

The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Annual Spring Meeting
College of Bishops
And the General Connectional Board
April 29th – May 3rd, 2007

Protocol having been established, Mr. Chairman, I will read the report

Recommendations from the Committee on Ministry to Men

Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Chairman

Mr. Leo Pinkett, General Secretary

Bishop Ronald Cunningham, Presiding Prelate of the 8th Episcopal District was in attendance

Mrs. Princess Pegues, Vice President of Women's Missionary Council

On May 1, 2007 at approximately 5:30, Mr. Leo Pinkett began our meeting by sharing some highlights of his work during the first ten months of service in his new position of General Secretary of Ministry to Men. Mr. Pinkett shared from his report, the manifestation of God's hand; and His desire to bless the lives of men of all ages through the great work he has given him to do. He spoke about the positive impact that the visibility of men in the home, community, and the church will have on our young black men and women. We were greatly encouraged and inspired by the efforts of Mr. Pinkett thus far. The committee accepted and approved the report from the General Secretary of Ministry to Men with commendations!

Bishop Henry Williamson followed with words of encouragement and the focus this committee should take in relation to the Quadrennial Theme; Good to Great: The Jesus Challenge. We were encouraged to hear that the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is the first among African American denominations to initiate a ministry designed specifically to men at this level of the church. Bishop Williamson stated that as men, "we are village fathers," and as such we have a responsibility to our young black men as well as young black women; to nurture all of them and bring them up in the admonition of the Lord!

The members of the committee then engaged in a brain-storming session to generate other ideas to attract and retain men in the service of God through the Church. As a result of this brain-storming session; I am, we are honored to offer the following recommendations.

We the members of the Committee on Ministry to Men believe "the Church is the right place for this ministry to take place." Therefore, we recommend the following ideas for ministry to men be instituted in local churches or be used as springboards to develop other programs and events that will cause men of all ages to be actively engaged in the service of the Lord.

1. Develop a "**Rites of Passage**" process where the Church validates the lives of young men and says to them, "you are somebody." This should be developed for different grade levels; 3rd, 7th, and 12th. Immediately after the rites of passage; assign each participant an older adult male as a mentor.
2. Develop a **Male Emphasis Sunday** at least once per month depending on how often the church gathers for worship service. Men should be allowed and encouraged to participate in all aspects of the service of worship. This should be followed with a powerful sermon delivered by the pastor or some other male who understands the focus.

3. Develop a **Men's Recognition Day** where the church can honor at least one man from the congregation and at least one from the community. More men can be recognized if possible. Announce it early to allow for family and friends to be in attendance.
4. Work in connection with the Women's Missionary Council through the efforts of Mrs. Princess Pegues' **S.O.S. Save Our Sons** program and build on that resource.
5. Get and Stay excited about the men in your church and develop some out-of-the-box and cutting edge ministries such as: **Tailgate Sunday** for those who are close to college campuses; where the church gets as excited about being at church as we are about being at a college football game. Have services outside; have the men to bring their grills on the church parking lot and follow the worship service with a fellowship meal.
6. Develop an **All Males Bible** study and an all male retreat that will be interesting and will hold the interest of men. Make the biblical text relevant to the needs and concerns of men. [the secretary stopped reading here]
7. Target children from single-parent homes and bring them into the church and try to meet their needs. The church should be a resource.
8. Become an individual mentor—understand the Power of One. Don't wait to organize a group; go on by yourself; when someone calls and needs assistance; go.
9. Start prayer breakfast once per month for fellowship; bring in influential speakers from the community; use time to build one-on-one relationships with young men.
10. Have sleep-overs designed to provide opportunities for constructive dialogue and personality-building sessions.
11. Develop Covenanting groups and utilize the expertise of men to improve, build, or rebuild the church.
12. Be creative and don't be afraid to try something new!

Bishop Ronald Cunningham stated that men are Producers, Providers, Protectors, and Priests. These four P's should govern our lives and lifestyles in the home, church, and community. Bishop Cunningham also stated that as men, we must help our young men answer the four existential questions of life; Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? and How can I get there?

These springboard suggestions will meet the four broad areas of our Quadrennial focus: Discipleship; Leadership Development; Evangelism, Church Planting, Church Growth; and Ministry to Men. Prayerfully and respectfully submitted: The Committee.

Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Chairman
 Mr. Leo Pinkett, General Secretary
 Bishop Ronald Cunningham, Presiding Prelate 8th Episcopal District

Rev. John Ghee, 7th
 Mr. Travis Hicks, 9th
 Mr. Earl Bryant, 3rd
 Mr. James Wesley, 3rd
 Mr. Leroy Lindsey, 9th
 Mr. James E. Brown, 1st
 Rev. Anthony Alford, 6th
 Mrs. Princess Pegues, 4th
 Rev. Willie Dockery, Jr., 3rd

Mr. Tony Hall, 6th
Mr. Darryl Madlock, Sr., 8th
Rev. Charles Holbrook, 4th, Secretary

**Please visit the Ministry to Men's website at www.c-m-e.org and click on General Departments...

Name and email addresses for members in attendance.

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