50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
July 6 -13, 2016

THE CONNECTIONAL MINISTERS’ SPOUSES, WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS ORANIZATION PLUS P.K.’S OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISOPAL CHURCH

President’s Report

Mrs. Lula Shaw Cleckley, President
President’s Report

Bishop John R. Bryant, Senior Bishop; Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, President of the General Board; Bishop Gregory Gerald McKinley Ingram, Host Bishop; Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Chair of the Commission on Social Action; Bishops of the Church; Episcopal Supervisors; General and Connectional Officers; Mrs. Jackie DuPont Walker, Consultant/Director, Social Action Commission; College Presidents and Deans; Members of the General Board, General Conference Delegates, my Sisters and Brothers in African Methodism: Greetings.

The Connectional Ministers’ Spouses, Widows and Widowers Organization Plus PK’s is a network/support system for those families who serve the church in the preaching/pastoral ministry.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2Timothy, 1:7) It is with great honor that I give my very first report as President of this outstanding organization. Our year had been fruitful as we strived to strengthen the clergy family as we walk closer to God.

My tenure as the as President begun December 7, 2014, therefore the first year (2013) of this report occurred under the leadership of the immediate Past President, Fredia Hanley-Johnson. I thank Sister Fredia for making such a smooth transition so I was made to feel comfortable beginning my tenue as the new President of the Connectional Ministers’ Spouses, Widows and Widowers Organization Plus PK’s.

December, 2013 Executive Board Meeting and Leadership Planning Retreat

The Annual Executive Board Meeting and Leadership Planning Retreat was held December 6-8, 2013 in Wilmington, NC at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside. We were grateful to Bishop William P. DeVeaux, Supervisor Dr. Pam DeVeaux, Mrs. Suzette Williams, Episcopal President and the Second Episcopal District for such splendid hospitality.

This meeting produced the largest winter meeting registration (240 registrants) in the history of Conn-M-SWAYO Plus PK’s. In attendance, there were 240 registrants, 3 active Bishops, 1 retired Bishop, 8 active Supervisors, 1 Retired Supervisor, 1 Founding President, 1 Retired Connectional SAC Consultant/Director and over 40 Clergy and guest. Before this cloud of witnesses, the election of officers was held under the directions of the Brunswick County, NC Board of Elections. The results are:

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Lula Cleckley (7th)</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Anita M.E. Brannon (12th)</td>
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<td>2nd Vice-President</td>
<td>Juanita Duncombe (9th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>C. Ann Thomas (4th)</td>
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On Saturday, December 7, 2013, “The Clergy Family Awards Ceremony and Empowerment Luncheon” was held. After a wonderful lunch, we were empowered to continue our journey with words of encouragement from Dr. PAM DeVeaux, Supervisor, 2nd Episcopal District. At the conclusion of the luncheon, the Installation of Officers Ceremony was held.

Immediately after the Installation of Officers Ceremony, the following awards were made:

**First Lady Contest**
- First Place: Mrs. Karen Luke (6th)
- Second Place: Mrs. Linda Davis (7th)
- Third Place: Mrs. Mildred Swint (10th)

**Attendance Award (Based on Total 2013 LPR Registrations)**
- First Place: 7th District (101)
- Second Place: 1st District (36)
- Third Place: 12th District (14)
- Trendsetter: 2nd District (14)

**Membership Award (Total Membership as of 6/1/13)**
- First Place: 1st District (120)
- Second Place: 7th District (118)
- Third Place: 11th District (75)

**2013 PK Scholarship Awards** – We are pleased to award the following scholarships this year:
- $2,500 Award: Ms. Breanna D. Williams (12th)
- $500 Book Award: Mr. Joel A. Cousin (5th)
- $500 Book Award: Ms. Ronnise D. Owens (6th)
- $500 Book Award: Ms. Jasmine O. Moore (8th)

On Saturday Evening, December 7, 2013, the Gala Dinner was held. Mrs. Birdie Boyd, 1st Vice President and her committee planned a Roast/Toast to honor the outgoing President, Fredia Hanley-Johnson. A great time was had by all.

