

August 2022

125TH ANNUAL SESSION PREVIEW ISSUE

Renowned thought leaders, missions trailblazers, inspired teaching and dynamic worship experiences are all slated for Lott Carey’s 125th Annual Session beginning August 13 in New Orleans. A hybrid event — both in-person and virtual, attendees will gain a deeper perspective on the trials and triumphs in a committed embrace of missions globally. Here’s what you can expect.

Powerful Preaching

Spotlight on Rev. Traci Blackmon

Rev. Traci Blackmon is Associate General Minister and Vice- President of Justice and Local Church Ministries for the United Church of Christ. She also currently serves as pastor-in-residence for Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, MO. From 2009 through 2020, Rev. Blackmon served as pastor of Christ the King United Church of Christ in St. Louis, MO. Below are her responses to questions posed by the editors.

The theme of Lott Carey's annual session this year is "Embrace" with a scriptural focus on Matthew 28:19-20, i.e. the Great Commission to all disciples. What does the Great Commission mean to the church universal in the 21st century both locally and internationally?

Matthew 28:19-20 is known as the Great Commission not because of ranking, but rather because of scope. Jesus makes other commissions in the gospels, but in them Jesus sends the disciples to specific people and

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A Message from the President of WISE

Generation Next

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

I still believe teamwork makes the dream work. Since the Spring Conference in Atlanta, GA, the Serving and Learning Together (SALT) Team Leaders have been working hard preparing for the 125th Annual Session. We are excited about the conversation between Dr. Gina Stewart, Lott Carey President, and Dr. Danielle Brown, the first woman to pastor Shiloh Baptist Church in Plainfield, NJ, on engaging “Generation Next.” This session serves as the foundation for two subsequent sessions on “Generation Next” – the Literary Circle discussion,



Rev. Dr. Angelita Clifton

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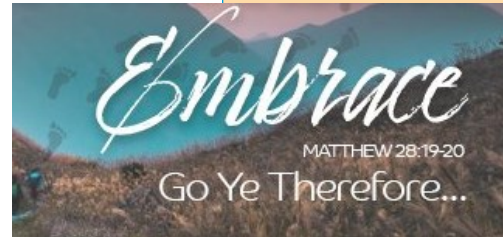
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Jumping 4 Justice Photo



**Annual Session
Breakout Session Speakers**



Bishop Leah D. Daughtry



Dr. Willie D. Francois, III



Dr. Brianna Parker



Dr. Robert C. Scott



Minister Brenda Troy



Dr. Ellyn Jo Waller

Empowering Workshops

Mentoring Generation Next

Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart, the first woman to serve as president of Lott Carey, and Rev. Dr. Danielle Brown, the first woman to lead the 113 year-old Shiloh Baptist Church of Plainfield, NJ, share a passion for, and commitment to, mentoring and assisting in the development of faith and community leaders. Here, Dr. Brown shares her thoughts about mentoring in response to questions posed by the editors.

Is there a theological or scriptural basis for mentorship? There are several scriptural models for mentoring — Naomi/Ruth, Moses/Joshua, Moses/Jethro, and Paul/Timothy.

How can we prepare both mentees and mentors for a good mentoring relationship? We can prepare mentees and mentors by providing clarity on what a mentor is and is not and the boundaries of the mentoring relationship. These things should be defined at the beginning so that both parties can agree and honor them. In addition to this a desire to grow and see the other party grow is another vital aspect to a healthy mentoring relationship.

How can we equip both mentees and mentors from sabotaging their mentoring relationship? As stated before, going into the mentoring relationship knowing what a mentor is, what you need from a mentor

and what you as a mentor can provide, are key. We can equip mentors and mentees by helping them to establish and honor these to ensure that the relationship is not sabotaged. It is also vital that both parties have a healthy

level of respect for one another. A lack of respect will always sabotage a mentoring relationship.

Did you have a mentor and if so

what was their impact on your life? If not, are you a mentor, and what is your goal as a mentor? Absolutely! Over the course of my life I've had many mentors. They have been a driving force in teaching me what to do and what not to do. Mentors have been from a distance and up close. My most intimate mentors have held my hand as I've pushed the limits of possibility for my life and/or stepped into scary, fun, new seasons, and ventures. Mentors have also helped me to grow socially, spiritually, and in my vocation as a Clergywoman. As a mentor, it is my goal to pay it forward. To expose my mentees to as much as I can, push them when needed, celebrate them when they win, and encourage them when they fail.



Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart, Lott Carey President (left) and Rev. Dr. Danielle Brown

Powerful Preaching Spotlight on Rev. Traci Blackmon

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Rev. Tracy Blackmon

with specific purpose (Matthew 10). Yet with the Great Commission Jesus removes all stipulations of persons, place and purpose. The Great Commission is to all who know the power of Jesus anywhere to teach, train, and testify to people everywhere of the goodness of God. In the 21st century and beyond that means emulating the ministry of Jesus in every atmosphere available to us, inclusive of the nearest neighbor, the farthest remote

region, and cyberspace.

How do we eradicate denominational "turf wars" to reach the least, the lost and the left out?

Denominational "turf wars" are anchored in differing doctrines and dogmas. Just as there are many types of restaurants, there are many types of churches and many ways to be church. Yet within the Christian faith, the Call to discipleship is the same no matter how one lives it out. We can eradicate "turf wars" by honoring the fact that scripture affirms that there are many lanes, but one race in one direction, and the Bible says everyone who endures will win. Focus on the race and not the rhetoric.

How did you get involved in social justice?

I said "yes" to Jesus. Social Justice is the secular term for discipleship. There is no existential distance between Jesus and justice. If one is not doing the latter, one is not serving the former.

What is the best way to turn social justice missionary work from a "one moment" act to an actual "movement"?

Justice is a noun, not a verb. Justice is the ethos of Christian faith. The root word from the Hebrew that translates as justice is "tzedek," which literally means "righteousness." Righteousness is one of the chief attributes of God, and describes the state of accord with divine law. There is a very thin line between charity and justice. Both are often necessary but they are not the same. The presence of justice eradicates the need for charity and the only bridge I know that is secure enough to take us from the one to the other is embodiment. The embodiment of justice as discipleship transforms ministry from moments to movement.

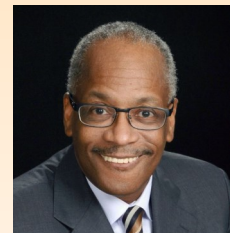
Lott Carey Annual Session Guest Preachers



Rev. Vernon Gordon



Rev. Brenda Harewood



Rev. Dr. J. Michael Sanders



Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart



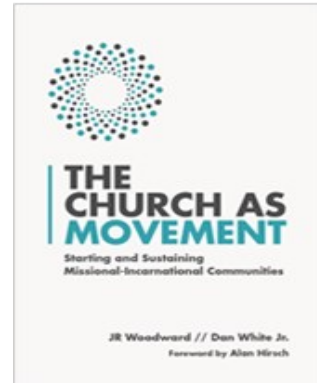
Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr.

“This study will offer us a realistic, tangible and achievable guide to creating missional-incarnational communities”

Energizing Study

The Church as Movement

Most of us would agree that there is a cultural shift taking place in our churches today. The 21st century church may appear to be similar to the church of our parents and grandparents. However, the social and cultural changes taking place today seem to be creating a silent transformation. We see this happening and see these changes, but we may not understand what our next steps should be. We must first EMBRACE and engage in honest dialog and admit that we have identified that there is a shift taking place. This is an opportunity for those of us in leadership to openly identify the shift, engage and EMBRACE the opportunity and plan to be a part of the “movement”. Our focus then, should be shifting from some of our conventional and sometimes obsolete practices to engage, EMBRACE and return to the biblical basics. Jesus called us to first become disciples, to go ye therefore” to make disciples, and equip them to make disciples.



In order to create a missional movement, we should assist in leading our congregations to advance the kingdom and continue to share the good news. If we are following the practices of Jesus to create missional communities, we have then begun to build a missional-incarnational movement. By expanding our discipleship practices first in our churches, then beyond the boundaries of our four walls and our city blocks, we can begin to see the evidence of creating a missional movement.

Our Mission Education book for the 125th Lott Carey Annual Session is [The Church As Movement](#) by JR Woodward and Dan White Jr. This study will offer us a realistic, tangible and achievable guide to creating missional-incarnational communities. This will help us to be able to better serve others, help to meet the needs of those who are hurting, hungry and marginalized. Jesus commanded that we should GO. Today we EMBRACE this opportunity to expand our witness and offer the love of God around the world.

Contributed by **Deacon Brenda Kennedy**
St. Paul Baptist Church
Charlotte, NC

Fervent Entreaties

Morning Prayer — Martha Murphy Prayer Corner

Editor’s Note: The Morning Prayer service is a storied tradition of Lott Carey sessions. In keeping with that tradition we share this prayer with you in what we call the “**Martha Murphy Prayer Corner.**”

Creator of All,

You have connected all humanity inextricably, in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the relationships we nurture. Thus as we intercede for our siblings we are praying for ourselves.

