Sermon

At 2 p.m. the opening Service of the 86th Annual meeting of the International Ministers and Lay Association was preceded by a time in Prayer planned by The Rev. Dr. Richard Gadzekpo, International Prayer Coordinator of the A.M.E. Zion Church. The Rev. Dr. Eleazar Merriweather read the scripture, 2 Chronicles 7: 14. Opening prayers were lifted by Rev. Dr. Merriweather, Mrs. Lula K. Howard, Reverend M. Luther Hill and other members of the International Prayer Team offered prayers for Healing, Seeking God's Face, Forgiving Our Sins, The Healing of the Land.

After the season of prayer the Reverend Dr. Anthony N. Witherspoon welcomed all to the 86th Annual Meeting of the International Ministers and Lay Association. He recognized the Reverend Dr. Kevin McGill, immediate Past President and the Reverend Dr. Curtis Walker, Past President of the Association for their presence and continued support. He recognized all of the IMLA Executive Team Members – persons he is thankful to work with. He recognized all of Episcopal Leaders, General Officers.....all who are present.

At 2:15 pm, Praise and Worship was led by the Praise Team of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Zion Church, Rockingham, NC. The following praise and worship music was shared: "Rise Among Us," "Nobody Greater," "The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation," "That's Love," "More Than Anything." The Worship Leader for the afternoon was The Rev. Alton Pegues who gave the Call to Worship. The scripture lesson, Psalm 24 (KJV) was read by Mrs. Leondras Davis followed by prayer by the Rev. Celesta Ary. After introductory remarks and the singing of "The Lord Is Blessing Me Right Now," The Rev Dr. Anthony N. Witherspoon presented the preacher for the Annual Sermon, The Rev. Lloyd Nivens IV, Pastor of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Zion Church, Rockingham, NC, followed by a selection, "Lord Prepare Me to Be A Sanctuary." Sermon Topic: "The Light of A New Day," Text: Acts 26: 22,23. Rev. Nivens sang "I Sing Because I'm Happy." Main Points: Light is what makes physical vision possible, and the type of vision is determined by the type of light (incandescent, fluorescent, LED). The light that is needed to obtain spiritual vision cannot be contained in a tube or bought at a store, but that light is the light of a new day. To experience the Light of a New Day we must do three things: 1) accept that all of us have a past and acknowledge that you have spent some days in darkness. But we are not defined by our yesterdays. 2) We must acknowledge the process. Never allow the Devil to make you feel that your process is not worth it and that there will be no result. The process may not be pretty, but it is productive. Your process is not only for you but a testimony to those who are connected with you. 3) We must make the most of today. Even in chains Paul was able to be used to bring others to freedom. Whatever you do for the Lord make sure that you do it to the best of your ability.

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship was made by Rev. Dr. Pegues to the singing of "Jesus, The Light of the World." President Witherspoon thanked the preacher for his powerful word. He stated that members of the Board of Bishops will be present this afternoon at approximately 4 p.m. and spoke of the efforts that were begun under the leadership of Dr. Kevin McGill to promote more dialogue between the IMLA and our Episcopal Leaders. Index cards were distributed for those who wished to submit questions to the President of the Board of Bishops. The Appeal for the Offering was made by Rev. Dr. Maurice Harden for a donation of \$50.00. The Rev. Dr. David T. Miller gave directions regarding digital giving and other forms of giving and the Finance Committee lifted the afternoon offering. Final remarks were made by President Witherspoon and benediction by Rev Nivens.

After a brief recess the afternoon business session began with the Treasurer’s Report presented by the Rev. Dr. David T. Miller, Treasurer:

International Ministers and Lay Association LAX Hyatt Regency
 Treasurer's Report
 February 2022 - February 2023

