Young People's Division
of the
Women's Missionary Society
of the
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Grow, Glow, and Go for CHRIST!
History of the Chicago Conference Branch YPD—STILL REWRITING

“According to Mrs. Lucille Thomas (the mother of Bishop Robert Thomas), Mrs. Mary Butler was the first person to work with the youth in our conference. Bishop Gregg was the bishop at the time. In 1931, Mrs. Butler began her work, but the YPDers were not organized until 1939. Mrs. Butler was an evangelist, but later was ordained a minister. A church has been named in her memory, Mary F Butler AME Church.

Mrs. Butler served until 1943, Mrs. Thomas was elected YPD Director in 1943 and served until 1951.

In 1951, Mrs. Johnnie Gordon was elected and served until 1962.

In 1962, Ms. Artisha Ervin was elected and served briefly until 1963. Ms. Ervin stated that she was given only twenty five dollars for the youth work.

Mrs. Bettye Jenkins Allen was elected in 1963 and served until 1971 at which time Mrs. Geneva Coleman was elected YPD Director. It is interesting to note that Mrs.. Allen told me that her first YPD Convention was held on the doorsteps of the parsonage in Kenosha, Wisconsin, seven YPDers were in attendance. Mrs. Allen was the first director to start the separate conventions for YPDers.” (1)

Under Dr. Allen’s leadership the YPD grew. The areas were organized, revitalized and put into functional operation. Dr Allen gave the quality of leadership that strengthened and enhanced the youth structure. There were intensive efforts to train the young people to perform effectively in missions.

Mrs. Geneva Coleman served as YPD director from 1971—1980. Some of the YPD Presidents to serve during this period were Rev. Larry Bell, Rev. Edgar Johnson, Rev. Phillip Ware, and Rev. Gary Mitchell. Mrs. Coleman is remembered by the young people as a lovely lady who built on the foundation that was started by her former missionary sisters.

In 1980, Mrs. Norma B. Jones was elected YPD Director and served until 1987. Some of the YPD presidents to serve with Mrs. Jones were Mr. Anthony Morris, Mr. Reginald Glenn, Mr. Kenneth Strickland and Ms. Deidre Williams.* Mrs. Jones instituted the February Black History Program which has become one of the high points for the YPD Conference Year.

In 1987, Mrs. Earline Hayes was elected YPD Director and served until 1991. Some of the YPD Presidents who served with Mrs. Hayes were Ms. Saquanda Johnson and Mr. Russell Williamson. Mrs. Hayes had a good working relationship with the young people and the directors. She encouraged Bible Study and youth leadership.

In 1991, Mrs. Elaine Bailey Johnson was elected YPD Director. Some of the YPD Presidents serving with Mrs. Johnson were Ms. Erica Bell, Mr. Kevin Crawley, Ms. Morgan Dixon, and Mr. Cedric Meredith.

Since this time there have been many persons
Meaning of A.M.E.
(YPD handbook, p. 65)

**African Methodist Episcopal**

- **African** means that people of African descent and heritage organized the AME church. It does not mean that the church was founded in Africa or that it is for people of African descent only. All people are welcome.
- **Methodist** means that the AME church is a member of the family of Methodist churches. Richard Allen, the founder and its first consecrated bishop, felt that no religious group or denomination would suit the needs of his people as did Methodism because of its emphasis upon the plain and simple Gospel and its orderly system of rules and regulations.
- **Episcopal** refers to the form of government under which the church operates. The General Conference elects bishops, who in turn make pastoral appointments (See AME Discipline for further information).

**The Motto of the AME Church**

“God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family.”

**Women's Missionary Society (WMS)**

The YPD is a division of the WMS. The WMS will collaborate with the YPD on projects throughout the year primarily around missionary work and also helping our young scholars learn more about the AME church, the 4th Episcopal District, joining church ministries, leadership, and tithing.

**The Discipline**

There is a book published every four years by the AME Church called *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*, or *The Discipline*. This book outlines the structure, guidelines, and organization of the AME Church.