On Sunday Morning, December 8, 2013, we worshipped with the Historic St. Stephen AME Church where the Rev. Wayne A Johnson, Sr. is the Pastor. Presiding Elders and Clergy present from across the Connection were invited to participate in the Service. Pastor Johnson delivered an inspiring message and the music ministry was awesome. At the close of Service, everyone was invited to tour this Historic Church, which hosted the 1896 General Conference of the AME Church and to have lunch in the fellowship hall prior to their departure for home.
January, 2014 – December, 2014

This new team of officers came aboard (2014) dedicated to continue to encourage and empower the clergy families globally. Distinctive forums and proficient advice was provided to create an appreciation and understanding of the unique role of the Minister’s spouse. A major thrust was put forth to implement new activities to address the needs and concerns of PK’s.

The goals are:

- Continue to build clergy family unity across the connection.
- Provide a strong support ministry for our children.
- Enhance involvement of widows and widowers.
- Increase membership through creative activities.
- Provide resources and opportunities for clergy life enrichment.

Accomplishments

General Board and Council of Bishops, Nashville, Tennessee, June 23-24, 2014

Our first meeting was held June 23, 2014, in Nashville, Tennessee at the 2014 General Board and Bishops Council Meeting. The meeting began with a PK Forum which allowed our young people to share their thoughts on selected topics and to gain significant knowledge to guide them in their daily living.

The Clergy Family Awards Breakfast was held June 24, 2015. We were grateful for the large attendance, including many of our Bishops, Supervisors, General Officers, clergy families and visitors. We were favored with a dynamic message by Dr. James Coaxum III, a PK, who grew up in the Seventh Episcopal District. Presently he is the Pastor of Saint James AME Church in the First Episcopal District, New Jersey Conference, Atlantic City District. Dr. Coaxum encouraged the clergy family to go out and make a difference in the world.

Several awards were given:

First Lady / First Gentleman Contest Awards – Funds generated from this contest will be used for PK Scholarship Awards, outreach programs and to supplement the administrative operations.

- First Place: Mrs. Sandra Conyers, 7th Episcopal District
- Second Place: Mrs. Tracey T. Lee, 6th Episcopal District
- Third Place: Mrs. Mildred Swint, 10th Episcopal District

PK Scholarship Awards

- Scholarship - $2500: Miss Mariah Hill, 10th Episcopal District
**Book Awards - $500**
Miss Tiffany Gipson 12th Episcopal District
Mr. Jerry James 8th Episcopal District
Mr. Marvin Zanders 11th Episcopal District
Miss Roberta Benton 9th Episcopal District
Miss Shauna N. Hill 1st Episcopal District
Miss Ka’Bria McCrary 7th Episcopal District

**Annual Membership Awards** – Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK’s operates from funds generated from the payment of the $25.00 annual membership dues. Our membership has grown to 754 members. Our goal is to invite and encourage all spouses, widows, widowers and Pk’s to become a part of this ministry.

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<th>Awards</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Place</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>(144 members)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Place</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>(107 members)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Place</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>(95 members)</td>
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**Attendance Awards**

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<tr>
<td>First Place</td>
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<td>Second Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Place</td>
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**December 2014, Executive Board Meeting and Leadership Planning Retreat**

The annual Executive Board Meeting and Leadership Planning Retreat were held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, December 5-7, 2014. At this time, plans were developed to increase our use of the organization’s website. Each district prepared pertinent webinars to be added monthly to the website. These webinars included such topics related to: health issues, budget and finance, financial support for college students, good decision making, grieving assistance, domestic violence and etc.

The attendance for the retreat was phenomenal; two active Bishops, one Retired Bishop, four active Supervisors, one Retired Supervisor, WMS International President, our immediate past Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK’s President, Mrs. Fredia Hanley-Johnson, Thirteen Episcopal Presidents, ten Founding and Charter members and 212 registered members. Our Founding President, Dr. Dorothy Owens and Reverend Owens were unable to attend due to illness. They were truly missed.

