

APPOINTMENT OF BRO. MA MAKITI AS PRESIDENT OF THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION (CLO)

Following the passing of the beloved Connectional Lay Organization President, Sis Valerie Gary – Bell in February 2020, Bishop E. Earl McCloud in his capacity as the Connectional Lay Organization Commission Chair, invoked Article VII, Section 6 of the CLO Constitution and By Laws, under the heading – **Vacancy in the Office of the President and / or Vice President**, which states:

“If a vacancy occurs in the office of President due to death, resignation, disability or temporary inability or other cause, the First Vice President shall immediately assume the office of President, for the unexpired term of office; the second vice-president shall ascend to the office of first vice-president, and the third vice-president becomes second vice-president, leaving the vacancy to be filled in the office of the lowest ranking vice-president. The president shall, with the confirmation of the Executive Board appoint an active member, possessing qualifications for the office of the third vice president, to fill the vacancy if the remainder of the term is less than two (2) years. A majority vote by the Executive Board shall determine the result. If the remainder of the term of office is greater than two (2) years, a special election shall be held by the Executive Board within forty-five (45) days, of the vacancy date, to fill this position. The Letter of Intent shall be sent to the person who last served as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee by each person who wishes to be a candidate for the office of third vice president. All voting shall be by secret ballot (electronic or paper). Any person appointed &/or elected to fill an unexpired term of President shall subsequently be eligible to be elected to two (2) full four (4) year terms in accordance with this constitution and bylaws”.

To this end, Bro Matikane A (“Abe”) Makiti who was the CLO 1st Vice President assumed the office of President for the unexpired term of office. Bro Simon R. Letsoko - affectionately known as “City” who was the CLO 2nd Vice President now ascended to the office of 1st Vice President, while the dynamic Sis Starr Battle, became the 2nd Vice President, after having served as the CLO 3rd Vice President.

The position of 3rd Vice President became vacant and was filled at a meeting of the CLO Executive Board, which was held on Saturday, 7 March 2020. The CLO Executive Boards members were requested to make recommendations of suitably qualified persons to fill the position of the 3rd Vice President.

Over and above the qualifications as per the CLO Constitution and By – Laws, a special provision was made that the candidate should come from Episcopal Districts 1 – 13 and be female. This requirement was to ensure gender sensitivity and equitable representation of the Episcopal Districts.

From the recommended names of candidates; and after having confirmed with the Executive Board, President Matikane Makiti, appointed Sis Lovie Aaron from the 12th Episcopal District, as the 3rd Vice President, who was voted in by all members of the Executive Board.

We congratulate the new CLO Presidency and pray for God's guidance on these Brethren, “as they walk this Christian journey” to execute their respective responsibilities in pursuance of the overall mandate of the Connectional Lay Organization.