



First Episcopal District
Lay Organization
MID-YEAR CONVENTION
Western New York Conference
March 3, 2023

Theme:
“Serve with Integrity, Strive
for Excellence”

Rev. Dr. Faye Banks Taylor,
Presenter

Topic:
“Christ-centered Service: An
Integrity Check”

Greetings to our Leadership

- ❖ Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr., Presiding Prelate
- ❖ Mother Joan Marla McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor
- ❖ Bishop Stafford J. N. Wicker, Lay Commission Chair
- ❖ Brother Matikane Abednego Makiti, Connectional Lay President
- ❖ Sister Patricia Wright, Connectional Lay Director of Lay Activities
- ❖ Sister Jamesha Williams, Connectional Lay Young Adult Representative
- ❖ Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Connectional Lay Corresponding Secretary and
Episcopal District Lay President
- ❖ Brother Thomas Davis, Episcopal District Director of Lay Activities
- ❖ Sister Jyzell Steplight, Episcopal District Young Adult Lay Representative
- ❖ Brother Thomas Whitt, Host Conference Lay President

“CHRIST-CENTERED SERVICE: AN INTEGRITY CHECK”

❖ Foundational Scriptures:

❖ Ephesians 5:1-2 (NLT)

“Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ.

❖ Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

❖ John 13:5 (NRSV)

“Then he [Jesus] poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.”

Definition of Integrity

❖ “the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness; the state of being whole and undivided.”

(Cambridge English Dictionary)

The Characteristics of Integrity

“Integrity points to a consistency between what is inside and what is outside, between belief and behavior, our words and our ways, our attitudes and our actions, our values and our practice.” (biblestudytools.com)

The Commission

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

What are these tenets of Christ?

- ❖ Love
- ❖ Truth
- ❖ Honesty
- ❖ Loyalty
- ❖ Integrity

Integrity Defined in Scripture

- ❖ Old Testament - Hebrew word translated “integrity” means “the condition of being without blemish, completeness, sincerity, soundness, uprightness, wholeness.”
- ❖ New Testament - word for “integrity” means “honesty and adherence to a pattern of good works.”

Who May Perfectly Claim These Attributes?

❖ Only Christ...
yet

❖ We strive...

The questions to ask:

- ❖ Is there a consistency between what we believe and how we behave?
- ❖ Do our words and ways match?
- ❖ Are our attitudes and actions compatible?
- ❖ Is what we value lived out in practice?

A Time of Reflection

- ▶ Think of a time when you were in a position where a decision on your part caused you to question your integrity?



Jesus Demonstrates Serving

Presentation for the First District Mid-Year Lay Convention - Dr. Faye Taylor

Jesus Exhibits the Ultimate Service: The Giving of Self for Others



Presentation for the First District Mid-Year Lay Convention - Dr. Faye Taylor

Connecting the Dots...

- ❖ Service is driven by motivation of the heart.
- ❖ Motivation should align with personal standards.
- ❖ Personal standards reflect character.
- ❖ Character reflects who we love (God).
- ❖ Love results in service (Action).

An Integrity Check

- ❖ Is the motivation of my heart genuine as I serve?
- ❖ Is my loyalty to God while I use my gifts to serve others?
- ❖ Am I practicing my personal standards in my service?
- ❖ Is there consistency between my beliefs and my behavior, my words and my ways, my attitudes and my actions, and my values and my practice?

Final Thoughts...

Thank you for your time and attention!
Amen.