Our retreat provided much opportunity for learning, sharing and laughter. The Seventh Episcopal District greeted us on December 5, 2014, with a gracious welcome, southern hospitality and all the scrumptious food from the ocean.
Saturday morning, December 6, 2014, began with workshops and a visit with Michele Bowen, the author of *Church Folks* and *Pastor Needs a Boo*. She shared her novels which provided lots of laughter and fun. A panel consisting of Episcopal Supervisors, a widow, a retired spouse and a PK shared relevant information about our unique role as ministers’ spouses.

The Widows and Widowers Luncheon provided a time to show love for each other. A heartfelt ceremony was held and ten newly widows were presented medallions with our promise to never leave them alone.

On Saturday evening, December 6, 2014, Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK’s held its Twenty Fifth Anniversary Gala and Celebration. The Founders, Charter members, our immediate past president, Fredia Hanley-Johnson, Commission Chair and our Episcopal Supervisors were recognized and presented gifts.

Early Sunday Morning, December 7, 2014, we attended our Closing Worship and Communion Service. Our preacher, Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Presiding Prelate of the Twentieth Episcopal District and Social Action Commission Chair, delivered a spirit filled message. Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District was Presiding Officer and Chief Celebrant. Music was provided by the Saint Paul AME Church, Little River, SC. We were well fed spiritually and ready for our trip home.

I was grateful for Reverend & Mrs. Johnathan Greene and the Saint Paul AME Church, Little River, South Carolina, Reverend & Mrs. Lovette and the Mount Olive AME Church, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for their assistance during our entire retreat. These pastors and their congregations made our retreat a smooth affair.

Special thanks were extended to our Host, Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, Supervisor Mary Ann Norris, Episcopal President Anna Keith and the entire Seventh Episcopal District.

Sincere thanks were extended to the Episcopal Supervisors of our church for working closely with the ministers’ spouses programs and activities. We could not have done it without them.

January 2015 – March 31, 2016

**General Board and Council of Bishops, New Orleans, Louisiana**  
June 30 –July 1, 2015

**Accomplishments**

As time moved forward, the Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK’s team continued to make a difference in the lives of the Ministers’ Spouses, Widows, Widowers and PK’s. Mrs. Brenda Hurst, PK’s Coordinator, challenged the PK’s to participate in a PK T-Shirt design contest. The challenge brought forth lots of effort and energy. The winning design was submitted by Ambe Comeaux, Sixth Episcopal District. The shirts were printed and sold at the 2015 General Board and Council of Bishops held in New Orleans, Louisiana.
On June 29, 2015, the PK’s held a panel discussion which proved to be very informative and motivational. This activity was well attended, with standing room only. The ministers’ spouses also met with lots of enthusiasm as plans were discussed for the remaining of the year.

**Annual Clergy Family Awards Breakfast, “The Fruit of the Spirits”** were held June 30, 2015, at 7:00 a.m. We were pleased with our attendance and presence of the Holy Spirit. Several awards were presented:

**First Lady / First Gentleman Contest Awards** – Funds generated from this contest were used for PK Scholarship Awards, outreach programs and to supplement the administrative operations.

**First Lady Winners**
- First Place: 5th Episcopal District (First Lady- Gail Booker - 2015-2016)
- Second Place: 8th Episcopal District
- Third Place: 7th Episcopal District

**First Gentleman Winners**
- First Place: 11th Episcopal District (First Gentleman- Rev. Gregory V. Gay, Sr. 2015-2016)
- Second Place: 6th Episcopal District
- Third Place: 2nd Episcopal District

**PK Scholarship Awards**
- Scholarship - $2500
  - Olivia Martin: 10th Episcopal District

**Book Awards - $500**
- Rebekah Hill: 2nd Episcopal District
- Daylan Greer: 1st Episcopal District
- Quanisha Clark: 7th Episcopal District
- Deja Jackson: 11th Episcopal District
- Sean Lewis: 1st Episcopal District

**Annual Membership Awards** – Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK’s operates from funds generated from the payment of the $25.00 annual membership dues. Our membership has grown to 946 members. “*To God Be the Glory for great things He hath done!*” Our goal is to invite and encourage all spouses, widows, widowers and Pk’s to become a part of this ministry.