I. Amount Brought Forward	\$	745.77
II. Income		
A. Membership Dues	\$	4,625.00
B. IMLA Virtual Awards		
C. Offerings	\$	3,495.28
D. Special Offering		
F. IMLA Pins	\$	-
Total (I and II)	\$	8,866.05
III. Disbursements		
A. Honorariums/Benevolence/Stipined		\$2,275.00
B. Plaques, Programs, Printing, Supplies, Registration		\$1,185.47
Mailing & Supplies		\$300.00
D. Travel		\$2,179.94
F. Monthly Maintenance Fees/Charge Backs/Ordering of New Checks		\$180.00
G. Virtual awards banquet SOZ		\$1,911.00
H. Website fee		\$195.00
Total Disbursements		\$8,226.41
IV. Summary		
A. Amount Brought Forward		
B. Income		\$8,866.05
Total (A and B)		\$8,866.05
	\$	8,866.05
	\$	<u>(8,226.41)</u>
D. Balance on Hand	\$	639.64

electronic ways to receive funds are a follows Paypal, Cashapp, & Zelle

Reverend Dr. David T. Miller,
 Treasurer

President Witherspoon entertained a motion to receive the report with necessary corrections if any. Mr. Willie Landrum moved that the treasurer’s report be received with necessary corrections if any. This motion was seconded by The Rev. Martin J. Boulter, Sr. and carried.

The secretary, Ms. M. Denise Niles was asked to give an update on the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting. Ms. Niles stated that since this meeting was our first in person meeting in a couple of years, we did not have any actionable items during our previous virtual annual meeting. However, the minutes of the 2022 virtual meeting are available to view on the IMLA website: www.imlaamezion.org. Members were encouraged to peruse the minutes and email the secretary with any corrections.

The Membership Report was given by the Rev. Dr. Myrtle Bowen, 2nd Vice-President. (See Attached Reprt)

45th Cameron W. Jackson Virtual Awards and Recognition Banquet – 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Sarah Kinard served as Toastmistress for the occasion. The Welcome was given by the Reverend Dorothy A. Patterson followed by the Balm In Gilead version of “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing.” The scripture _____ was read by The Reverend Dr. Maurice Harden and the Occasion given by Ms. Carla Tyrance. The Reverend Dr. David T. Miller gave the Invocation and Food Blessing and dinner was served.

The following Awards were presented:

- The Paul Robeson Award: The Reverend Dr. Lawton Nelson, Jr.
- The Samantha Wormley Lay Leadership Award: Dr. William and Mrs. Rose Stokes
- The Sojourner Truth Award: Dr. Olivier Flewellen
- The Frederick Douglass Award: The Rev. Dr. George Kent
- The Bishop Small & Lartey International Award: The Reverend Mariam Williams Thomas
- The Alfred G. Dunston Salute to Service Award: Mr. Oscar William Russell
- The Harriet Tubman Award: Mrs. Margaree Coleman Carter
- The Young Gifted and Black Awards: Ms. Vincia Miller and The Reverend Austin Young
- The Distinguished Community Service Leaders Award: Ms. Rynette Ledbetter-Nixon
- The President’s Award: Mrs. Sandra B. Crowder

Remarks were given by The Reverend Dr. Anthony N. Witherspoon and final remarks and the benediction were given by the Rt. Reverend Dennis V. Proctor, President of the Board of Bishops of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

At 2 p.m. the afternoon session opened with Praise and Worship led by Reverend M. Luther Hill and Reverend Joseph Robbins. (“Jesus I’ll Never Forget,” “On The Battlefield,” “I Love To Praise Him.”) President Witherspoon invited all to visit the IMLA website (imlaamezion.org) so that the program can be viewed along with other documents for the 2023 Annual Meeting. The first item on the agenda for the afternoon was an update on the Legislative Summit and he invited Rev. Erich Shumake, Chair for the Legislative Summit, and Dr. Yvonne Tracey, who serves as the consultant. Reverend Shumake stated that the report would be placed on the website. He also announced our upcoming Legislative Summit which will be held April 13th and 14th, 2023 at Steele Creek A.M.E. Zion Church, Charlotte, NC. The registration for that event will be \$100. Sheets were passed out so that persons could sign up for committees. Dr. Tracey gave an overview of the work of the Legislative Committee and outlined plans moving forward to the General Conference. President Witherspoon thanked Reverend Shumake and Dr. Tracey for their work with the Legislative Committee.