**General Organization**

(YPD handbook, p. 73)

- The bishop is the chief officer of the Connectional (all the AME Conferences, the whole body of AME churches) organization. He/She is elected for life by a majority vote of the General Conference, which meets every four years. **The Bishop for the 4th Episcopal District is Bishop John Richard Bryant.**

- Presiding elders are the assistants who the bishops appoint to supervise the preachers in a presiding elder’s district. At the end of the year they report to the bishop at Annual Conference and make recommendations for pastors’ appointments. **The Presiding Elder for the North District of the Chicago Conference is Rev. Clarence G. Robinson.**

- Pastors are appointed yearly to a charge, on recommendations of the presiding elder, by the bishop. Pastors are in FULL CHARGE of the church and is an ex-officio member of all ministries and boards. **The Senior Pastor of DuPage AMEC is Rev. Dr. James F. Miller.**
Young People's and Children's Division of the Women's Missionary Society

The Young People and Children's Division (YPD) is a youth organization, established October 1915, under the auspices to the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. You will find African Methodists Episcopal Churches in the United States, Caribbean, South America, England, India, and Africa. YPD units may be found in most local churches throughout the Connection. The YPD membership is estimated at over 800,000.

Purpose:

❖ To provide meaningful youth training programs in all areas of church life which will provide for full participation in the total mission of the church
❖ To provide specific training in evangelism, Christian social relations, and education programs designed to increase knowledge of the AME Church history and the Scriptures.
❖ To provide opportunities for leadership experience.

Goals:

❖ To organize and develop a Young People’s and Children’s Division wherever there is a Senior Society
❖ To interest Christian Youth in discovering opportunities for witnessing in today’s world, and put their Christian convictions into action in all of their daily relationships.
❖ To develop leadership committed to Christ and the Church.
❖ To enable youth to know the historical background of the AME Church and the Connectional Women’s Missionary Society.
❖ To do our best in helping make God’s Kingdom come on earth, as it is in Heaven.

Structure:

The Young People’s and Children’s Division of the Women’s Missionary Society of the AME Church shall be composed of the Connectional, Episcopal District, Conference Branch, the Area, and the Local Church.

Divisions:

❖ The Mother Sunbeams, age level preschool to primary (2-6 years).
❖ The Allen Stars, age level primary to six grade (7-12 years).
❖ The Young People’s Auxiliary (YPA), age level 13-17 years.
❖ The Adult Division, age level, 18-26 years. Young adults shall be encouraged to transfer to the Senior organizations of the Church (i.e. Missionary Society, Lay, Young Adult Network, etc.).
YPD Pledge:
I pledge my willing and untiring service to all efforts of the Young People's and Children's Division to aid the needy and suffering people, regardless of race, color or creed. I further pledge to take the Bible as my guide, to aid my church, and to attend meetings regularly. In all these tasks I seek the Savior's guidance.

YPD Colors:
Forest Green is symbolic of growth and Christian Vitality; white represents purity, light and faith. We wear our colors:

❖ At all local YPD Annual Missionary Days which include both WMS days and YPD days
❖ Youth Night of the Annual Conferences
❖ YPD workshops
❖ YPD Area Meetings, Annual Conventions, Annual Conferences, Episcopal District Meetings, and Connectional Meetings
❖ Annual Conference Branch African American Heritage Celebration

YPD Motto:
"Grow, Glow and Go for Christ"

YPD/Missionary Benediction:
In the name of the triune God
May the spirit of Christian mission
Enter every heart
This we ask in Jesus' name
Amen.

YPD Chautauqua (Clap 8-8-4-4-1)
I will be brave and strong and true!  I will be brave and strong and true!
I will be brave and strong and true!  I will be brave and strong and true!
I will be brave!  I will be brave!
I will be strong!  I will be strong!
I will be true!  I will be true!
YPD
I will be brave and strong and true!  I will be brave and strong and true!
I will be brave!  I will be brave!
I will be strong!  I will be strong!
I will be true!  I will be true!
WMS

AME
The Structure of the YPD
(Using 4th District as an example)

The Connectional AME Church
Divided into 20 Episcopal Districts

The 4th Episcopal District
Divided into 5 Conference Branches

Canadian Conference Branch  Michigan Conference Branch  Indiana Conference Branch  Illinois Conference Branch

Chicago Conference Branch
Divided into 5 Areas

Chicago Area  South Area  North Area  Northwest Area  West Area

Local Churches  Local Churches  Local Churches  Local Churches  Local Churches  I.E. DuPage AMEC

The areas are grouped according to geographical regions in order to best serve the needs of missions. The areas makeup the Conference Branch.
The Levels

The Connectional Level

The purpose of the Connectional Level of the YPD is to provide meaningful youth training programs in all areas of church life, to provide specific training in evangelism, Christian social relations, education programs designed to increase knowledge in the Bible and the AME Church, and to provide opportunities for leadership.