- First Place: 11th Episcopal District (246 members)
- Second Place: 7th Episcopal District (128 members)
- Third Place: 10th Episcopal District (71 members)
- Third Place: 8th Episcopal District (71 members)

**Attendance Awards**
- First Place: 7th Episcopal District
- Second Place: 6th Episcopal District
- Second Place: 12th Episcopal District
- Trendsetter: 8th Episcopal District
December 2015, Executive Board Meeting and Leadership Planning Retreat

The ministers’ spouses, widows and widowers gathered in Jacksonville, Florida for our Leadership Planning Retreat. Our theme: Awakening Mind, Body and Spirit immediately took effect as everyone (169 registrants) began to work. The electrifying Eleventh Episcopal District, led by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Supervisor Connie Speights Richardson and Episcopal President Dr. Cynthia Griffin greeted us with opening arms and left no stone unturned. After the opening session, we were entertained with the District’s reception. Everyone was well fed and off for a good night.

Our retreat was very much informative and we took care of business. At this meeting the following decisions were made to increase Retreat Registration to $150, and changes were made to the Constitution and By-laws to keep the organization operating efficiently.

A forum was held to address the cares of the spouses, widows, widowers and PK’s. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Delores Kennedy-Williams provided much needed information as she challenged us to take a good look at ourselves as we perform our duties as the preacher’s wife. We should also have other activities in our lives.

Our Empowerment Luncheon was a time of fun and laughter. We were entertained with a fabulous fashion show which provided fuel for the shopping ship…And the shopping begun. Saturday evening ended with a dinner theatre. What a joyous time we had!

We ended Saturday with a dinner theatre. We were well entertained with a play performed by Rare Diamonds Performing Arts Studio, Inc. It was well done and everyone had a wonderful evening.

Sunday Morning began early with 8:00 a.m. Worship and Communion Service. Reverend Mark Griffin, Pastor of Wayman Temple AME Church, presided. Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Presiding Prelate of the 20th Episcopal District and Chair of Social Action Commission, delivered the word. He fed us well with a message from the Lord. Music was provided by the Wayman Temple AME Church Choir, Jacksonville, FL, Rev. Mark Griffin, Pastor. We were truly grateful to Bishop and Supervisor Richardson, Dr. Cynthia Griffin, Episcopal President, Reverend Mark Griffin and the Wayman Temple AME Church and all the people of the Eleventh Episcopal District for their good ole southern hospitality.

I am indeed thankful to Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Social Action Commission Chair, for his directions, patience and kindness. I also appreciate the excellent leadership of Mrs. Jacqueline Dupont-Walker, Social Action Consultant/Director.

In conclusion, as the journey moves forward, we will continue to focus on strengthening our clergy family while walking with God. “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy, 1:7)

His servant,
Lula Shaw Cleckley, President
OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

I. That Conn-M-SWAWO Plus P.K.’s be promoted in Districts 1-20 as a viable Support Ministry for Clergy Families.

II. That the Clergy Family Members be encouraged to join the Organization and that a Membership Chairperson is appointed in each Episcopal District.

III. That the Annual Preacher’s Kid (P.K.) Scholarship Award for graduating High School Seniors be promoted and advertised in each Episcopal District.

IV. That the P.K.’s be allowed to have open discussions and fellowship opportunities and that a P.K. Advisor is appointed in each Episcopal District.

V. That a Coordinator for the GAP (Grief Assistance Program) is appointed in each Episcopal District and that the names and addresses of the Widows/Widowers of Pastors are included in Episcopal District Directories for continued communications.

