

Department of Ministry to Men

Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr. Chair

Dr. Leo Pinkett, General Secretary

May 5, 2009

Report and Recommendations from the Committee on Ministry To Men
Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Chairman and Presiding Prelate of the 9th Episcopal District
Dr. Leo Pinkett, General Secretary of The Department of Ministry To Men
Bishop Ronald M. Cunningham, Presiding Prelate, 9th Episcopal District, Absent
Mrs. Princess Pegues, Vice President Women's Missionary Council

Meeting was called to order at 3:57 by Bishop Williamson, minutes were approved as presented. Bishop Williamson presented General Secretary Dr. Leo Pinkett to give his report of his service during the past year.

Dr. Pinkett read his report from the 2009 book of Reports From The General Officers To The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Making his 3rd consecutive report, he stated that "activities on the mentoring front have seen growth not only in the youth, but major growth in the team pairing process for our young adults and adult population." He stated that the ministry has "seen an increase in attendance and involvement at all levels with more men getting engaged fully in the church business and ministries."

Dr. Pinkett also stated that "The male emphasis Sunday initiative has seen some growth both in the influence in the church's attendance as well as the impact it is having on the community as a whole."

The General Secretary ended his report by stating, "We celebrate and embrace the success of our ministry as we persevere to engage men of all ages to witness the goodness of God and His purpose for them in the life of the church."

Mr. Leroy Lindsey made the motion to accept the General Secretary's report with commendations; and Mrs. Princess Pegues seconded the motion was carried.

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented by Rev. Dr. Charles Holbrook and the motion was carried.

Recommendations from general secretary: "Putting action to the form." Keep The Ministry To Men informed of who can be of service to the efforts of the ministry. Dr. Pinkett visited the Union American Methodist Episcopal church, whose gender make-up is 65-35 female/male. He had chance to present this Ministry to Men at their Annual Conference and it was received with great enthusiasm. He has been invited back to their conference to make another presentation. The men and women of that church are looking forward to their engagement in ministry to men.

Dr. Pinkett stated that his travels have found there are many older men who have never been baptized and therefore have not been incorporated into the church. CME Ministry To Men has had opportunities opened up to astounding degrees, resulting in other men joyfully getting on board to engage in this ministry.

In the state of LA there was a great turnout and the result is the men returned to their churches excited to develop Men's Ministry in their churches.

Ministry To Men has assisted in filling out job applications for men who were and many still are unemployed, but 82% of applicants for jobs that were hired and put to work were

African Americans. This is the kind of information that needs to be given to this ministry so that it can better assist men in finding employment.

The Ministry To Men has operated within its budget for three consecutive years and only once has it gone over budget; and that was by a grand total of \$1.00.

Dr. Pinkett is now making plans to get into the state of Florida and organize a retreat in that state. Using a secular formula; "From the seats to the streets; From the streets to the seats; and from seats back to the streets;" he expects to experience great results. This is discipleship. Returning to the streets after equipping the saints; after making them disciples, is fulfilling the Great Commission.

The General Secretary also stated that for some reason; we don't have that many volunteers, so we have to ask. We should not be afraid to ask for help and we will be surprised how people; how men will get on board and help out. But we have to ask.

Bishop Williamson stated that the general secretary's report is a bit modest; especially on how much he has traveled. The number of retreats and the number of places he has gone needs to be known by everyone in the CME Church. It should also be noted that he has gone into another African American denomination and helped them to develop their ministry to men.

In addition, we should note the Ministry To Men's focus on men's health. The focus on men's prostate exams; encouraging men, who are usually reluctant to have certain tests done; to get themselves checked regularly by their doctors.

After this discussion, Bishop Henry Williamson called for the members of the committee to give a one minute presentation on what their churches have done to focus on men's health and ministry to men. He said that we should be solution-based relative to addressing the problems with our men. Marriage is important and we have to be pro-family and help to provide good men for our daughters to marry. We want to move forward in a way that our men will be fully equipped to be good husbands, good members of the church in leadership, and good members of our communities.

Bro. Leroy Lindsey offered a motion for the budget amount allocated for the Ministry To Men be taken back to the General Secretary of Finance and be increased during the 2010 General Conference.

Rev. Anthony Alford asked for a reasonable amount for the budget that would make Dr. Leo Pinkett's efforts more achievable. General Secretary Pinkett said an increase from \$20,000.00 to \$30,000 would be a great help to achieving the goals set by the Ministry.

Dr. Anthony Alford suggested that the department be brought to parity with the other departments in the church.

General Secretary Pinkett stated that he does not want to put a financial burden on the church so he makes a great effort to tap into grants, but the problem is that you have to be in certain places and positions, and that is difficult. But, he stated, "The lack of funds will not prevent the department from doing what it is going to do."

There was discussion on the budget by Mr. Ernest Taylor of the 1st Episcopal District, Rev. Willie Dockery from the 3rd District, Mr. Travis Hicks, from the 9th Episcopal District and Mr. Tony Hall from the 6th.

The motion made by Mr. Leroy Lindsey was clarified by Bishop Henry Williamson; "We are saying that the request for the Department of Ministry to Men will be for parity with the other departments of our church." The motion was carried.

General Secretary Pinkett has provided a list of the many places where he has traveled during the last 12 months.

- ❖ May 2008 First Episcopal District Lay Institute, Lane College, Jackson, TN; MTM Emphasis Workshop
- ❖ June 2008 Rock Of Ages, Augusta, GA - 6th Episcopal District/Male Emphasis Sunday
- ❖ June 2008 MTM Workshop, Sand Hill CME Church, Barnsville, GA; 6th Episcopal District
- ❖ July 2008 Dallas, TX; MTM Economic Summit - 8th Episcopal District
- ❖ July 2008 National Youth and Young Adult Conference, Orlando, FL 5th Episcopal District
- ❖ September 2008 CME Convocation, Knoxville, TN - 1st Episcopal District
- ❖ September 2008 MTM Retreat; Fresno, California; 9th Episcopal District
- ❖ October 2008 One-Church-One School Annual Conference, Dallas, TX - Facilitator - MTM Mentoring Focus; 8th Episcopal District
- ❖ November 2008 Rejuvenate Marketplace Meeting Planners Conference, MTM Department, Virginia Beach, VA; 7th Episcopal District
- ❖ November 2008 Pan-Methodist Commission Planning Meeting; Chicago, IL; 3rd Episcopal District
- ❖ November 2008 Tyler, Texas MTM Retreat; Lake of the Pines; Lake Palestine; 8th Episcopal District
- ❖ December 2008 Funeral Services for MTM District Leader, Brother Robert Thomas, Shreveport, LA; St. Luke CME Church, 4th Episcopal District
- ❖ January 2009 Third Episcopal District MTM Workshop, Detroit, MI;
- ❖ January 2009 Pastor's Conference, Atlanta, GA; 6th Episcopal District
- ❖ February 2009 Maryland CME Church, Lafayette, LA; 4th Episcopal District MTM Planning Retreat
- ❖ February 2009 Lay Banquet; Augusta, GA; Trinity CME Church; 6th Episcopal District
- ❖ February 2009 Let Us Make Man Annual Summit; Paine College, Augusta, GA; MTM Focus; 6th Episcopal District
- ❖ March 2009 Women's Missionary Council Executive Board Meeting; Jackson, MS; 4th Episcopal District
- ❖ March 2009 Pan-Methodist Commission Gathering; Wilmington, Delaware; St. John UAME Church; 7th Episcopal District
- ❖ April 2009 Men's & Women's Day Speaker; Gary, Indiana; Israel CME Church; 3rd Episcopal District
- ❖ May 2009 Third Episcopal District MTM Retreat; Bloomington, IL;
- ❖ May 2009 MTM Presentation; UAME; Union American Methodist Church; Lancaster, PA; 7th Episcopal District
- ❖ May 2009 General Connectional Board/CME Church; Memphis, TN First Episcopal District
- ❖ June 2009 * 7th Episcopal District MTM Retreat; Lebanon, PA

Presiding Elder Marandra Rivers stated her agreement with Mr. Leroy Lindsey's motion and concern for an increase in the budget for the Department of Ministry to Men.

Each of the members of the department presented what their churches are doing for Ministry to men:

Mrs. Princess Pegues of the 4th Episcopal District shared their efforts with “Save Our , Sons” and the scholarships awarded to six young college-bound men. Each has received a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00 for each semester. She also stated that young men have engaged in a walk through the Bible at St. Mary’s CME Church in Bastrop, LA.

Mr. Travis Hicks of the 9th Episcopal District shared their ministry’s efforts to produce caps, jackets, etc. that will identify the members of the Ministry To Men. There was some discussion relative to the colors that should be used. Mr. Hicks shared that Southern California had a joint retreat with Northern California. They use alternate locations and alternate the duties and responsibilities so that everyone gets to participate and share in the blessing. They also have a festival of male choruses and 2009 is the first year for a Minister’s Chorus.

Mr. Leroy Lindsey of Northern California spoke to a concern that the Methodist Men’s fellowship did not receive the recognition it is due. There should be a greater emphasis on the chain of command in more of our churches; and that we are called coordinators at all levels. We should utilize that pattern as we make things happen.

Elders Rivers of the Miami-Tampa Region of the 5th Episcopal District stated that their district conference had some events for Ministry to Men.

Mr. Arthur Boykins of the 2nd Episcopal District; Kentucky-Ohio Region stated that their district is doing a 5 year program with Murray State where a young man enrolls the church’s program while in 8th grade and upon completion, matriculates into Murray State for his education. They have also implemented male choirs in their churches.