A presentation entitled “The A.M.E. Zion Church in Present Day...Where Do We Go From Here?” was given by the Reverend David Elliott, Pastor of St. James A.M.E. Zion Church, Goldsboro, NC. Several persons came to the mic to ask questions: Mr. William Mann, Dr. Orlando Dowdy, Mrs. Connie Bell Wright, Rev. Melanie Miller, Reverend Dr. Derrick Anderson. The Reverend Dr. Michael Bell was with us virtually due to health restrictions with a presentation entitled “Creating Financial Sustainability.” Afterwards President Witherspoon presented Reverend Dorothy Patterson, the Executive Director of the IMLA for remarks and announcements. Reverend Witherspoon commended Reverend Patterson on how she took up the reins from our previous Executive Director, Reverend Eleazar Merriweather, and coordinated last nights banquet with great success.

The Business Session adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Thursday Morning Session

The Thursday morning business session opened at 8:30 a.m. with a season of prayer led by the Reverend Dr. Richard Gadzekpo. Praise and Worship was led by the Reverend M, Luther Hill and Mrs. Kim Brown and our worship leader was the Reverend Gloria Clemmons-White. The Hymn of Praise was "How Great Thou Art" Scripture was read by Mrs. Donna Smith Walker and prayer by the Reverend Zaniel T. Young. President Witherspoon presented the Reverend George E. McKain who introduced the preacher for the Memorial Service, The Reverend Sharon Nailah Hubbard, Pastor of First A.M.E. Zion Church, San Jose, California. After a selection, "I Shall Wear A Crown," led by Mrs. Kim Brown, Reverend Hubbard greeted all present. Her scripture was Revelation 21: 1-4 and the subject was "A Safe Place." Many of us are looking for a safe place where there is no danger, no heartache, no pain, no sorrow, and no death. Points: Tears matter and when you cry it will not destroy what God wants you to see. The release of emotion is what you need to keep the hellhounds off your back. If your tears matter to God, they should matter to you. The church should be that safe place where we can mourn and heal. We need to mature in our relationship to God so that we can handle the things that are coming to our church. She needs to rise to her mission to be that safe place where people can shed their tears. The Invitation to Christian Discipleship was offered by the Rev. Joyce Smith and "Safe In His Arms" was played by the musicians. President Witherspoon thanked God for the Preacher and the spirit of praise and anointing.

The Revered Myrtle Bowen, 2nd Vice-President and The Regional Vice Presidents came forth for the Necrology Report. She thanked God for this moment when we reflect upon the life and the legacy of those who have passed on and read from John 14. Necrology reports were made by each of the Regional Vice Presidents present and for those who were not present. Some Episcopal Districts had no losses of IMLA members. After a closing prayer the Memorial Service ended to the strains of "Till We Meet Again." A special video presentation featuring a message of encouragement from the late Bishop Mildred "Bonnie" Hines and snippets of her sermons was shown.

The Reverend Dr. Maurice Harden made the appeal of \$100 for the offering and asked Reverend Dr. David Miller and the Finance Committee. Members were asked to give that offering in memory of a loved one and call their name. Digital giving information was provided. Offering Music: "Going Up Yonder." Announcements were made by the Reverend Dorothy A. Patterson. The Benediction was given by the Preacher.

President Witherspoon encouraged all who have not renewed their membership to do so to vote on the proposed bylaws. President Witherspoon introduced the Reverend Curtis Walker, Past President of the Association and Chair of the Bylaws Committee who asked members of the committee to stand. Committee Members present were Dr. Yvonne Tracey, Mr. Jerry McCombs, Mr. Willie Landrum, Reverend Hannah Broome, Dr. Sandra Davis, Mrs. Yvonne Baskerville and Ms. M. Denise Niles. President Witherspoon asked those present who had questions or comments for a particular article to write them down. The 2023 Proposed Revised IMLA By-Laws were distributed to the membership and read by the Secretary.

(2023 Proposed Revised Edition)
The Bylaws of The International Ministers and Lay Association
Of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Article I -Name

The name of this organization shall be "The International Ministers and Lay Association", aka, IMLA of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church", aka, The A.M.E. Zion Church.