The Connectional Level of the YPD is composed of 20 Episcopal Districts.

The Episcopal District Level

The purpose of the Episcopal District, in addition to those stated for the Connectional level, is to coordinate and unify the work of the Conferences. The Episcopal District shall receive and compile reports from the Conferences, and send copies to the Episcopal Supervisor. The Episcopal District shall also have institutes and workshops.

Our Conference is a part of the 4th Episcopal District. The 4th Episcopal District is composed of five conferences – Canadian, Michigan, Chicago, Indiana, and Illinois.

The Conference Branch Level

The Conference Branch Level is the connecting link between the Local, Area, Episcopal District, and the Connectional Levels, and the purpose is the same as the Connectional and Episcopal levels. The Conference Branch is divided into areas usually based on geographical location.

The Chicago Conference Branch is composed of the Chicago Metropolitan Area; the surrounding suburbs; Rockford, IL; Joliet, IL; Evanston, IL; the northeastern part of Wisconsin; Iowa (excluding Des Moines); Minnesota; North and South Dakota and the Manitoba province in western Canada. (See page 238 in The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.)

The Area Level

The purpose of the Area Level is to unify the work in the local churches and to stimulate this work through workshops and any other media. The Area Level is a connecting link between the local churches and the Conference, the Episcopal District, and the Connectional Levels.

The Chicago Conference Branch is divided into five areas – the Chicago Area, North Area, the Northwest Area, South Area, and West Area.

The Local Church Level

The purpose of the Local Level is to implement the entire missionary program. This will include the study of the Bible, the AME church, and the Women’s Missionary Society and the Young People’s Division Constitution. The purpose also is to develop service projects in the community, conduct workshops in Christian social relations, and family life. The local level is the training ground for Christian Service to the Women’s Missionary Society and the AME Church. The level should stimulate the interest of young people in missions and to serve as a reservoir in supplying members to the Senior Society.
THE CONNECTIONAL LEVEL

The Episcopal Districts & Their Conferences


Second: Baltimore, Washington DC, Virginia, North Carolina, and Western North Carolina

Third: Ohio, North Ohio, South Ohio, Pittsburg, and West Virginia

Fourth: Indiana, Illinois, Chicago, Michigan, and Canadian

Fifth: Puget Sound, California, Southern California, Colorado, Kansas-Nebraska, Northwest Missouri, Missouri, and India

Sixth: Georgia, Southwest Georgia, South Georgia, Atlanta-North Georgia, Macon, and Augusta

Seventh: Palmetto, Columbia, Piedmont, South Carolina, Northeast South Carolina, and Central South Carolina

Eighth: Mississippi, Northeast & West Mississippi, East Mississippi, Central North Mississippi, Louisiana, North Louisiana, and Central Louisiana

Ninth: Alabama, East Alabama, South Alabama, North Alabama, Central Alabama, and West Alabama

Tenth: Greater Texas, Greater Northeast Texas, Central Texas, Southwest Texas, North Texas, and West Texas

Eleventh: Greater Florida, East Florida, South Florida, Central Florida, West Florida, Tampa, Orlando, and Bahamas

Twelfth: Arkansas, Central Arkansas, East Northeast Arkansas, West Arkansas, South Arkansas, Central Northeast Oklahoma, and Oklahoma

Thirteenth: Tennessee, East Tennessee, West Tennessee, Kentucky, and West Kentucky

Fourteenth: Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ghana, and Ivory Coast

Fifteenth: Cape, Eastern Cape, Kalahari, Queenstown, S.W.A. (Namibia)

Sixteenth: Suriname-Guyana, Windward Islands, Virgin Islands, Dominican Republics, Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba, London, England

Seventeenth: Burundi, Congo, Brazzaville, Kananga, Katanga, Kinshaza, Mbuji-mayi, Northeast Zambia, Northwest Zambia, Rwanda, Southeast Zambia, Southeast Zimbia, Southwest Zimbia

Eighteenth: Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Mozambique, and Northeast Lesotho

Nineteenth: Orangia, East Transvaal, Northern Transvaal, West Transvaal, and Natal

