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 YAMS 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 Woman's Home and Overseas Missionary Society. Dr. Adlise I. Porter, the 2nd 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 operational Guidelines for the department's Thematic Bible studies, Social Concerns Projects, motto, colors, and theme song.

At the Quadrennial Convention in 1987 held in Boston, MA, the structural components were adopted for use on the general, district, and local levels of the Y.A.M.S., and subsequently ratified by the General Conference. Also, the title of "Coordinator" was given to the general, district, and local leaders of the Y.A.M.S. Prior to the 22nd Quadrennial Convention held in New Orleans, LA, the YAMS 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 Founder's 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 and was re-elected in 1995 at the 23rd Quadrennial Convention in Detroit, MI. 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 General Coordinator at the 24th Quadrennial Convention in Dallas, TX. At the 26th Quadrennial Convention in Orlando, FL, Mrs. Dawn L. Walker, became the 4th General Coordinator of the Y.A.M.S

Most recently, on July 30, 2015, during the 28th Quadrennial Convention in Orlando, FL Dr. Joy L. Kennedy was elected as the 5th General Coordinator of the Young Adult Missionary Society.

Young Adult Missionary Society
Founder's Day Observance
November 2016

Congregational Invocation
Divine Creator, we ask that Your Light and Truth meet us here. Inspire our hearts with the challenge of missions at home and abroad. Renew our zeal to be witnesses for Thee. In the Name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Y.A.M.S. Theme Song

"Our Promise, Praise, Petition"

Litany of Self-Examination

Leader: O Lord, open thou our eyes, that we may see ourselves as thou seest us; in Thy Mercy show us the evil that is in us, and cleanse us by Thy mighty power. From irresolute purpose, from unchastened desires, and from a weak and wavering will.
People: Good Lord, deliver us.
Leader: From slackness and indolence, from indifference to the treasures of knowledge, and a refusal to use the gifts with which thou has endowed us.
People: Good Lord, deliver us.
Leader: From low ideals of life, and from thoughtless disregard of the influence of our conduct.
People: Good Lord, deliver us.
Leader: From pride and vanity and boasting, from self-assertion and self-seeking and blindness to the common will.
People: Good Lord, deliver us.
Leader: From dislike of criticism and love of popularity, and from unreadiness to do our duty at whatever cost.
People: Good Lord, deliver us.
Leader: From hastiness of speech and sullenness of temper, from readiness to think the worst of others, and from all unseemly and unworthy conversation.
ALL: Good Lord, deliver us.

Scripture Lessons Romans 12:1-2

Congregational Prayer
Heavenly Father, blot out, we beseech Thee, our past transgressions; forgive us our frequent negligence and ignorance; and lift us up to new energy of mind and devotion of heart that we may have strength to persevere even to the end, through success and failure, through good report and evil report. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ and for His sake. Amen.

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

Recitation of Y.A.M.S. Motto

Introduction of the Founder's Day Messenger

Song

Founder's Day Message

Offering
Blessing of Offerings and Food

Table Talk Fellowship

Remarks

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

*Reference – Y.A.M.S. Founder's Day Observance program outline as printed in the A.M.E. Z. Book of Worship.

Y.A.M.S Theme Song

"Our Promise, Praise, Petition"

Written by: Adlise I. Porter

Londonderry Aire-Irish Traditional

I

We pledge our all in service to the master,
We'll give to Him our best in every way.
The road is hard, Lord keep us from disaster.
And guide our feet, lest we should go astray.

O, thank you Lord
for the many ways that you can bless.
And calm our hearts when life seems all "up hill."
Keep us forever in the path of righteousness
Give us the faith we need to do your precious will.

II

Too many hearts
don't know your love and eminence,
Many the naked, hungry suffering soul.
O, make us vessels of your great omnipotence,
To show them that
Your power can make them whole.

Our world is full of pain and tribulation.
Satan is there to quickly take control.
But Lord with You; We'll conquer every opposition
Teach us to let; Your Holy Spirit flood each soul.

III

And then one day
this rugged journey's end will come.
We'll join the saints who labored long ago.
We'll have to stand before You in Your Kingdom.
There to be judged for deeds done here bello'.

Oh, Gracious Lord, forgive the times that we did err.
So that the record will be white as sno'.
And may we hear; You say: "My children enter."
Where we shall dwell with thee forever more.
A-men.

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."

Table Talk Topics

1. At this point in time, what area do you feel needs the most attention in your spiritual transformation process—your mind, your body or your spirit? (2015-19 Study Guide, p. 36)

2. How are you offering yourself as a living sacrifice? Through family, work, church, and the community? (2015-19 Study Guide, p. 47)

3. What steps are you willing to take to live out God's original plan and design for your life and for the sake of Global Missions? (2015-19 Study Guide, p. 47)

Founder's Day Observance

YOUNG ADULT MISSIONARY SOCIETY

1983 2016

November 2016

2015-2019 Quadrennial Theme:
"The Great Commission – A Global Outreach:
Personal Calling, ***Personal Transformation****,*
Personal Instruction, and Personal Commitment"

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

Dr. Joy L. Kennedy, PhD
General Coordinator of the Y.A.M.S.
Dr. Sandra L. Gadson, MD
International President of the WH&OMS