

Joshua M. Brown Lay Organization Newsletter



Lay Leadership

Cheronne M. Mayes
President

Donna Wilburn
Vice President

Terian Gibbs
Secretary

Marilyn Hourston
Treasurer

Brenda Carey-Johnson
Chaplain

Rodney Howard, Esq.
Historian

Dr. Corey & Dr. Tamajah Jordan
Directors of Lay Organization
(DOLAS)



Greetings Clergy and Lay Members,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus. I am honored to serve as your new Lay President this year. With your support, I believe we can strengthen the Lay Organization and grow our membership. We have exciting plans for the 2026-2027 conference year, including sharing information about the church, welcoming new members, hosting membership orientations, offering scholarships to graduates pursuing higher education, supporting music and vocal instruction, and collaborating with other church ministries. This newsletter will be published quarterly, beginning with this first edition, followed by Fall, Winter, and Spring issues. Each quarter, we will also highlight membership orientations and other Lay activities taking place in the 4th District and at St. Stephen. We welcome you to join the leadership in the growth of the Lay and ensuring that we experience all of God's blessings while blessing others.

The Lay is requesting information on all 2026 graduates to be recognized during the worship service on Sunday, June 28, 2026. We also invite 2026 graduates to apply for the Sterling E. Sutton Scholarship. For application materials or additional information, please contact Sister Marilyn Hourston or me. Completed applications are due by Sunday, July 26, 2026, and recipients will be announced on Sunday, August 16, during Lay Day. In addition, we will present the Sandra Pye Educational Leadership Award to someone who embodies the character and service of our beloved Sister Sandra Pye.

We welcome you to join the leadership in the growth of the Lay and ensuring that we experience all God's blessings while blessing others.

Peace and Blessings,

Sis. Cheronne M. Mayes
Lay President



MISSION STATEMENT

The Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is committed to teach, train, and empower its members for lay ministry, global leadership, and service following the tenets of Jesus Christ.

The purpose of this organization shall be to organize and train the laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Church so that lay persons may maximally utilize their God-given abilities and skills to improve and extend the kingdom, to create happiness, peace, and harmony among its members.

Scholarships and Award Recognition

The Lay Organization awards two scholarships and one recognition each year. Below is a brief overview of each scholarship. Interested applicants should contact Sister Marilyn Hourston (mhourston@ameritech.net) or Sister Cheronne M. Mayes (cheronne51@gmail.com) for more information. Scholarship criteria and applications are also available on the St. Stephen A.M.E. website.

The Sterling E. Sutton Scholarship

The Joshua M. Brown Lay Organization has established specific requirements for applicants seeking the Sterling E. Sutton Scholarship. To be considered for this scholarship, all applicants must submit an essay. This essay should accompany a completed application form. Additionally, applicants are required to provide documented proof of admission to an accredited institution. These steps ensure that candidates meet the scholarship criteria and are eligible for consideration.

The A.V. Turner Music Scholarship

In 1915, Professor Alvie Van Turner was appointed director of the Senior Choir at St. Stephen A.M.E. Church, serving in that role for 52 years. A native of Lewisburg, Tennessee, he studied at Roger Williams College, Chicago Musical College, and the American Conservatory of Music. He was an accomplished violinist and piano soloist, served for many years as a precinct captain on Chicago's West Side, and operated the A.V. Turner School of Music from his home for more than 60 years. Professor Turner and his wife, Sadie P. Alexander, a soprano soloist, mentored many young students who went on to serve churches and the broader professional community. In November 1986, the St. Stephen Chancel Choir, formerly the Senior Choir, established a \$500 music scholarship in his honor to help prepare young members of St. Stephen A.M.E. Church to become musicians and soloists. Administration of the scholarship was later transferred to the Joshua M. Brown Lay Organization. Today, the A.V. Turner Memorial Music Scholarship continues to honor Professor Turner's legacy and tradition of choral excellence.

The Sandra Pye Educational Leadership Award

This award has been given annually during the annual Lay Day Service since 2019 to a recipient who embodies the character and work ethic of our beloved Sister Sandra Pye, which includes:

- Dedication to teaching
- Commitment to those being taught
- Loyalty
- Motivation
- Demonstrated excellence in teaching
- Gentle spirit
- Willingness to help others
- Caring and Compassionate

Upcoming Events

June

6th - Chicago Conference Executive Board Meeting
7th - 21st - Accepting 2026 Graduate Applications
11th - 13th - 2026 FEDLO Annual Convention, Indianapolis, IN
26th - 2026 Graduate Recognition Day
Accepting applications for the Sterling E. Sutton Scholarship

July

26th - Last day for accepting the Sterling E. Sutton Scholarship application

August

15th - Church Community Annual Cookout
16th - Lay Day; Message and Scripture are **"Standing 10 Toes Down on God's Promises" - Psalms 1:3**
Announcement of the **2026 Sterling E. Sutton Scholarship(s)** and the **Sandra Pye Education Award**
29th - Membership Orientation 10am - 12pm

October

Corn Beef Fundraiser - TBD