Twentieth: Central Zimbabwe, Malawi, North Malawi, South Northeast Zimbabwe, Southwest Zimbabwe
THE CONNECTIONAL LEVEL
The Episcopal Districts & Their Conferences

On the Map

4th Episcopal District
Chicago Area
Allen Temple
Bethel
Carey Temple
Celia Gregg
Coppin Memorial
Grant Memorial
Greater Institutional
Greater St. John
Mt. Olive
Quinn Chapel
Robinson Chapel
St. Mary
Turner Memorial
Woodlawn

West Area
Canaan, Maywood
Carey Tercentenary, Chicago
DuPage, Lisle
Emmanuel, Chicago
James Memorial, Maywood
Mary Butler, Chicago
St. John, Aurora
Greater St. Paul, Chicago
St. Stephen, Chicago
Wayman, Chicago

South Area
Arnett Chapel, Chicago
Bethel, Robbins
Brown Chapel, Joliet
Caison Memorial, Markham
Holy Trinity, Dolton
Hyde Park, Chicago
Mayo Chapel, Matteson
Miller Chapel, University Park
Payne Chapel, Chicago Heights
Thomas Memorial, Chicago
Shaffer Chapel, Harvey
St. James, Chicago
St. Matthew, Argo
St. Paul/South, Chicago
Ward Chapel, Chicago

North Area
Allen, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Bethel, Evanston
Bethel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Ebenezer, Evanston
Bradford, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Faith Community, Elgin
Gomez, Rockford
St. James, Elgin
St. Paul, Glencoe
Trinity, Waukegan
Wayman, Racine
S.S. Morris, Madison, Wisconsin
Allen, Rockford
Bethel, Beloit, Wisconsin
Coleman, Kenosha, Wisconsin
Ellison, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Eternal Flame, North Chicago
Jerusalem Empowered, Milwaukee
Robert Thomas, Jr., Milwaukee, Wisconsin
St. Mark, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
St. Paul, Madison, Wisconsin
Thomas Memorial, Zion
Wayman, Delevan, Wisconsin

Northwest Area
Allen Chapel, Yankton, S.D.
Bethel, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Coppin Chapel, Ft. Dodge, Iowa
Malone, Sioux City, Iowa
Payne, Waterloo, Iowa
St. James, Minneapolis, Minnesota
St. James, St. Paul, Minnesota
St. Mark, Duluth, Minnesota
St. Peter’s, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Wayman, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Note: If not indicated, the city is Chicago and the state is Illinois
Fourth Episcopal District

Chicago Conference – The Chicago Conference consists of all the part of the State of Illinois not embraced in the Illinois Conference nor in the Indiana Conference and shall include the St. Paul District of the Northwest Conference. States represented; Minnesota, North Dakota, Iowa (excluding Des Moines), and the northeastern part of Wisconsin, and the following province in western Canada, Manitoba.


Indiana Conference - The Indiana Conference comprises the State of Indiana

Illinois Conference - The Illinois Conference includes that part of the State of Illinois south of an imaginary line beginning at the junction of the State lines of Indiana and Illinois on Lake Michigan and thence diagonally through Streator, Yates City, Chillicothe, and Bushness to Warsaw on the Mississippi River, and Galesburg, Kewanee, Monmouth, Moline, Rock Island, and East Moline; the Des Moines and Quincy Districts of the Northwest Conference.

Michigan Conference – The Michigan Conference comprises all of the State of Michigan

The Conference Branch YPD Special Days

The Conference Branch has some important special events each year which serve as opportunities to promote programs and develop leadership skills.

Annual Conventions, Annual Conference (October), Annual Self-Denial Observance (usually in May), Annual African American Heritage Celebration (February), Executive Board Meetings, Area Meetings, Annual District Leadership Training Institute

YPD elected officers are expected to attend all special day events as well as all regularly scheduled meetings. Officers who are in college out of town may be excused.

The Local Church in the Conference Branch

Usually the Local YPDers work with the Senior WMS Society in developing their local events and days.

The YPD Director is elected by and must be a member of the senior WMS Society. The YPD Director should be present and give a report at senior WMS meetings. The Director and WMS should have a good relationship for the smooth operation of the YPD. The YPD Director’s ability to work and cooperate with the Senior Society determines the strength and success of the YPD.