Article II - Purpose

The International Ministers and Lay Association of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is an un-constituted/affiliated body of The A.M.E. Zion Church.

Its purpose shall be:

- 1. To provide a forum for Ministers and Laity in The A.M.E. Zion Church to address problems and issues which are essential to delivering God's Word, its ministries, and the effective administration of The A.M.E. Zion Church.*
- 2. To keep before the Denomination proposals to maintain, improve, and/or expand the influence and effectiveness of the mission of The A.M.E. Zion Church to the nation and the world.*
- 3. To promote and assist with the denomination's compliance laws mandated by the General Conference.*

Article III -Membership

- 1. Any Minister or Laity of The A.M.E. Zion Church who pays the Annual Membership dues is a member of the Association.*
- 2. Membership dues will be determined by the Association to reflect program and administrative costs.*
- 3. Members of the Association who have paid their Membership dues shall be eligible to vote at meetings of the Association and hold an office in the Association upon election or appointment.*
- 4. Annual Membership dues are Thirty-five dollars (\$35) and valid for one (1) year, from February to February. Dues are annual and are paid through your Regional Vice President in person, at the Annual Meeting in February, or through the IMLA Website. The Membership Drive is from January 1st - March 31st.*
- 5. Church or Presiding Elder District annual membership contributions are One Hundred dollars (\$100). A Certificate of Merit will be presented annually by the Regional Vice President of the Member.*
- 6. Life membership dues are Two Hundred dollars (\$200), with an annual sustaining dues of Ten dollars (\$10). Life Members are entitled to all the benefits and privileges of other members for as long as they live.*

Article IV - The Officers and Duties

Officers of the Association shall be: International President, Executive Director, 1st Administrative Vice President, 2nd Administrative Vice President, Twelve (12) Regional Vice Presidents, each representing an Episcopal area of the Denomination; Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and Chaplain. A parliamentarian will be appointed at each annual meeting.

Article V - The Election of Officers and Tenure

The officers of the Association shall be elected at the February meeting following the quadrennial meeting of the General Conference of the A.M.E Zion Church.

- a) The term of office will be four (4) years.*
- b) No officer shall be elected in the same office for more than two (2) consecutive terms.*
- c) Vacancies between annual meetings shall be appointed by the International President, subject to approval by the Executive Board.*

The International President

The International President shall:

- a) *Call meetings of the Executive Board.*
- b) *Manage the fiscal and administrative matters in the life of the Association.*
- c) *Submit recommendations and programs to the Executive Board for review and implementation.*
- d) *Make reports on the work of the Association and projections for the future.*
- e) *Preside at all meetings of the Association unless the authority is delegated.*
- f) *Be an ex-officio member of all committees and boards of the Association.*
- g) *Serve as a member, but not-Chairman, of the Executive Board.*
- h) *Perform other interests of the association and its mission.*

The Executive Director

The Executive Director shall:

- a) *Assist in planning and implementing the general program of the Annual meeting, and assist the Denominational Convention Manager with logistics.*
- b) *In consultation with the International President, appoint and supervise the following Standing Committees, consisting of at least seven (7) members, of which at least one (1) shall be a current Regional Vice President on each standing committee.*
- c) *Perform other tasks to promote the wellness of the Association*

STANDING COMMITTEE:

A. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall report to the mid-year meeting following the Quadrennial meeting of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (AMEZ). Utilizing fair and transparent election practices, this Committee shall receive candidate information by September 15th, following the AMEZ's General Conference. A report of all qualified candidates will be shared with the membership to review by December 15th. The Final report to be given at the February Midwinter meeting prior to the election, which includes all qualified candidates and the nominating committee recommendations for each office.

B. RESEARCH/ARCHIVE COMMITTEE

The Research and Archive Committee shall gather, preserve, hold title to and disseminate materials of the IMLA.

C. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Legislative Committee shall work in conjunction with the Connectional Lay Council (CLC). The committee shall work in conjunction with all relevant ministries within the AMEZ Church, to foster involvement and facilitate a process through which legislation is prepared (in accordance with the instructions provided in our Book of Discipline). They shall bring their proposals before the AMEZ Church on behalf of its eligible members and the body as a whole. This committee shall work to meet all dates, deadlines, and processes for Resolutions to be submitted, reviewed, discussed, and resolved, then forward the same to the General Secretary Auditor for consideration during the law-making process of the AMEZ Church.

D. BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEES

The Budget and Finance Committees shall develop, propose and manage the budget, consistent with the financial practices of the General Secretary Auditor's Office of the A.M.E Zion Church.

E. ECUMENICAL COMMITTEE

The Ecumenical Engagement Committee shall develop and implement intentional goals and strategies to interact with Christian and other relevant organizations to promote unity and kingdom building.

F. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee shall create, adopt, revise, and maintain the approved process and guidelines that will govern the way in which it recruits and retains members of the IMLA. All twelve RVPS shall serve as members of this Committee with the duly elected 2nd Administrative Vice President as the Chair. This committee shall set dates and methods for recruiting and renewing memberships within their Episcopal Region and throughout the A.M.E Zion Church.

1. Annual Membership-\$35. Life Membership-\$200 and Sustaining Life Membership-\$10, Presiding Elder District or Church-\$100 plus Admin Fees for online transactions.

2. *Annual Memberships are valid for one (1) year from February to February.*
3. *Updated membership records shall be made available electronically and or in written form to RVP's at least Forty-five (45) days after they have been submitted and reported.*

G. PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee shall develop and facilitate bible-based activities and materials that intentionally promote unity and kingdom building.

H. HISTORIANS COMMITTEE

The Historian(s) shall gather, preserve, hold title to, and disseminate materials of the IMLA.

The members of the above committees shall serve for four-year terms. For the benefit of the Association, the Executive Director with consultation of the President, has the authority to appoint such other committees as may be necessary

The 1st Administrative Vice President

- a) *The 1st Administrative Vice President duties shall be determined by the International President and the Executive Director.*

The 2nd Administrative Vice President

The 2nd Administrative Vice President shall:

- a) *Chair the Membership Committee of the Association.*
- b) *Receive membership dues for the Association.*
- c) *Distribute membership cards, award certificates, and/or receipts for dues and contributions. Assist the Regional VP's in establishing membership goals.*

The Regional Vice Presidents

The Regional Vice Presidents shall:

- a) *Serve on a Standing Committee, appointed by the Executive Director in consultation with the International President.*
- b) *Serve on the Membership Committee with the 2nd Administrative VP (Membership Chair). Collect and report membership dues for the Association to the 2nd Administrative Vice President. Distribute regional membership cards, award certificates, for dues and congregational contributions.*
- c) *Promote and assist with the Association's Annual Banquet and other interest of the Association*
- d) *Perform other duties as assigned by the International President, and the Executive Director.*

The Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall:

- a) *Record and report the minutes and proceedings of the meetings of the Association.*
- b) *Be subject to the direction of the President and Executive Director in performing clerical duties of the Association.*
- c) *Perform other duties as assigned by the Executive Board.*

The Assistant Recording Secretary

The Assistant Recording Secretary shall:

- a) *Assist the Recording Secretary in carrying out the duties of the Recording Secretary.*
- b) *Perform other duties as assigned by the Executive Board.*

The Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary shall:

- a) *Assist the 2nd Administrative VP and the Treasurer in carrying out their duties.*
- b) *Perform other duties as assigned by the Executive Board.*

The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- a) *Be the official custodian of the funds of the Association as well as make regular reports of its financial status, to the Executive Board, and at the yearly Annual Meeting.*

- b) *Provide a security bond for the faithful performance of duties, the cost of which shall be borne by the Association.*
- c) *Be responsible for the details of receiving, accounting, and disbursing of funds at the direction of the International President or Executive Director.*
- d) *Perform other duties as assigned by the Executive Board.*

Article VI -Meetings

1. *The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be at the same time as the winter meeting of the Board of Bishops.*
2. *The Executive Board and Regional Vice Presidents meetings shall be held at the same time as the Connectional Council meeting of the Denomination.*
3. *Special and Interim meetings of the Association may be called by the President of the Association.*

Article VII-Governing Authority

The Association will be governed by the Holy Bible and the latest edition of The Book of Discipline of The A.M.E. Zion Church. The Parliamentary authority of the Association shall be the latest revised edition of IMLA bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order.

