

# LAY LIFE AND WORK

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST			
COUNCIL FOR		LAY LIFE AND WORK	

NEW VENTURES

MEN'S WORK

WOMEN'S WORK

MIDDLE	ATLANTIC	REGION
Puerto Rico	Pa.	Md.
N. Y.	Del.	W. Va.
N. J.	D. C.	Va.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE	
COMMITTEE FOR LAY LIFE AND WORK (6)	

SHENANDOAH ASSOCIATION

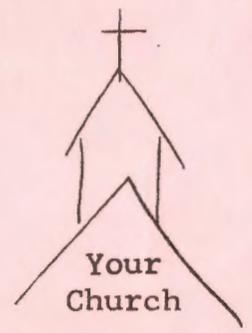
CATOCTIN ASSOCIATION

CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATION

POTOMAC ASSOCIATION

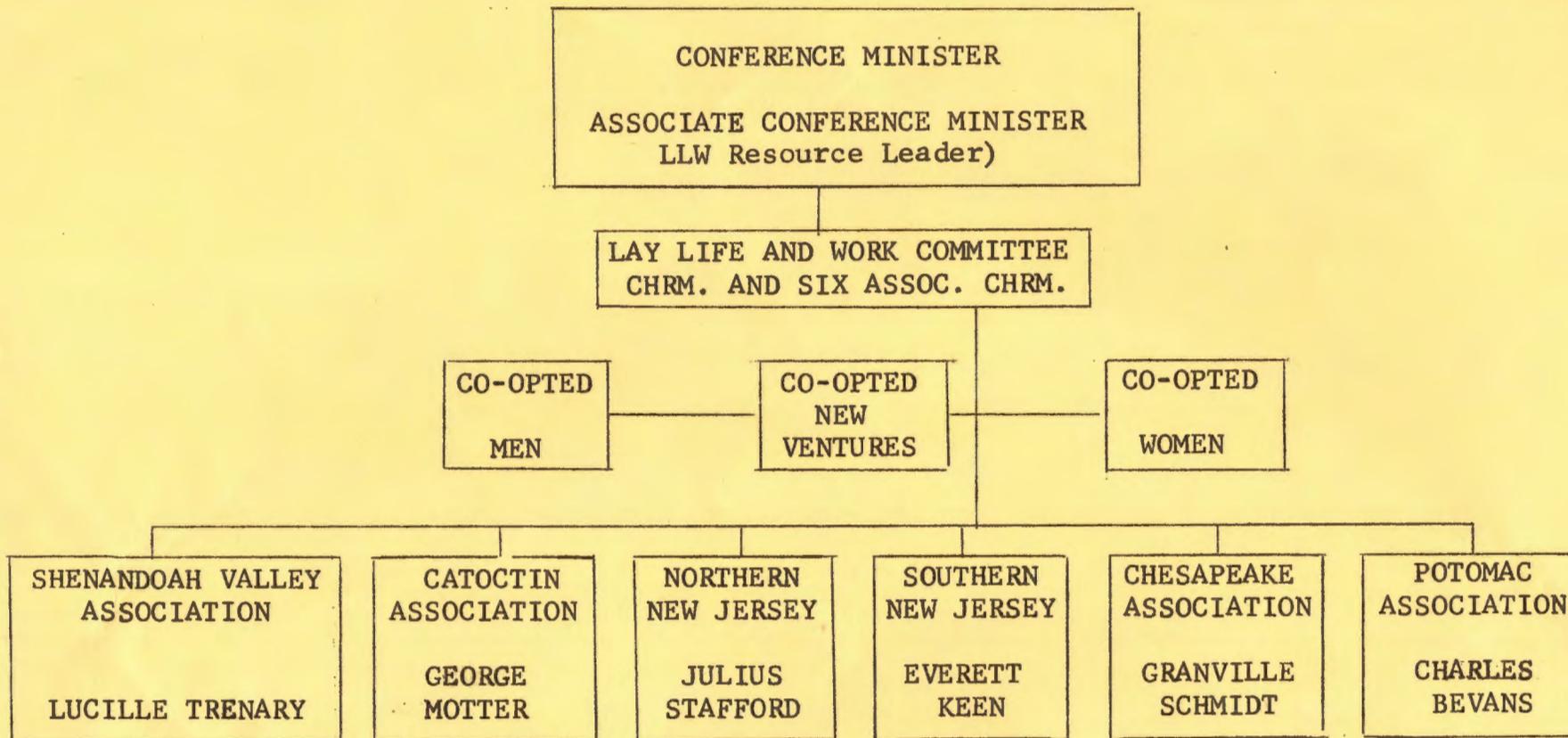
SOUTHERN N.J. ASSOCIATION

NORTHERN N.J. ASSOCIATION



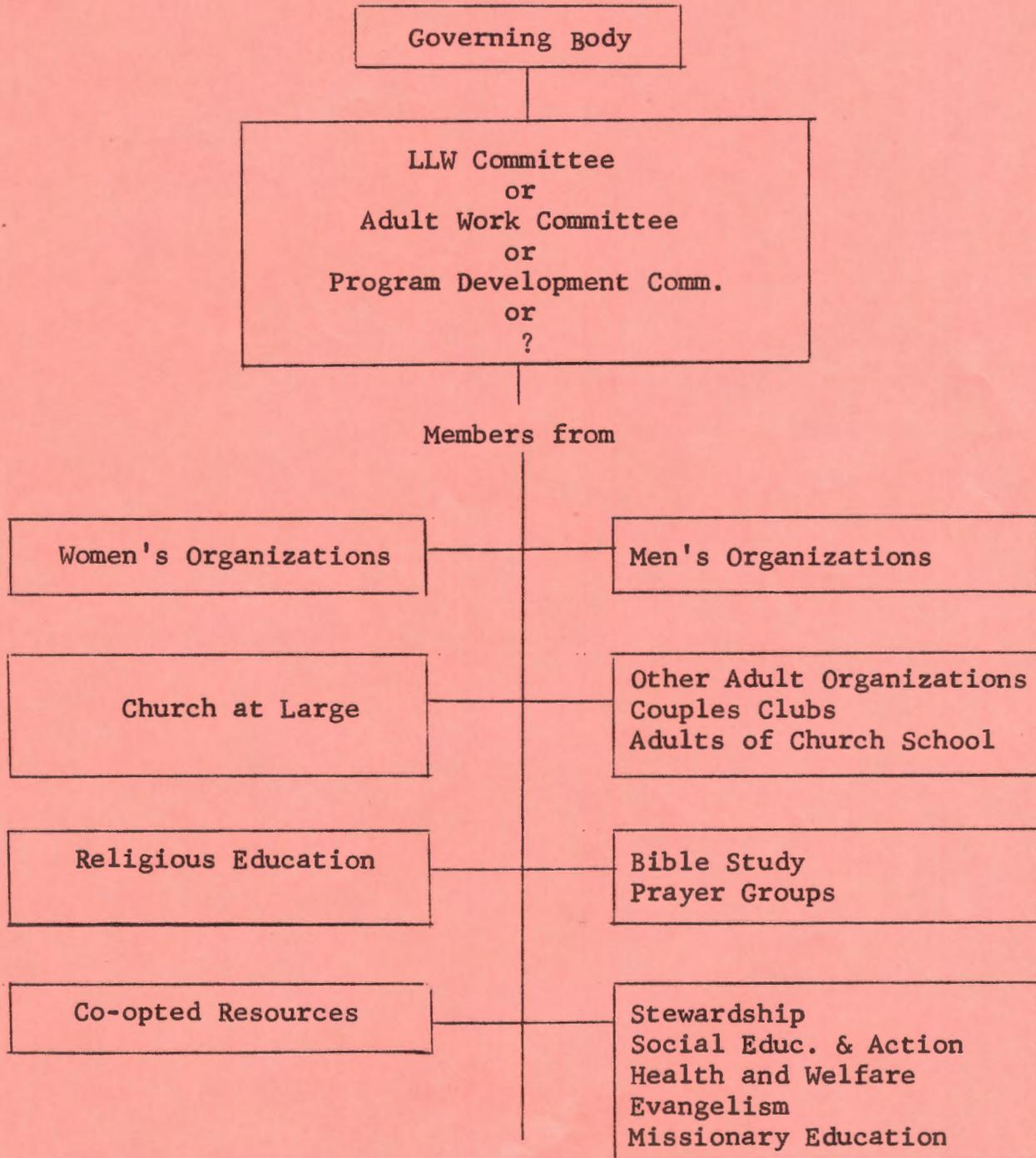
Responsibility of your local Lay Life and Work Committee

