

CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION

37th BIENNIAL SESSION

**RULES COMMITTEE
REPORT**

JULY 11-12, 2021

PREFACE

The Rules Committee is charged with the responsibility of preparing the proposed rules for the governance of the Thirty-Seventh Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization (CLO) of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

PREFACE

(continues)

These proposed rules were developed pursuant to the generally accepted interpretation and construction of long established policies, customs and traditions of the AME Church and the CLO. The Primary attention was directed to *The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the CLO Constitution and Bylaws and the Revised, (12th Edition) Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, Parliamentary Authority.*

GOVERNING DOCUMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The *2016 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*, the *CLO Constitution and Bylaws* and the *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (12th Edition) shall be the governing documents.

GOVERNING DOCUMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY (continues)

The parliamentary authority shall be the official governing document and parliamentarian authority in all situations which are not provided in these rules.

RULE #1 **BUSINESS SESSIONS**

The Business day of the Biennial Session shall consist of not more than Eight (8) hours the first day and Five (5) hours unless adjusted in accordance with the needs of the Biennial Session.

COMPILATION OF RULES

The following are proposed as the Rules governing the Thirty-Seventh (37) Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization.

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RULE#2

The Thirty-Seventh Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization shall last no more than two (2) days beginning Sunday, July 11, 2021 and ending Monday, July 12, 2021.

RULE #2

BOUNDARIES OF THE 37th BIENNIAL SESSION OF THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION

The boundaries of the 37th Lay Biennial Session of the CLO shall include the dais and the section in which the certified delegates are seated.

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RULE # 3

- Only certified delegates of the Biennial Session shall be allowed to deliberate on matters before the assembly.
- In order to ensure orderly procedures, no delegate or member shall speak without recognition of the Chair either by voice, zoom chat or zoom hand raising.

RULE #4

The OFFICIAL PROGRAM

The Program Outline, as adopted by the CLO shall be the Official Program for the Thirty-Seventh Biennial Session.

RULE #5

QUORUM AND MAJORITY VOTE

Fifty percent plus one (50%+1) of the certified lay delegates present to the Thirty-Seventh Biennial Session of the CLO shall constitute a quorum for each business session and once a quorum is established the Biennial Session may continue to conduct business.

RULE #6

BUSINESS SESSIONS

No committee of the Biennial Session, except the Budget and Finance Committee, Credentials and Elections shall meet during the business hours of the Biennial Session unless the committee secures permission by the Biennial body. The time allotted for other committee meetings shall be from adjournment of the evening session until the next scheduled morning session.

RULE #7

The order of the Thirty-Seventh Connectional Lay Biennial business session will be the Outlined Agenda as Adopted.

Rule #7 (Continues)

No Delegate shall be permitted to speak more than once and may speak no more than two(2) minutes on the same subject.

No more than two (2) delegates from the same Episcopal District (either for or against) shall be permitted to speak until an opportunity to speak has been given to representatives from other Episcopal Districts.

Rule #7 (Continues)

No More than 30 minutes shall be permitted on any given subject, unless extended by the Biennial body, shall be allotted for all debate on a single proposition on the Floor, except for the CLO Budget.

RULE #8

- All makers of motions and seconds shall identify themselves by name and Episcopal District.
- All members of the Biennial Session will afford each other the same courtesies and respect they expect to receive for themselves.

RULE #9

- A timekeeper shall be appointed and announced by the presiding officer at the beginning of the session to enforce time management.

RULE #10

- No one may approach the Chair unless granted permission.
- All microphones and Speakers shall be operative during all business sessions at the Orange County Convention Center and the areas in which the Certified Delegates are seated.

RULE #11 MARSHALS

There shall be appointed two (2) marshals from each Episcopal District whose duty shall be to protect the boundaries of the Biennial Session and assist the Presiding Officer in keeping order.

RULE #12

BADGE IDENTIFICATION and SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

All Delegates, Alternates, and Observers shall be required to wear a badge, Properly wear a Mask covering the nose and mouth, Social Distancing at all times while in the Biennial Meeting Room, hallways and other areas of the Convention Center and Hotel during Biennial session.

RULE #13

Biennial Session Attendance

No delegate shall be absent from the Regular Session of the CLO Biennial without the permission of the Episcopal District President or her/his designee of the respective Episcopal District delegation.

RULE #14 MINUTES

The Secretary of the CLO Biennial Session shall be required to furnish an electronic Version of the minutes of the Business Session of the previous day no later than 9:00 am the following morning. The minutes shall be read individually and presented for appropriate actions.

RULE #15 POINT OF ORDER

When a “Point of Order” is raised, all other business must be suspended until the point is settled. The Presiding Officer must decide the point without debate.

RULE #16 UNREADINESS

The Presiding Officer shall recognize and entertain any unreadiness, amendment, and/or questions, when properly presented from the floor or area which a certified Delegate is seated.

RULE #17
**PERSONAL ELECTRONIC
DEVICES**

Cell phones, pagers, computers, and other electronic devices must be placed on silent or vibrate while in business sessions in the Orange County Convention Center or other areas in which the Certified Delegated is seated.

RULE #18 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Report will be the Order of the Day during Business Session III of the Thirty- Seventh Session of the CLO Biennial.

RULE #19

CAMPAIGNING LIMITS

- Each election campaign Team members, Delegates, and Alternates shall refrain from distributing, selling, flashing, Projecting and wearing any campaign clothing, materials or disseminating information in the Biennial Meeting Room.

Rule 19 (Continues)

There shall be no demonstration allowed by candidates or their supporters within 75 feet of the entrance of the assembly hall, which begins 10 feet from the back wall including the entirety of the assembly hall.

RULE #20 ELECTIONS

- The election of all CLO Officers shall be the Order of the Day on Sunday, **July 11, 2021 during** Session II.

ELECTIONS cont.

All candidates for the CLO Executive Board shall be elected by individual secret balloting except in the case where the office is not contested. Contested Candidates shall be elected using the electronic voting apparatus. All other voting in the Biennial Session shall be by voice vote.

ELECTIONS cont.

Pursuant to the generally accepted interpretation and construction of long established policies, customs when a candidate is unopposed for any office, the Election Chair shall take a voice vote, electing by unanimous consent or acclamation. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect.

CONNECTIONAL LAY

ORGANIZATION

37th BIENNIAL SESSION

RULES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Chair – Dr. Dorothy Henderson ... Co-Chair Mr. Thomas Mahlatsi

Margaret Miller				1	
Penny Oliver				2	
Sonya M. Nelson				3	
Tamarra Washington				4	
Monice Crawford				5	
Jason Ferguson				6	
Francine Gasque				7	
Irma Ross				8	
Betty W. Davis				9	
Patricia Ritcherson				10	
Johnnie Hill				11	
Regan Green				12	
Linda F. Bently				13	
Dr. Arnold Okoni-Williams				14	
				15	n/a
Marcia Small				16	
				17	n/a
				18	n/a
				19	n/a
				20	n/a



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION

THE

37TH

Biennial Convention

"LAITY WALKING HUMBLY WITH GOD,
TO DO JUSTICE AND TO LOVE KINDNESS." MICAH 6:8

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

JULY
11-12, 2021

SAVE
THE DATE

MATIKANE A. MAKITI
CLC-PRESIDENT

AMETTA L. REAVES
CLC-DIRECTOR OF LAY ACTIVITIES

JAMESHA J. WILLIAMS
YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVE