Young Adult Missionary Society ~ Historical Review

The vision of the Young Adult Missionary Society began in August 1975 when Dr. Willa Mae Rice, then General President of the WH&OM Society, brought a resolution to the 18th Quadrennial Convention held in Los Angeles, CA to establish a department for women ages 27-40. The resolution was not adopted, but in 1979 at the 19th Quadrennial Convention held in Miami, FL, the delegates voted to bring the Y.A.M.S. in under the umbrella of the Parent Body.

However, in 1983 at the 20th Quadrennial Convention in New Orleans, LA, the YAM Society was adopted as the sixth Department of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society. Dr. Adlise I. Porter, the Second Vice - President, was appointed Coordinator of the Department by the Convention. Through her spiritual gifts, Dr. Porter developed the structure of the Department which included writing the operational guidelines for the Department's Thematic Bible Studies, Social Concerns Projects, motto, colors, and theme song. Prior to the 22nd Quadrennial Convention held in New Orleans, LA, the YA.M.S. Anniversary Day was called "Willa Mae Rice Day". It was during this Convention that a resolution was adopted to change "Willa Mae Rice Day" to "Founders' Day" to honor Dr. Rice as Founder and Dr. Porter as the Organizing Coordinator.

In 1991, at the 22nd Quadrennial Convention, Mrs. Joann B. Holmes became the first elected General Coordinator. During the 23rd Quadrennial meeting, a resolution was adopted to change the ages of Y.A.M.S from 27-40 to 22-40. To chart the course of the Y.A.M.S. into the 21st century, Mrs. Sandra B. Crowder was elected 3rd General Coordinator at the 24th Quadrennial Convention in Dallas, TX. In 2007, at the 26th Quadrennial Convention in Orlando, FL, Mrs. Dawn L. Walker was elected the 4th General Coordinator of the Y.A.M.S. In Orlando, FL, Dr. Joy L. Kennedy, was elected the 5th General Coordinator. During the 29th Quadrennial Convention, a resolution passed changing the title from General Coordinator to Connectional Coordinator. Recently, at the 30th Quadrennial Convention, Ms. Karlease M. Smalls was elected as the 6th Connectional Coordinator of Y.A.M.S., in New Orleans, LA.

Y.A.M.S. MOTTO

"With hearts and hands,
We reach up to God for strength and direction.
We reach out to love and touch others.
We reach down to lift fallen humanity."

Young Adult Missionary Society
43rd Anniversary
1983-2026
Founders' Day Observance



November 14, 2026

2023-2027 Quadrennial Theme:
Reaching the Masses in an Ever-Changing World:
The Journey Continues!

~ Empathy & Compassion ~

Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society
The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

(Your Name)
District Coordinator of the Y.A.M.S.
Ms. Karlease Smalls
Connectional Coordinator of the Y.A.M.S.
Mrs. Sandra Crowder
International President of the WH&OMS

Order of Worship

_____, Presiding

Processional

Call to Worship (Psalm 103: 13; 19-22)

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his Kingdom rules over all. Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the Lord, my soul.

Invocation

Hymn of Praise "*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*" (BH #29)

Responsive Reading

Leader: In a world inflicted with hatred and division

People: Lord, use our hearts and hands to spread empathy and compassion

Leader: As we reach out in our communities and connect with individuals who come from different paths of life

People: Let us love one another as Christ loved us

All: Lord, help us to be completely humble, gentle and patient, bearing with one another in love as we win the world for Christ

The Gloria Patri

The Affirmation of Faith

The Scripture Lesson 1 Peter 3: 8-12 *(NIV)*

Prayer

Choral Selection Option: William Murphy "Compassion"

Founders' Day Tributes to Dr. Willa Mae Rice and Dr. Adlise Ivey Porter

Offertory

Introduction of the Founders' Day Messenger

Sermonic Selection: Mississippi Mass Choir "Your Grace and Mercy"

Founders' Day Message:

Theme: "Empathy & Compassion"

Invitational Selection "The Story I'll Tell" Maverick City Music

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Remarks

Missionary Benediction

"God be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us and give us peace." Amen.