

**The 13th Annual Unity Summit and  
The 18th Quadrennial Session of the  
Connectional Lay Institute  
October 6-11, 2025  
Hilton Memphis –Memphis TN**

**“Unity Summit Theme:  
Courageous Faith: Living Out the Gospel  
Where it Matters Most”**

**Program Schedule**

**Monday, October 6, 2025**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Scheduled Activity/ Event</b>
8:15 AM-5:00 PM	College of Bishops Meeting
8:00 AM-8:00 PM	CPE Class

**Tuesday, October 7, 2025**

8:15 AM-5:00 PM	College of Bishops Meeting
8:00 AM-4:00 PM	Registration
9:00 Am-8:00 PM	CPE Class

**Tuesday, October 7, 2025 - *continued***

<b>Time</b>	<b>Scheduled Activity/ Event</b>
9:00 AM-5:00 PM	Presiding Elders' Workshop/Retreat
12:30 PM-2:30 PM	Presiding Elders' Lunch <i>(Invitation Only)</i>
1:00 PM-9:00 PM	Vendor Set-up/Opening
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	CME Ministers" & Laity Council Meeting
3:00 PM	General Officers' Council Meeting
5:00 PM	Clinical Pastoral Education Spring Graduation Ceremony
	<b>Opening Celebration:</b>
	<b>COURAGEOUS FAITH - Honoring Bold Legacies While Embracing a Bold Future</b>
6:30 PM-8:30 PM	Musical Guest/Psalmist - Opening Praise & Worship Leader
	Courageous Faith throughout 4 Generations of CME Witness
	Generational Music & Worship Arts
	Courageous Faith - Generational Sermonic Presentations

**Wednesday, October 8, 2025**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Scheduled Activity/ Event</b>
7:00 AM-8:30 AM	Phillips School of Theology Alumni Breakfast
8:00 AM-4:00 PM	Registration
8:00 AM-8:00 PM	CPE Class
8:00 AM-9:00 AM	Opening Meditation/Centering Moments  Dr. Carmichael D. Crutchfield
9:00 AM-9:00 PM	Vendors Open
8:00 AM-9:00 AM	MSWWD Executive Board Meeting
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	MSWWD Annual Meeting
9:15 AM-10:30 AM	<b>Education and Formation Module I</b>

### **Integrating Faith and Learning**

#### **Dr. Lisa Allen-McLaurin**

Most of us who attend the Unity Summit are learners. The question this class wants to address is “how do we integrate the learning we receive and the Faith we claim to have? The integration of faith and learning is the process of connecting our Christian beliefs with what we have learned about being disciples of Jesus. This course is designed to foster a holistic education where faith informs and enriches the learning experience, and knowledge deepens one's understanding of faith. A suggested book resource is *Expressing Life: A Primer on Integrating Faith and Learning* by Kevin W. Mannoia

## **Nurturing Spiritual Formation alongside Academic Excellence**

### **Dr. Jermaine Marshall**

Recently, a person said, “my relationship with the Lord is good because I attend Church School and Bible Study.” When I inquired about how she saw her purpose in life, the answer was to be a Christian. Nurturing spiritual formation alongside academic excellence is a holistic approach to education that aims to develop well-rounded individuals with strong moral compasses and a sense of purpose. This course provides an opportunity to discuss spiritual formation and some of the spiritual disciplines that help nurture spiritual formation. A possible resource is *Spiritual Formation: Following The Movements of the Spirit* by Henri Nouwen.

## **Strong Foundational Faith**

### **Dr. Van Carl Williams**

A strong foundational faith is built on trust in God and God’s word, understanding biblical principles, and actively living by them. It involves obedience, prayer, and fellowship with other believers, all while persevering through trials. This class will involve discovering the historical and cultural context of the Bible.

10:45 AM-12Noon **Education and Formation  
Module II**

## **The Bible and Justice**

### **Dr. Reginald Barnes**

A biblical worldview of justice centers on God's character and God’s righteous standards, emphasizing the inherent dignity of all people and the importance of treating them with fairness and compassion. It involves not only correctional actions

for wrong doers, but also caring for the vulnerable and promoting [shalom](#), a state of well-being and right relationships. This perspective contrasts with secular views of justice by grounding justice in God's eternal law and God's redemptive plan for humanity. This course is designed to identify methods for the church to practice justice from a Biblical worldview. Specifically, the class is designed to identify God as the standard of justice; to name what human dignity and rights look like; to define restoration and reconciliation in pursuit of shalom.