Dr. Earl Bryant of the 3rd Episcopal District; Bloomington, IL stated that they are planning a second retreat. The Illinois Extension Program and male forum meets once per month and deals with everything that men should know about themselves and their relationships. Their group, The 49ers Alumni give of their time, money, resources, and give rewards to students of every grade and gender for work well done. They are also addressing black on black crime.

Bishop Williamson stated that Male emphasis Sunday will address this problem of crime and also many other concerns of our men. The MTM Manual can assist in this effort and will be put together and provided to the church by the General Conference.

Mr. Earnest Taylor of the 1st Episcopal District; West Tennessee Region thanked Dr. Pinkett for encouraging every district to engage in this most vital ministry to men. He stated that they had a retreat at Lane College that was very prosperous and beneficial for the attendees.

Rev. Willie Dockery of the 3rd Episcopal District shared that their region had a retreat that dealt with issues that men often avoid. They dealt with health issues and talked about finances. He stated that Bishop Stewart has asked their Quarterly Conferences to give reports on Ministry to Men and this has resulted in a significant increase in men participating in the church. Friendly challenges and friendly competitions have been generated between churches.

Mr. Daryl Matlock of the 9th Episcopal District Central Texas Region; shared they had a retreat and Dr. Pinkett was present, which ended with great results. Men became more committed to their local churches and more actively involved as a result. Men have even become greeters in the local church, especially to the women and children; caring for their safety as they leave their churches. They also serve at school crossings; being present and caring for their children.

Clyde Collins of the 1st Episcopal District; Arkansas Region shared that they have been engaged in what they call “House Cleaning.” In this ministry they go out to reclaim men that have left the church. The Male choir has partnered with a Baptist church in a Neighborhood Watch Program for the second year. They monitor the bus stops and have virtually ended the

fights and violence that often occurs at school bus stops. They are making efforts to involve more men in the community; encouraging other churches to get their men more involved with the Ministry To Men of St. Mary's CME church.

Rev. Tony Hall, of the 6th Episcopal District, Georgia Region shared that as an educator, he has created an atmosphere at his school where students are not afraid to come to the office to talk to him. Being able to relate to young people is important. Their church has purchased big screen TV's and have movie nights; ballgame nights; inviting everyone to come to their fellowship. They are moving forward on Tailgate Sunday. They have also established a male choir and have spread their efforts across district lines.

Dr. Anthony Alford of the 6th Episcopal District; Dr. Pinkett's pastor, stated that their church does a Back-to-School Jamboree to excite kids to return to school. They also have an annual celebration of 100 men in black where they honored men from the community and had Rev. Herman Skip Mason, as guest speaker.

Presiding Elder, Rev. John Ghee of the 7th Episcopal District is preparing for their first Ministry to Men's Retreat. Their ministries also include established scholarship for young men who are in school. Annual barbeque where men of other churches are invited to a cook-off; and this creates a friendly competition between chefs. And finally they have a Unity of Enhancement Ministry where men with certain skills with go into churches and repair damage.

Attorney Randolph Walker, 4th Episcopal District shared his excitement about the work of General Secretary Pinkett, and is in full support of this ministry. He also shared that their church is working with mentoring young men in North-East Mississippi. In this ministry, men mentor just one young man they are encouraged to stay with that young man until college graduation. All of the older men are encouraged to make regular contacts with their mentees.

Dr. Charles Holbrook of the 4th Episcopal District, Greenwood-Jackson District shared their Greek Sunday and how it makes for a large attendance and it attracts Greeks of all ages. They are still holding their 3rd Sunday Breakfast where a different guest speaker is brought in every month. The men cook and rotate the cooking every month so no one will be burned out. The men also are responsible for church security; and these responsibilities are also rotated each month! The men of Dr. Holbrook's church also had their first All Men's Choir Extravaganza in February and have approximately eight men's choirs to attend and participate. In addition, Dr. Holbrook has been serving as mentor and inspirational speaker for a year at Blackburn Middle School; speaking to the athletes from the Bible and relating the biblical text to athletics and their lives.

Bishop Williamson wrapped up by summarizing the things that were stated, tying them together and showing that by being just a little creative; our churches can develop effective Ministry to Men. He also encouraged the committee members to keep the fun going by being creative and thoughtful.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Dr. Leo Pinkett recommends our church start "Putting action to the form." Keep The Ministry To Men informed of who can be of service to the efforts of the ministry.

Dr. Leo Pinkett and the Committee members of the Department of Ministry to Men make the following recommendations:

A Ministry to Men manual be developed for review and evaluation at the 2009 Annual CME Convocation or the 2010 Pastor's Conference and ready for distribution at the General Conference in 2010.

Increase in general secretary's budget and travel amount.

All churches be diligent and develop a Male-Emphasis Sunday, and

There is a need for pastors, presiding elders, and bishops to name local, district and regional coordinators.

The following members were present at this meeting:

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|----------------------------|-----------------|--|
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Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Charles E. Holbrook, Sr.,
Secretary to the General Secretary