Article VII - Amendments

Amendments may be enacted after written notification of the proposed action has been given to the membership and after meeting for the presentation of the same with two-thirds (2/3) of those present voting affirmatively.

Article VIII-Standards of Operations

The International Ministers and Lay Association of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church does not and shall not discriminate based on race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, the appointment to and termination from its Executive Board, hiring and firing of staff or contractors, selection of volunteers, selection of vendors, and providing of services. The by-laws of the Association should be updated at least every 8 years.

Mr. Willie Landrum moved that the Revised By-Laws be adopted by the body with the necessary corrections. This was seconded by the Reverend Melanie Miller. On Unreadiness members asked for clarification of some of the articles, committees and roles of the Executive Board members and the following corrections, changes and additions were made:

- **Entire Document – rules of capitalization should be followed throughout and the organizations, The International Ministers and Lay Association, aka IMLA and The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, aka The A.M.E. Zion Church should be indicated as such throughout the document. As it is written there are inconsistencies.** (Submitted by Dr. Yvonne Tracy)
- **Title -** capitalize “the” in Of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (Submitted by Dr. Yvonne Tracy)
- **Article II - Purpose**
Item 3 – capitalize “denomination” (Submitted by Dr. Yvonne Tracy)
- **Article V – The Election of Officers and Tenure**
The Executive Director: **add The Executive Director shall serve as the Chair of the Executive Committee** (submitted by Judge Adele Riley)
Standing Committees: Section B, Research and Archive Committee and, Historians Committee should be combined. ADD The Banquet Committee to the list of Standing Committees.
- **Article VII – Amendments**
This Article should be changed to Article VIII
- **Article VIII – Standards of Operations**

This Article title should be changed to **Article IX**

The wording for this Article shall be changed to read as follows: **“The International Ministers and Lay Association will be welcoming of all people, but not affirming of individual preferences, regardless of race, creed, color, sexuality, or national origin.”** (Submitted by Rev. Dr. Sadler, General-Secretary Auditor)

The last sentence of the Article should be changed to 4 years instead of 8 years. (Submitted by Rev. Hannah Broome

Dr. Walker thanked everyone for their suggestions and said that grammatical issues will be corrected and Articles will be adjusted. The previous question was called. On unreadiness Dr. Yvonne Tracey stated that the motion was to “adopt.” However we are making recommendations to “amend” the document. Dr. Walker entertained a motion to approve these corrections to the document. Mr. Willie Landrum rose to clarify the original motion and moved for the adoption of the Proposed Bylaws with the necessary corrections and additions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Peggy Lindsay Owens and carried. Dr. Walker thanked the Committee for their work on the document and President Witherspoon commended Dr. Walker and the Committee for their dedication to this work.

Reverend Dorothy A. Patterson invited Candidates for the W.H.& O.M. Society to the stage for 2 minutes each. President Witherspoon asked our Chaplain, the Reverend J. Martin Boulter to offer a prayer for the candidates. The Reverend Myrtle Bowen thanked everyone for renewing their memberships. President Witherspoon recognized Mrs. Shirley McCoy, Mrs. Aurelia Brown and Mrs. Barbara Carr and asked them to stand. President Witherspoon asked members of the Association to consider raising the ticket donation for our banquet to \$75.00. The Reverend Dr. Kevin McGill moved that the donation for a ticket to the Annual Banquet be increased from \$50 to \$75 per year. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Lula K. Howard and the Reverend J. Martin Boulter. The motion carried and he stated that it will go into effect next year in 2024. He encouraged us to come back at 2:30 pm for a power-packed afternoon. Mrs. Lynda Byrd was invited up to close the morning session with prayer.