## **A Call for Excellence; Propelling a Courageous Faith**

### **Dr. Curlee Adams**

In this class learners will gain a deeper understanding of Christian Education and its importance for all members of the church to become excellent. This excellence will lead to courageous faith. This class will assist learners in an understanding of the uniqueness of the discipline of Christian Education and how it includes all age groups.

Put simply, Christians are biblically called to be excellent because God is excellent, and we are to imitate God and be partakers of God's divine nature by acquiring excellence. That is why the well-known verse, Philippians 4:8, advises Christians to think on [excellence].

## **Bearing Witness in the Public Square**

### **Rev. Elaura James-Reid**

Are you a clergy member called to speak on faith, justice, and activism beyond church walls? From Pulpit to Public Square is your essential guide to

finding your authentic voice in public, non-ministerial settings. Using Richard Voelz's book *Pulpit to Public Square*, learners will engage in a time of gaining wisdom about prophetic and pastoral witness beyond the pulpit and navigating the challenges of speaking integrity from a faith perspective. Learners will be introduced to bold strategies for speaking in ways that make a difference.

12:00 PM-Noon    **Lunch**

2:00 PM-4:00 PM    **Commission on Concerns of Women in the Ministry**

2:00 PM-4:00 PM    **General Department Sessions/Meetings**

**Christian Education & Formation**

**Lay Ministry**

**Women's Missionary Council**

**Ministry to Men**

**Evangelism and Missions**

**CIT Technology Training**

**Dr. Theresa Duhart**

***Empowering Local Churches with Digital Ministry Tools and Resources***

We're diving into the innovative world of ministry tools that are helping local churches elevate their impact. From digital platforms that

streamline communication to apps that enhance discipleship and outreach, we'll explore resources designed to strengthen and expand the reach of church ministries. We'll spotlight ministry leaders who are creatively leveraging these tools in their own congregations—demonstrating what's possible when innovation meets mission!

**Ten free Gloop+ memberships for local churches will be raffled off during the session!**

4:00 PM-6:00 PM **Dinner**

**Unity Summit Justice Gala  
(Dressy Affair)**

Featuring:

**Memphis Jazz Workshop**

***Mr. Stephen Lee, Founder***

7:00 PM-9:00  
PM

**Speaker:**

**The Honorable Justin J. Pearson**

**Tennessee State Representative**

***Social Justice Advocate Leaders from each Episcopal District to be Recognized.***

**Thursday, October 9, 2025**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Scheduled Activity/ Event</b>
8:00 AM-4:00 PM	<b>Registration</b>
8:00 AM-8:00 PM	<b>CPE Class</b>
9:00 AM-9:00 PM	<b>Vendors Open</b>
8:30 AM-9:00 AM	<b>Centering Moments</b>
9:00-10:15 AM	<p><b>Education and Formation Module III</b></p> <p><b>Equipping to Live Out Discipleship</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Carmichael Crutchfield</b></p> <p>What is equipping? Equipping involves cultivating a deeper relationship with God through spiritual practices like daily time with God, prayer, and studying Scripture, as well as actively serving others and sharing one's beliefs. It also requires developing a life of integrity, where actions align with faith, and being prepared to answer questions about one's faith with confidence. In this class participants will be given tools to cultivate a strong spiritual foundation that empowers them to become courageous in practicing faith in the public arena of evangelizing and discipling people.</p> <p><b>A Keep Going Resolve</b></p>

## **Rev. Zachary Mullens**

Learners in this class will gain wisdom and knowledge concerning faith as the key to unlock the power of God in our lives. Faith enables us to live by God's promises and experience God's blessings. This class will use a book authored by Ed Hinson entitled *Courageous Faith*. The book amplifies the lives of the Hebrew heroes of the Old Testament. This class will challenge learners to overcome barriers, conquer fears, realize goals and start over when failure occurs.

## **Taking Care of the Courageous Soul**

### **Dr. Valencia Edner**

Courage is vital for faith—whether preaching truth, raising families, or standing for justice. Yet courage comes at a cost, and too often clergy and laity pour themselves out until their souls run dry. Guided by Chanequa Walker-Barnes' *Sacred Self-Care*, Barbara Peacock's *Soul Care in African American Practice*, and Tricia Hersey's *Rest is Resistance*, This class invites participants into renewal, drawing on African American wisdom, theology, and practices that have sustained

generations. A courageous soul must also be a cared-for soul— The class will explore how rest, self-care, and spiritual disciplines are not luxuries but holy necessities. Participants will ground themselves in Scripture, practice simple exercises, and embrace rhythms of rest that renew both personal faith and communal witness.