1. New Ventures for Adults
2. Men's Work
3. Women's Work



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LOCAL CHURCH



PHILOSOPHIES  
of the  
LAY LIFE AND WORK COMMITTEE (LLWC)  
of the  
CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

- ? DID YOU KNOW . . . That Lay Life and Work is not a new organization but a new MOVEMENT within the United Church of Christ. It is more concerned with MISSION than with missions. It is more interested in creativity than in uniformity. It is more concerned with what happens to persons than with what happens to old, familiar programs and structures.
- ? DID YOU KNOW . . . That the LLWC is primarily an instrument to aid local churches in developing and coordinating programs to help the laity deepen and strengthen their own Christian witness.  
The LLWC sees its task as working with pastors and with other Conference Committees to cultivate a better understanding of the mission and purpose of the Church; to help coordinate the various facets of our church life; to keep the Church-at-large aware of the needs and the potential of the laity; and to cooperate with other responsible bodies in planning learning opportunities to train laymen and laywomen for wider participation in the Church's ministry in both the church and the world.
- ? DID YOU KNOW . . . That the LLWC will not suggest a common organizational pattern for all of the churches of our Conference because it believes that there is no one pattern which can be uniformly effective in every church. Guidelines will be available, but churches are urged to be experimental and to let organizational patterns grow out of their own needs and their own sense of mission. This is not a radical new idea because many churches were experimenting with new approaches long before the Council for Lay Life and Work was formed.
- ? DID YOU KNOW . . . That "perhaps more than any other U.S. Protestant body, the experiment-minded United Church of Christ is searching for a new style, testing means of modern evangelism to reach people who have lost touch with, and faith in, organized Christianity." (Time Magazine, 11/6/64) This calls for new types of ministry outside church walls, as well as renewal within. It implies that Christianity can no longer sit back and wait for people to join a formal service-every-Sunday church, but must actively seek them out--where they are. How? Probe, experiment, test, search, succeed, fail, try again.....

- ? DID YOU KNOW . .That the LLWC encourages each local congregation to undertake a serious self-study--both of its internal life and of its relationship to the community in which it is set; to appraise the needs of both; to measure its effectiveness in terms of today's needs rather than yesterday's record; to determine its mission today; and to base its future planning on these findings.
- ? DID YOU KNOW . .That organized men's and women's groups will probably be essential parts of an effective lay life and work program in most congregations. The LLWC plans to work with these groups, as well as with other types, in an effort to meet the new needs which have grown out of our changing environment.
- ? DID YOU KNOW . .That when serious self-study convinces a local church that it cannot fulfill its mission today without a complete change in its patterns and procedures, the LLWC expects to be able to offer resources, counsel and assistance to help in this undertaking.
- ? DID YOU KNOW . .That NO church can afford to stand still or to ignore the challenges of our day. These are strategic times --in both church and world. Our fathers had the courage to run risks and accept the cost of bearing witness in their day, and we are called to do no less.
- ? DID YOU KNOW . .That the LLWC doesn't ask churches to discontinue any current activities which are helping them to fulfill their primary mission. If you are doing a good job, keep it up--and strengthen and improve your program where you can. However, never do anything just because you've always done it! If it has no valid purpose today, perhaps it ought to be discontinued.
- ? DID YOU KNOW . .That the LLWC is concerned about ALL men and women in the churches and not just those currently belonging to the men's and women's groups. At present, over half of our adult church members are not interested or involved in any organized group within the church.
- ? DID YOU KNOW . .That the LLWC believes that ALL Christians are called to minister, and that churches have an obligation to help them fulfill their ministry by finding ways to relate members to one another and prepare them for their mission in the world. Have you considered the formation of new interest groups and task forces to challenge those not presently involved? New kinds of activities geared to their special interests . .

and skills may uncover a whole new source of leadership in your church--and bring in others who could not be reached by traditional approaches.

? DID YOU KNOW . .That the LLWC feels a special obligation to help acquaint the laity with what our churches are doing together through OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION, and to encourage personal participation as well as financial support. Program Opportunities for Adults suggests resources for both study and action. How does YOUR church see its mission to the community around it? How does it see itself in relation to the work which our churches do together through OCWM?

? DID YOU KNOW . .That the LLWC recognizes the key role of the pastors in helping the laity to work toward these ends, and seeks to support and encourage them at every point as they endeavor to lead their congregations into a deeper sense of stewardship and mission. it also recognizes the need to help church members see the value of disciplining themselves within the framework of the denomination, and seeks to encourage their willing participation in the committees and programs of the local churches, the Associations, the Conference and the United Church of Christ.

? DID YOU KNOW . .That Program Opportunities for Adults, compiled annually by the Council for Lay Life and Work in consultation with the other instrumentalities, is recommended as one of the best tools available to help groups of lay people discover their own mission. It is a resource library, containing tools for many purposes. Pastors who have explored and used POFA recommend it highly. The LLWC stands ready to help lay leaders learn to use it more effectively. (Table of Contents and Order Blank available on request.)

## GUIDELINES FOR A COMMITTEE OF THE LAITY IN A LOCAL CONGREGATION

There is a need in our churches today to rethink the role and place of the laity. The mission of the church and our changing culture keeps before us the need for being christian in our daily lives.

In order that this may be done effectively the following suggestions are offered as a guide for local congregations.

### A congregational committee of the laity

1. A committee of not more than 12 members appointed by the local church council.

The following are suggestions for people who might serve on this committee:

Representatives of men and women's groups  
Representatives from any other organized adult group within the church  
such as: Church School Classes  
Special interest groups  
Bible study and prayer groups  
A member of the church council  
The pastor  
Representatives of the congregation at-large -- someone not involved in any of the above groups.

2. If your church has an adult section of its committee on Christian Education this committee could be expanded to include the above and serve as the committee of the laity.

### Responsibilities of the committee of the laity

First -- The committee's responsibility would be to seek together the mission of their church. It needs to ask and answer the question, "What is the mission of our Church?"

Several books that could be used as a study book to interpret the mission of the church are as follows:

Household of Power -- Oliver Powell  
Company of the Committed -- Elton Trueblood  
Call to Commitment -- Elizabeth O'Connor  
\*Salty Christians -- Hans-Ruedi Weber

Second -- The committee should examine their own commitment and dedication to its church's mission and ask the question, "What is my responsibility as an adult in this mission?"

Resources: Call to Commitment -- Elizabeth O'Connor  
Miracle of Dialogue -- Reuel Howe

Third -- The committee should evaluate all the work the adults are now doing in the local congregation in the light of their previous discussions and discoveries. They need to ask the question, "Are these groups

organized for mission or are they just organized?"

Resources: Manual for Adults - Walter Dobler  
(Study Guide for this is the blue divider sheet  
marked "A" in Program Opportunities for Adults)  
(Keyed to 1963-64  
Program Opportunities  
for Adults) The Laity -- Helen H. Smith  
(in section "E" of Program Opportunities for Adults)  
Section II of To Serve His Kingdom  
(A six session study course for the local church on  
Our Christian World Mission - Prepared by the  
Stewardship Council)  
Handbook for using the Biennial Emphasis - "The Church -  
A Learning and Witnessing Community" - Section on  
"Let's Take An Honest Look At Ourselves".

Fourth -- The committee should explore ways in which the adults may become involved in its church's mission. They need to ask the question, "What should the adults in our congregation be doing as a 'body of Christ'?"

Resources: Ventures in Lay Life and Work - Section "E" of  
Program Opportunities  
Call to Commitment -- Elizabeth O'Connor  
New Life in the Church -- Robert Raines  
The Ministry of the Laity -- Francis Ayres

Fifth -- The committee should experiment with some of the ideas and dreams they have developed during their discussions. Every local congregation needs to be courageous, to venture forth in faith and trust with a deeper understanding of their church's mission and in the needs of the adults of their congregation.

If the committee feels the organizations their congregation now has are fulfilling its church's mission, it should continue them. They should be strengthened by the support of the entire congregation.

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The appointed committee or any group of interested adults could spend one or two days in retreat. The people attending should read at least one of the suggested books (above) as personal preparation for study and discussion.

During the retreat small groups should discuss the five responsibilities and questions mentioned above.