Thursday Afternoon Session

The closing session convened at 2:30 p.m. and included a panel discussion moderated by Mrs. Lula K. Howard. The topic: **“What Is Required of Us to Move Zion Forward in this (Growing Age)?”** The Panelists for the afternoon were The Reverend Hannah Broome, Mr. Joseph King Davis, Dr. Olivier Flewellen and the Reverend Zaniel Young. Following the panel discussion there was a question-and-answer period. The Reverend Eleazar Merriweather, Director of the Department of Church Growth and Development spoke on a Church Revitalization Program. Dr. Elliott Johnson presented on behalf of GLOO regarding Cooperative Promotions.

The 86th Annual Meeting of the International Ministers and Lay Association adjourned at 4:38 p.m. There were closing remarks by President Witherspoon and a statement by Mrs. Lula K. Howard who also led the body in singing ‘Let There Be Peace On Earth.’ President Witherspoon officially brought the meeting to a close and the benediction was given by Rev. _____ Guthry.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by
M. Denise Niles
Recording Secretary

International Ministers and Lay Association
Annual Membership Report 2022
Receipts from Feb. 16, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2022
As of February 10, 2023

Annual Membership		87	\$ 3,049.00
Life Membership		21	\$ 590.00
Church Membership		5	\$ 500.00
District	Jefferson District	1	\$ 100.00
Total		114	\$ 4239.00
On- Line Annual Membership		17	\$ 629.00
On-Line Life Membership		2	\$ 223.00
On- Line District		0	\$
On-Line Church Membership		0	\$
Total		19	\$ 852.00
Grand Totals		133	\$ 5,091.00

Episcopal District	Annual	Pd.	Life	Pd.	On-Line Ann	LM
Piedmont	6	\$214	0	0	6	0
Eastern N. Carolina	4	\$140	2	\$20	0	1
Midwest	0	0	0	0	2	0
Northeastern	1	\$35	0	0	1	0
South Atlantic	2	\$70	0	0	3	0
MID-ATLANTIC	0	0	2	\$20	1	1
AL/FL	74	\$2590	17	\$550	2	0
Southwestern Delta	0	0	0	0	1	0
Western	0	0	0	0	1	0
W W Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0
C S Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	87	\$3049	21	\$590	17	2

ON-line ORDERS***Receipts from Feb. 16, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2022***

Order #	Member Name	ED	Mem Type	Amt Paid	Date
277	Moses Thompson	SWD	Annual	\$ 37.00	2/17/2022
278	Rev. Reginald M. Morton	SA	Annual	\$ 37.00	2/17/2022
279	Letishia Chapman	ENC	Life	\$ 11.00	2/18/2022
281	Rev. Tajuan Kyles	Pied	Annual	\$ 37.00	2/18/2022
282	Dianne Patterson	MW	Annual	\$ 37.00	2/18/2022
283	Rev. Rodney Courtney	Pied	Annual	\$ 37.00	2/20/2022
284	George William Whitfield	MA	Annual	\$ 37.00	2/22/2022
285	DaTarvia Parrish	Pied	Annual	\$ 37.00	2/28/2022
286	Marilyn Quow	MA	Life	\$ 212.00	3/5/2022
287	Wanda Lax	Western	Annual	\$ 37.00	3/5/2022
290	Karen Hill	NE	Annual	\$ 37.00	3/20/2022
291	Rev. Tandra R. Jones	AL/FL	Annual	\$ 37.00	5/16/2022
292	Rev. Elizabeth McCaskill	AL/FL	Annual	\$ 37.00	5/26/2022
293	Rev. Lawrence Ganzy, Jr.	SA	Annual	\$ 37.00	6/8/2022
294	Kenashia Thompson	SA	Annual	\$ 37.00	6/8/2022
295	Rev. Danielle Phifer	Pied	Annual	\$ 37.00	6/8/2022
296	Rev. W. Jerrell Leeper	Pied	Annual	\$ 37.00	6/8/2022
300	Vincia Benjamin Miller	Pied	Annual	\$ 37.00	9/1/2022
301	Mariam Williams-Thomas	MW	Annual	\$ 37.00	9/7/2022

\$ 852.00

19

Rev Dr Myrtle Bowen,
2nd Vice President
International Ministers and Lay Association

Closed on December 31, 2022

Presented on February 13, 2023