10:15 AM-10:30 AM

Break

**Program Development Office (PDO) Presentation**

10:30 AM-11:30 AM

**“Growing Your Church Through Community Engagement, a project of the Black Cornerstone Collaborative and the CME Church”**

11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Closing Panel Discussion

12:30 PM

**Closing Gathering**

**2025 18<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Lay Institute Program**

**Agenda & Outline**

**Thursday, October 9, 2025**

**Time**

**Scheduled Activity/ Event**

12:00 PM-4:00 PM

Site Visit:

CME Headquarters & City Tour

1:00 PM-6:00 PM	Registration
3:30 PM	Dinner (On Your Own)
	<b>Opening Service &amp; Meditation:</b>
	<b>Led by the Laity</b>
5:30-6:15 PM	Praise, Prayer, and Music: Meditation: Bishop Marvin Thomas Host Bishop & Chair
	<b>General Assembly #1: We Are Laity; Why Are We Here?</b>
6:30 PM-7:45 PM	Identity and mission of laity affirmed. Leadership Panel of laity explores historic and contemporary roles of laity, with moderated Q&A.
8:00-8:45 PM	<b>Meet and Greet the Candidates Forum</b>

**Episcopal District Caucuses:  
*Election of Vice Presidents***

- 9:00-9:45 PM First District
- Second District
- Third District
- Fourth District
- Fifth District
- Sixth District
- Seventh District
- Eighth District
- Ninth District
- Tenth District
- Eleventh District

10:00 PM **Late Night Usher Meeting: “We are Soldiers in the Army”**

**Friday October 10, 2025**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Scheduled Activity/ Event</b>
8:00 am-4:00 PM	<b>Registration</b>
9:00 AM-9:00 PM	<b>Vendors Open</b>
7:45 am-8:30 AM	<b>Centering Moment &amp; Bible Study Class</b>
8:30 AM-9:00 AM	<b>General Secretary Report Dr. Shannon Faulk</b>

**General Assembly #2:**

9:00 AM-10:00 AM **Write the Vision, Make It Clear  
—Inspiring and Transforming:  
How to Get Things Done at the  
Local Church**

10:15 AM-11:00 AM **Class Breakout Session#1—  
Laity Forums:  
Leading and Transforming**

***Men's Only: Living in Godly  
Manhood*** — Exploring biblical  
masculinity, leadership, and  
accountability.

***Women's Only: Strength and  
Purpose: Women of Faith*** —  
Sisterhood setting exploring  
leadership, discipleship, and  
women's voices in ministry.

11:15 AM-12:00 PM **Class Breakout Session #2 —  
Affirming our Ministry Skills**

***Financial Literacy: Creating a  
Legacy for Family & Church —  
Stewardship and Legacy  
Building***

***Where Are Our Children?  
Saving the Next Generation —  
Nurturing Youth with  
Discipleship and Outreach***

***How to Worship Together  
through Music & Space —***

Creating inclusive worship environments

***Church Risk Management: Protecting the Flock*** —

This critical session equips church leaders and members with strategies to identify, assess, and mitigate key risks facing congregations today

11:45 AM-1:00 PM

**Lunch Break**

**Opening Business Session**  
—

1:00 PM-5:00 PM

***Dr. Barbara Campbell***

Reports, alignment, and business proceedings with seating for delegates and non-delegates.

4:00 PM-5:30 PM

**Plenary: Preparing for the General Conference**

5:30 PM-7:00 PM

**Dinner**

7:00 PM-8:00 PM

**Lay Awards Night**

**Celebrating Outstanding Lay Leadership Contributions.**

**Late Night: Reception & Love CME Style**

8:15 PM

Fellowship, storytelling, testimonies, community love through music, and interactive storytelling.

**Saturday, October 11, 2025**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Scheduled Activity/ Event</b>
8:00 AM-8:30 AM	<b>Bible Study</b>
	<b>Closing Session</b>
8:45 AM-11:30 AM	Final gathering to reflect, commit, and set vision for the future.
11:45 AM-12:30 PM	<b>Bus Loading for Lane College</b>
12:30 PM-6:00 PM	<b>Lane College Homecoming Celebration</b>