



HELPING HANDS BULLETIN

~SPRING 2009~



LAY MINISTRY BELIEFS AND OBJECTIVES: THE FOUNDATION FOR ~YEARLY LAY COUNCIL PLANNING~



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MESSAGE TO LAY LEADERS AND LAY COUNCILS

As you complete your Annual Conferences, get a new and fresh start in creating your organization's action plan for the 2009-2010 conference year! You do have an "Action Plan" don't you? If you do, I encourage you to build on what you have done and if you don't, now is the time to get better organized with a focused plan of action. In June of 2007 I wrote a Program of Study entitled "How to Jump Start Your Lay Council". The lesson was designed to assist those lay councils who had lost their spark and/or who were attempting to get started for the first time.

This May 2009 "Helping Hands Bulletin" is written to further assist lay councils in *positive, orderly, and organized engagement* during regular meetings and carrying out effective and consistent ministry from one year to the next. If addressed and used with purpose, the content and spirit of this bulletin may be just what your organization needs!

SUGGESTED PROCESS OR APPROACH TO FORMULATING THE ACTION PLAN

- ❖ Just prior to or immediately after the new conference year, - assemble the lay council members together and discuss the Lay Ministry Objectives that the organization would like to focus on or address over the next twelve (12) months.
- ❖ Be purposeful in inviting and insuring the presence of the pastor and other organizational heads and/or their representatives. This alone will provide opportunity to begin the new conference year with a collaborative and inclusive spirit, thus helping to reduce conflict and misunderstandings.
- ❖ Discussion should be facilitated in a way that allows all who are present to feel a part of the process. Provide each person present with a copy of the Lay Ministry Beliefs and Objectives sheets, and the Action Plan form (pages 2, 3, and 4, of this bulletin).
- ❖ Discuss and share in a way that prompts the organizations to consider the objectives that will best assist in the needs, concerns, and overall life and witness of the local church.
- ❖ *Don't get bogged down with individual agendas* and don't choose more objectives to address for the year than is practical for the organizations energy and resources; focus on 3-5 objectives per year. Don't try to do it all in one session. Discuss to a point, explain what is needed for the next step and/or meeting and allow members to bring reflections and suggestions back to the next session.
- ❖ **If the Lay Council is serious about going from "Good To Great" through implementation of an action plan, the council and other organizations involved should establish a sound timeline (document and keep it updated regularly) throughout the processes for completion of any activities and projects. –It is very easy to get off track or behind schedule, especially when members have other responsibilities within the church and the Council only meets once each month.**
- ❖ Look for opportunities to team and collaborate with other church organizations.
- ❖ *If the leader provokes the members to stretch to greater limits, - he/she must get prepared to stretch with them!*

DEPARTMENT OF LAY MINISTRY BELIEFS

(1) STUDYING > Study to show oneself knowledgeable; be one who is continually growing in the understanding and the interpretation of the God's Word, and of the procedures, organizational structure, history, laws, and doctrines of the CME Church.

- **Thus**, laity and lay organizations should: **Study** the Holy Bible; **Study** the Discipline of the CME Church; **Study** parliamentary procedure; **Study** the history of the CME Church; **Support** the development of a vigorous teaching ministry.
- **Scriptural Foundation** > 2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth".

(2) SEEKING > Seek God first; seek out lost or misdirected souls. Seek out fellow lay men and women who may have become discouraged and now need a helping hand or a word of encouragement.

- **Thus**, - **Seek** to inspire other members to become more informed about the church; **Seek** to make Christian commitment increasingly more meaningful as it relates to a person's whole life; **Seek** to develop personal evangelism.
- **Scriptural Foundation**> 1 Corinthians 10:24 (NOB) "Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor."

(3) SHARING > Share and give back to God and his church a portion of that which only God, himself, can give. As laity we must accept the role of bringing about a greater awareness and commitment, among members, through the grace of giving.

- **Thus**, - **Share** in ways that will inspire others to become more informed about the committed to the church; **Share** personal treasures, time, and talent in the development of a tithing program; **Share** positive thoughts and encourage financial support of the Churches programs.
- **Scriptural Foundation** > Malachi 3:8-10 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! Yet you say, How have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings. (9) "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! (10) "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, "says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows."

(4) SERVING > The layman's role is that of a servant who models by precept and example.

- **Thus**, - **Serve** so that others may grow in confidence; support the development and growth of others; **Serve** in a way that promotes and maintains a good working relationship between pastor and laity.
- **Scriptural Foundation** > Ephesians 4: 11-12 "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists and some as pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ."

**“THE LAY MINISTRY OBJECTIVES”
“Make them come alive!”**

- 1. To study the Holy Bible**
- 2. To engage in ministries yet unfulfilled in the local Church**
- 3. To promote Christian Stewardship**
- 4. To study the Discipline of the C.M.E. Church**
- 5. To establish a sound financial system**
- 6. To inspire other members to become more informed about the church**
- 7. To assist in developing a tithing program**
- 8. To make Christian commitment increasingly more meaningful as it relates to a person's whole life**
- 9. To develop personal evangelism**
- 10. To develop a lay speaking bureau**
- 11. To study parliamentary procedure**
- 12. To study the history of the C.M.E. Church**
- 13. To maintain a good working relationship between pastor and laity**
- 14. To encourage financial support of the church's programs**
- 15. To develop a vigorous lay teaching ministry**

LAY COUNCIL

CME CHURCH

ACTION PLAN ~ 200__ - 200__

Objective	Belief(s)	Strategy(ies) [Make objectives come alive!]	Responsible Party(ies)	Date of Implementation	Planned Completion

SAMPLE

**LAY COUNCIL
PETTIE CHAPEL CME CHURCH
ACTION PLAN ~ 2009-2010**

SAMPLE

Objective	Belief(s)	Strategy [Make objectives come alive!]	Responsible Party(ies)	Date of Implementation	Planned Completion
(2) Engage in Ministries yet unfulfilled in the local church.	2,4	Reestablish the Career Development and College Preparation Ministry.	Miss K. Johnson, Lay Leader, Scholarship Committee	August 2009	On-going
(6) To inspire other members to become informed about the church.	1, 2	Partner with the Board of Christian Education to provide teaching and sharing sessions relative to the history, processes, and make-up of the CME Church at all levels.	Lay Leader, Christian Education Director, Pastor	September 2009	July 2010
(7) To assist in developing a tithing program.	2,3	In conjunction with the Pastor, provide teaching and insight into how one becomes a believing, faithful, and consistent tither.	Lay Department, Board of Stewards, Lay Council	August 2009	November 2009
(8) To make Christian commitment increasingly more meaningful as it relates to a person's whole life.	1,2, 3, & 4	Work to help increase Sunday School and Bible Study attendance among all age groups. SAMPLE	Sunday School Superintendent & Teachers, Pastor, Lay Council	July 2009	March 2010 SAMPLE
(9) To develop personal evangelism.	2,4	Partner with the Director of Evangelism in providing information, teaching, and training about how one shares his/her faith with others. Begin neighborhood and community faith walks	Department of Evangelism, Pastor, Lay Council members	August 2009 October 2009	On-going