A Piedmont Tribute to
Dr. Anna Thompson Mims
Our Conference Lay Advisor

Dr. Anna Mae Thompson Mims, nurtured in a Christian home and reared in the principles and doctrines of Methodism, is the second child of four, born to William Quincy and Dorothy Hamburg Thompson, and is a lifelong member of Kings Chapel AME Church, Pendleton, SC. Upon entering the teaching profession, thus relocating to Clinton, SC, she became an Associate Member of Friendship AME Church, Clinton, SC where she served as Church Musician, Adult Sunday School Teacher, Secretary of the Steward Board, and a Member of and an Advisor to the Local Lay Organization and the Local Women’s Missionary Society. She recently ended a long tenure as the Steward Pro Tempore of Friendship. She is a member of the Greenville District Lay Organization and serves as Advisor to both the Piedmont Conference Lay and the Seventh Episcopal District Lay Organizations.

Dr. Mims is the widow of the late Dr. JTW Mims, the First Seventh Episcopal District Lay President, elected in 1948, whom also established the Piedmont Conference Lay Organization and served as its first Conference President. Dr. Mims was also elected as a First Vice President of the Connectional Lay Organization. A true servant, Dr. JTW Mims was a member of the Board of Trustees of Allen University until his passing. He was a high school principal and a well-known church and civic leader. Because of his foundational work as a builder of the organized Laity, the JTW Mims Little Allen Star program was named in his honor, which the Seventh Episcopal District Lay Organization observes yearly showcasing the talents of the Allen Stars from across SC.

Dr. Anna T. Mims is a 1943 honor graduate of South Carolina State College (now University), Orangeburg, SC and a 1956 graduate of the Ohio State University Columbus, OH. She was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree from Monrovia College, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa, in 1988.

Dr. Anna T. Mims is a Retired English Teacher from Laurens School District 55. She was a prolific educator with over 40 years in a successful teaching career that spans from 1943 to 1985. After retirement, Dr. Mims served a term as President of the Laurens County Retired Educators Association, where she still holds membership as well as a member of the SC and the National Retired Educator’s Association. She also served as a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the South Carolina Retired Educator’s Association.
Prior to this merger, Dr. Mims held membership in the Palmetto Education Association, American Teacher’s Association, Laurens County Teachers Association serving as Vice President, Program Chair, Secondary English Chair, District Treasurer and a Delegate.

Dr. Mims is also a civic leader. She is a member National Council of Negro Women, the NAACP, and has served as Board Member of Laurens County Department of Social Services, Board Member Laurens County Hospice, Board of Laurens County Senior Options, Inc., Laurens County Community Concert Association, Member of the City of Clinton Appearance Commission, Democratic Precinct Vice President, Past Associate Matron of the Morning Glory Chapter #191 Order of Eastern Star, Ladies Auxiliary V.F.W. Post #5932, and a member of Laurens Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Like her husband before her, she also served as a member of the Allen University Board of Trustees for many years.

As a member of the Women’s Missionary Society, Dr. Mims has served as a Recording Secretary, Parliamentarian, and Conference Branch President of the Piedmont Conference WMS. Representing the Conference Branch, she was a delegate to numerous WMS Quadrennial Conventions. During her tenure of the Conference Branch President, she established the Gems of Love Award, awarded at the annual Conference Spring Banquet to a missionary sister who has given 30+ Years of Meritorious Service to the WMS. At the conclusion of her service as the Conference Branch President, she was appointed the Seventh Episcopal District WMS President and served for 8 years. She is currently a Life Member of the Women’s Missionary Society. The Piedmont Annual Conference twice elected her as a Delegate to General Conference of the AME Church, both in 1992 and 1996.

Dr. Mims has received numerous awards and recognitions for her exemplary service to both the church and the community. She is the epitome of grace, the personification of elegance, and the embodiment of strength. She is a pillar in the Clinton Community, the Greenville Area and District, the Piedmont Conference and the Seventh Episcopal District. We, the members of her conference, the Piedmont, salute her and thank her for showing us all what it means to be a phenomenal Christian woman.