A suggestion for a bible study to be used during the retreat would be:

Salty Christians by Hans-Ruedi Weber

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All books mentioned above may be purchased through The United Church Book Stores

Program Opportunities may be purchased for \$4.00 from Central Distribution Service, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102.

\*This bible study will be included in the 1964-1965 issue of  
Program Opportunities for Adults

LAY LIFE AND WORK --- CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name of Church
2. Do you have a combined Adult Group? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Do you have an active Men's Group Organization? \_\_\_ \_\_\_  
Do you have an active Women's Organization? \_\_\_ \_\_\_
3. If Yes--Give name and address of the Chairman.
4. About what percent of the adults in the church take part in the program?  
(Check one) 20% \_\_\_ 30% \_\_\_ 40% \_\_\_ 50% \_\_\_ 60% \_\_\_ 70% \_\_\_ Over 70% \_\_\_
5. Is your church interested in achieving greater adult participation?  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Under Study \_\_\_
6. If yes - Give name and address of person who will act as the local contact person to discuss future planning with the LLWC.
7. Are the leaders in the church familiar with the new "Program Opportunities for Adults"? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
8. How many copies of POFA are available and used in your church?  
(Check one) 1 \_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_ Over 6 \_\_\_ None \_\_\_
9. Is your church interested in having the LLWC meet with your organizations?  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
10. If yes--In what area or areas can the LLWC assist?  
(Check one) Interpret LLW \_\_\_ Self-Study \_\_\_ Special interest groups \_\_\_  
Planning workshops \_\_\_ Resources available \_\_\_ Material Aids \_\_\_ OCWM \_\_\_  
Program development \_\_\_ Rethink the Role of the Laity \_\_\_ Examine mission  
of the local church \_\_\_ Consultation on Women's Programs \_\_\_ New  
Ventures \_\_\_ Evaluate church organizations \_\_\_ Consultation on Men's  
Programs \_\_\_

*Our Christian World Mission*

LAY LIFE AND WORK COMMITTEE

Central Atlantic Conference  
United Church of Christ

Resource Persons

<u>NAME &amp; ADDRESS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE NO.</u>	<u>VENTURE</u>
Allen, Donald (Chairman, Lay Life & Work Committee of Central Atlantic Conference ) 114 Quincy Street Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015	301-OL 6-2318	Lay Life & Work Especially procedures for self study in Local Church
Bach, Miss Madeline (Executive Secretary, Lay Life & Work, Middle Atlantic Region) 1505 Race Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102	215-568-3950	Lay Life & Work
Bartholomew, Rev. Gilbert 17 Bond Street Westminster, Maryland 21157	301-TI 8-5975	Christian Education
Benchoff, Mrs. Guy 603 South Main Street Woodstock, Virginia 22003	703-280-1670	Lay Life & Work
Bevans, Charles 2221 North Madison Street Arlington, Virginia 22205	703-KE 8-5036	Lay Life & Work
Bright, Rev. James 4347 Arlington Boulevard Arlington, Virginia 22203	703-JA 8-0937	Our Christian World Mission
Hoerichs, Mrs. Gardner 204 South Augusta Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21229	301-MI 4-8208	Lay Life & Work
Huffendick, Harold 15 Greendale Place Greenbelt, Maryland	301-GR 4-6135	Lay Life & Work Especially experience in New Ventures in Local Church
Hurst, Rev. & Mrs. A. W. 202 West Mt. Pleasant Avenue Livingston, New Jersey 07039	201-WY 2-7232	Lay Life & Work
Keen, Everett 433 Melrose Avenue Middlesex, New Jersey	201-EL 6-5222	Lay Life & Work

<u>NAME &amp; ADDRESS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE NO.</u>	<u>VENTURE</u>
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Schmidt, Granville 3850 Elmley Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21213	301-732-4824	Lay Life & Work
Stafford, Julius 30 Grand Street Little Ferry, New Jersey 07643	201-DI 3-4162	Lay Life & Work
Strunk, Mrs. L. N. 52 Broadway Hagerstown, Maryland 21740	301-739-1196	Lay Life & Work
Trenary, Mrs. T. F. 36 Jackson Avenue Winchester, Virginia 22601	703-662-5956	Lay Life & Work
Wyatt, Rev. Kenneth 2A Hillside Road Greenbelt, Maryland	301-GR 4-6171	Christian Social Education and Action