Committees within the Local YPD:

- Service Projects
- Fundraising
- Food
- Fun Outings
- Communication
- Youth Conference & YPD Weekend
YPD Officer Responsibilities

YPD President:
- Prepare Agenda for Monthly Meetings
- Have a report for YPD and Officer Meetings if applicable
- Help facilitate YPD meetings
- Coordinate and facilitate Officers Meetings, 1 every quarter, with YPD Director
- Coordinate and facilitate Committee Meetings with YPD Advisors
- Submit and read Quarterly Reports at the Quarterly Conference
- Attend Quarterly Conference
- Provide ‘Welcome Article’ for Quarterly YPD Newsletter
- Attend President Council meetings
- Submit and read West Area report at West Area meetings
- Attend West Area meetings

YPD Vice President:
- Attend YPD and Officer Meetings
- Help facilitate YPD meetings and the agenda
- Coordinate and facilitate Officers Meetings, 1 every quarter, with YPD Director
- Coordinate and facilitate Committee Meetings with YPD Advisors
- Backup the president in their absence
- Explain to New Members of DuPage AMEC in New Members class what YPD is 3 times a year

YPD Recording Secretary:
- Attend YPD and Officer Meetings
- Record YPD Meeting Minutes and officer minutes. Type them up and have available at the following YPD and Officer meetings.
- Keep membership roster and attendance
- Make sure to inform Church Office to place announcement of YPD meetings and events 2-3 weeks prior to date

YPD Corresponding Secretary:
- Attend YPD and Officer Meetings
- Have a report for YPD and Officer Meetings if applicable
- Send Thank-You, Birthday, Get Well Soon cards to members of YPD and their families
- Help with any other type of correspondence via mail, email, phone, flyers, etc. to the YPD members
YPD Treasurer:
- Attend YPD and Officer Meetings
- Have a report for YPD and Officer Meetings if applicable
- Assist advisor with tracking petty cash monies
- Assist in selling and tracking DuPage Store items

YPD Parliamentarian:
- Attend YPD and Officer Meetings
- Keep order at all YPD Meetings and Officer Meetings to make sure all are on task and agenda is properly followed
- Follow and implement Robert’s Rules of Order

YPD Worship Leader:
- Attend YPD and Officer Meetings
- Have a report for YPD and Officer Meetings if applicable
- Lead Devotion, includes Song, Scripture, Prayer, at all YPD and Officer Meetings
- Help facilitate and teach monthly Bible Studies at Monthly YPD Meetings
- Closing Prayer at all YPD and Officer Meetings

YPD Historian:
- Attend YPD and Officer Meetings
- Have a report for YPD and Officer Meetings if applicable
- Help write, edit, design Quarterly YPD Newsletter that is mailed every Quarter to YPD members. Submit articles, if applicable, to Church Quarterly Newsletter
- Maintain Historical Records of YPD events
- Take pictures at YPD events and submit to Church Office
- Help coordinate and provide historical facts and events for Annual African American Heritage Celebration and Founder’s Day during the month of February

All Officers should PRAY and READ THEIR BIBLES regularly as well as attend church. As leaders you are called upon to set an example for others to follow.

“To whom much is given, much is required.”

Luke 12:48
Useful Information

**AME Church**—Official Website of the Connectional AME Church
www.ame-church.com

**4th District**—Official homepage of the 4th District in the AME Church
www.fourthdistrictame.org

**DuPage AME Church Website**—Check out what’s going on at your church home
www.dupageamec.org

**Women’s Missionary Society**—Official Website of the Connectional Women’s Missionary Society (WMS) of the AME Church
www.wms-amec.org

**AME YPD**—The site for the Connectional Young People's and Children’s Division of the AME Church
www.ameypd.com

**YPDSpace**—Just like MySpace but only for AME YPDers to connect around the world
www.ameypd.ning.com

**The Christian Recorder**—The Official Organ (Publication) of the AME Church
www.the-christian-recorder.org

**Christian Education**—Official Website for Department of Christian Education in the AME Church
www.ameced.com

**BibleGateway**—A searchable online Bible in over 100 versions and 50 languages
www.biblegateway.com

**Search God’s Words**—Another searchable online Bible
www.searchgodsword.org

**Crosswalk**—A gateway to Bible and Christian resources
www.crosswalk.com
www.dupageamec.org

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www.amechurch.com

www.fourthdistrictame.org