VI. That Conn-M-SWAWO Plus P.K.’s partner with organizations and agencies within our Zion who promote, health, wellness and retirement preparedness for God’s servants.

Elected Officers

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice-President
Recording Secretary
Assistant Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Financial Secretary
Treasurer
Parliamentarian
Historiographer
Worship Director
Coordinator of P.K.’s

Appointed Officers

Membership
Budget & Finance
Constitution & By-Laws
Nomination
Evaluation
Memorial
PK Scholarship
GAP Coordinator
Education

Episcopal Presidents

Mrs. Rhonda McCall
Mrs. Suzette Williams
Mrs. Judy Williams
Mrs. Anita Lemmons
Mrs. Kinette Cager
Mrs. Dorothy Ridley
Mrs. Anna Keith
Mrs. Eloria James
Mrs. Johnnita Bryant
Mrs. Cynthia Shuler
Dr. Cynthia Griffin
Mrs. Tina Grissom
Mrs. Dianna Golphin
Mrs. Alfreda M. Parker
Mrs. Linda Mtshwelo
Mrs. Sandra Pyke-Anthony
Mrs. Diana Mapoma
Mrs. Nester Ontiretse Moruakgomo
Mrs. Mapatla Grace Setai
Mrs. Droriah Kataka

1st Episcopal District
2nd Episcopal District
3rd Episcopal District
4th Episcopal District
5th Episcopal District
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7th Episcopal District
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9th Episcopal District
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14th Episcopal District
15th Episcopal District
16th Episcopal District
17th Episcopal District
18th Episcopal District
19th Episcopal District
20th Episcopal District
Conn-M-SAWO Plus PK’s
“Where the Idea Was Born” - St. Louis, Missouri (December 1-2, 1989)
Dr. Dorothy Owens, Founding President - President Emeritus

FOUNDING MEMBERS - (Attendees at 1st Meeting in 1989) - Dr. Dorothy Owens (4th), Mrs. Ida Bailey (4th), Mrs. Vera Boatner (4th), Mrs. Helen Criglar (4th), Mrs. Neva Crymes (4th), Mrs. Mary Daniel (4th), Mrs. Martha Huggins (4th), Mrs. Donna Marie Jackson (4th), Mrs. Jerry Reid (4th), Mrs. Reatha L. Smith (4th), Mrs. Mary Wright (4th), Mrs. Ernestyne Brown (5th), Mrs. Palmer Reed (9th), Mrs. Dorise Griffin (11th), Dr. Leeomia Kelley (11th), Mrs. Nell Booker (13th), Presiding Elder W. C. Davis, Rev. A.C. Wright, Rev. Benjamin Booker, Rev. John Q. Owens, Chair, Social Action Commission (4th), Supervisors: Mrs. Theodora Mayo (4th), Mrs. Barbara J. Chappelle (17th), Mrs. Vivienne Anderson, Host (5th).

CHARTER MEMBERS - (District Representatives at the 1990 Self-Image Seminar) - Mrs. Hilda Member (17th), Nelly Alexander (11th), Cleverten Wilson (7th), Rev. Viola Walker* (10th), Mrs. Clara Wilson (4th), Mrs. Ruby Johnson (10th), Mrs. Johnnie Carswell (6th), Mrs. Lilar Shepheard (6th), Dr. Henrietta Attles (1st), Mrs. Rhonda J. McCall (1st), Mrs. Jestina Richardson (1st), Mrs. Mattie Tyler (8th), Supervisors: Dr. Dolly Desselle Adams (6th), Mrs. Lucinda Crawford Belin (12th), Dr. M. Joan Cousin (11th), Yvonne Henning Parks, and Ernestine Henning, Darlene Justice (1st)

Acronym Conn-M-SAWO Plus P.K.’s is credited to Mrs. Norma Phillips (4th)

Organization’s Legislative History - During the General Conference of 2000, passage of the Organization’s legislation and its subsequent inclusion into the Book of Discipline was realized. This was accomplished under the leadership of the second President, Mrs. Ora L. Easley.