

Resolution: A Department to Minister to Men

Whereas: There is growing concern throughout all of Christianity and within the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church specifically about the lack of male membership, participation and leadership in the church, the causes of which have been documented beyond dispute; and

Whereas: The unjust, racist and unequal social, economic and political conditions of the nation have made the African American men an almost endangered species with hundreds of thousands of black males emasculated, incarcerated, illiterate, irresponsible, abused and abusive; and

Whereas: The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church sorely needs but does not have a disciplinary, intentional, focused, effective and Bible based ministry to men, especially black men, which ministry is essential if the church is to begin to address in serious and realistic fashion the needs of men; and

Whereas: The Bishops of the church in the Episcopal Address prepared and delivered by Bishop Henry M. Williamson described in graphic manner this dire need and recommended a General Department with a full time General Secretary that would minister to men:

Be It Therefore Resolved: That the 35th Quadrennial Session and 36th General Conference of the Christian Methodist Episcopal establish a Department of Ministry to Men, provide budgetary support and elect a General Secretary for the same; and

Be It Further Resolved: That the Book of Discipline be amended to include the attached chapter containing authority and responsibility for such a department.

Respectfully submitted:

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Chapter 52

Department of Ministry to Men

¶ **1136.** There shall be in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church a Connectional department, which shall be responsible for developing and promoting throughout the church an effective Christian ministry to by men. The name of this department shall be, Department of Ministry to Men. The purpose of this department to the following:

§1. In the name of Jesus Christ help the C.M.E. Church minister to the needs and concerns of men in the church and communities in which the church is located.

§2. In wholistic ways address the chronic and systemic problems perpetrated upon African American men by unjust, racist and unequal social, economic and political conditions.

§3. In light of the Bible as God's Word, provide guidance, hope and inspiration to men to become more sensitive to God's will for their lives, better members of the church, and more responsible fathers, husbands and participants in the life of the community.

¶ **1136.1.** The department shall be administered by a General Secretary elected by the General Conference.

¶ **1136.2.** The Department of Ministry to Men and the General Secretary shall be supervised by a Standing Committee of the General Connectional Board in accordance with ¶ 1000.7 of the *Book of Discipline*.

¶ **1136.3.** The Department of Ministry of Men shall provide programs, strategies, curricula and resource that shall include emphases such as the following:

- §1. Systematic study of the Bible as the inspired Word of God.
- §2. Effective worship through participation and study.
- §3. Opportunities of Christian fellowship of men with other men.
- §4. Service projects within the church and community.
- §5. Bonding with other men in Jesus Christ.
- §6. Mutual support groups to meet the varied challenges of life.
- §7. Developing leadership potential.
- §8. Facing issues of male health and wholeness.
- §9. Responsible stewardship, personal finances and use of credit.
- §10. Community and political involvement and participation.
- §11. Mentoring & tutoring boys.
- §12. Transition ng boys to men.
- §13. Legacy and heritage appreciation.
- §14. Growth in understanding and appreciation for CME church.
- §15. Discovering and utilizing spiritual gifts.

¶ **1136.4.** There shall be a Regional Council on Ministry to Men that shall promote the church's ministry to men throughout the Region in conjunction with the programs and strategies of the Connectional Department.

§1. The Regional Council on Ministry to Men shall consist of at least three, but not more than five lay men of each Presiding Elder's District which shall be recommended by the Regional Coordinator and elected by the Annual Conference.

§2. The primary task of the Council is to seek ways to enhance the Region and local church in ministry to men, conduct workshops, seminars and learning sessions, and provide opportunities for C.M.E. men within the Region to interact with one another.

§3. The Ministry of Men within the Region shall be under the direction of a Coordinator of Men's Ministries, which shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop.

¶ **1136.5.** There shall be a Council on Ministry to Men in each Presiding Elder's District to enhance ministries to men within the District by promoting the program fostered by the Connectional department and Regional Council.

§1. The District Council shall consist of no less than five members appointed by the Presiding Elder in consultation with the District Coordinator.

§2. The program of ministry of men at the District level shall be under the direction of a Coordinator, appointed by the Presiding Elder and the District Council.

¶ **1136.6.** Local Council on Ministry of Men (cf.¶ 522).

¶ 525 There shall be in each church a Council on Ministry to Men (to be known as the MTM Council) that shall promote the ministry of the local church in serving the needs and interests of men in the church and community.

§1. The MTM Council shall consist of no less than five men named by the Pastor in consultation with the MTM Coordinator and confirmed by the Quarterly Conference.

§2. The Ministry to Men in the local church shall be under the direction of a Coordinator elected by the adult male members of the local church and shall be a member of the Quarterly Conference.

§3. The Coordinator and the MTM Council in conjunction with the Pastor shall seek ways to enhance the ministry of the church to men with special programs, training sessions, retreats, workshops and Bible study.