Grant, we pray:

- Restoration from destruction and displacement due to spring floods in South Africa and the will to resolve the climate crisis.
- An end to the siege of Ukraine, that devastates lives there, and ripples to deprive Somalia and other nations of life-sustaining food.
- Relief from state, communal, and personal violence in the Philippines and gun violence in the United States, bringing health through stable and just governments.
- An experience of true revival in Sierra Leone, evincing sincere worship, love of neighbor, and openness to interfaith partnership for survival and well-being.

May the power of your Spirit, refreshing, renewing, convicting, convincing, leading and guiding course throughout this world.

In Christ we pray. Amen.

Contributed by **Rev. Dr. Leslie Callahan**
St. Paul’s Baptist Church
Philadelphia, PA



History Highlight

“Down through the years the attendance has been large, and the strength gained therefrom has helped in a telling way to keep the spiritual tempo of the auxiliary at normal. The untiring devout **Sister Martha Murphy** (Pennsylvania) has proved to be a God-inspired leader in such a service as this. In 1955, she gave up the responsibility as the leader, but is still and ardent participant.”

Mattie E. Rux, Ellen L. Alston
and Mary M. Ransome, Lott
Women’s Auxiliary

“[The] Jumping 4 Justice Double Dutch Revival raised \$12,000 for Women’s Empowerment”

Generation Next

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“Encouraging Generation Next” in October, and part three, Master Class, “Embracing Generation Next,” in November.

We intend to close out 2022 with this three part series plowing the ground for our Generation Next Forum in August of 2023.

WISE is blessed to be a blessing. The 31 Days of Prayer Team is at work developing the 2023 theme and securing writers. The WISE Administrative Team continues working on its Standard Operating Procedures. Stay tuned, we will be calling for more volunteers to help with the various phases of developing these procedures. Our Social Media Team continues to produce the Lott Carey Digital Couch the first Thursday of every month, while updating the WISE SALT group on Facebook daily. The 2022 theme for the Digital Couch is creating safe sacred spaces. Each month we have a special guest who shares their insights and strategies for ministry.

WISE continues to lead the **Lott Carey Monthly Prayer Call** focusing on the Sayings of Solomon as we pray for our international partners and the leadership the first day of every month. We are so grateful to the wise women of God who lead us each month. We continue to stand with women and girls victimized by gender-based violence. Our **Thursdays in Black** partnership with

the World Council of Churches and the Ecumenical Women at the United Nations is going strong. Women

are encouraged to wear black every Thursday, flooding various social media platforms with their pictures and their prayers. I continue to believe

together we are stronger. Serving and learning together affords us the opportunity to do more than we could ever expect or imagine, even in the midst of the pandemic.

Our **Jumping4Justice Double Dutch Revival** raised \$12,000.00 for Women’s Empowerment in May. I continue to say — what a mighty God we serve! On behalf of the entire WISE Administrative Team, I want to thank Rev. Emmett L. Dunn as well as Dr. Gina Stewart and her entire cabinet for their continued support. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the former WISE Presidents who continue to help carve out this new path in the midst of the pandemic. I also need to extend a very special thank you to Rev. Dr. J. Michael Sanders for all of his support. Last but not least, I want to thank each one of you for your faithfulness. It is because of your continued support of WISE that we can continue to support women and girls around the world. In the words of our sisters and brothers in India, Namaste!



Jumping 4 Justice Photo Album

A "Funraiser" for Kids of All Ages



Women in Service Everywhere

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Sis. Edna Goodman (VA)

Have an idea for a story? Interested in writing for the newsletter? Please send an email to WiseWomenlc22@gmail.com and let us know. We also welcome your comments and questions.

Newsletter Team

Managing Editor

Sis. Tisa Murray

Copy Editor

Sis. Lisa Glover

In Case You Missed It...

Meet faith-based trailblazers, key influencers, missions' partners and Lott Carey leaders on the Digital Couch, an original Lott Carey WISE live-stream broadcast. Join us the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm as our engaging host, Doriel Inez Larrier, discusses topical issues and challenges facing people of faith globally. The broadcast is live-streamed on the Lott Carey WISE Facebook page and Lott Carey TV on YouTube. Here are the most recent episodes of the Digital Couch. Check them out!

July 7

Rev. Dr. Carol Lynn Patterson

Assoc. Pastor, First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Somerset, NJ

<https://www.facebook.com/doriell/videos/1184218592146187>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UlbY_giGAeA

April 7

Rev. Dr. Stacy Dandridge

Director, Media

Christ Missionary Baptist Church

<https://www.facebook.com/doriell/videos/1138603960229226>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eD_bfA_SgM

May 5

Pastor M. Queeni Green

Founder and Pastor, Rivers of Life Church

<https://www.facebook.com/doriell/videos/563731115016849>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27A4HgE7clw>



A WORD TO THE WISE
DIGITAL COUCH

