

Department of Ministry to Men
Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr., Chair
Dr. Leo Pinkett, General Secretary

MINUTES

Rev. Dr. Charles Holbrook, Secretary, read the following report:

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
Bishop Ronald Cunningham, Presiding Prelate of the 8th Episcopal District
Mrs. Princess Pegues, Vice President of the Women's Missionary Council

Meeting was called to order at approximately 3:45 as Bishop Williamson welcomed the members of the committee and spoke briefly about Ministry to Men and how important it is; how desperately needed it is. He emphasized the point that our methods of ministry should be focused on discipling and mentoring through activities such as fishing, golfing, sports, and any kind of activities that generate fun. He suggested that the fun should be generated for the entire church. Men should have a Male-Emphasis Sunday and be actively involved in the church services even to the point of giving the stewardesses a break. Men should take an active roll in inviting men to make a commitment to the Lord. Men should recognize men from all walks of life; lodges, fraternities, and other groups where men can be celebrated. This ministry should also celebrate historical men of the CME Church.

Bishop Williamson presented the General Secretary of Ministry to Men, Dr. Leo Pinkett. [The hardest working General Officer in the CME Church.] Mr. Pinkett presented his report from the Report of the General Officers. General Secretary Pinkett has traveled to every available location and district where the desire to gather men for spiritual enrichment, fellowship, and study would allow by time and schedule when invited. What he has found are God-given, God-anointed, and God-equipped men who are true leaders. "Their passions are wonderful clues to what God would have us to do for the men of our church and community. If we allow them to pursue their calling, they will be more engaged, the ministry will be more effective, and, best of all, more leaders will be attracted. This ministry will grow-naturally and in God's own time."

He talked about his visit to north-east Mississippi in the Holly Springs area and seeing the condition of Mississippi Industrial College and looking across the street at Rust College as they are building and growing; he implied a vision of restoration for Mississippi Industrial College. He expressed the reality of our connection and the need to realize how broad the connection is and what it means. We have so much potential and so many resources that we have tapped into.

Bishop Williamson called for acceptance of the General Secretary's report. Mr. C. J. Price made the motion that the secretary's report be received with commendations; Mr. Leroy Lindsay seconded it; the motion was carried.

Mr. Pinkett talked about the need for the presence of our men in our city schools and the need to get more information out about the opportunities for our young Black men to go to college free of cost. Our involvement in education is key to their success.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Tony Hall that this body recommends that a partnership be developed with The Black Male Project. It was seconded by Mrs. Princess Pegues and the

motion was carried.

Discussion was given about the need for clarity and what we can do specifically. Letters should be written to superintendents and requests be made to get into the school system. There are other approaches such as going to the principals and working through them. What other criteria will need to be met are questions of concern; background checks, etc. before men can go into schools. Background checks will be made.

ACTION: It was moved by Rev. Julio Andujo that local Ministries to Men partner with the One Church One School program to create a partnership at local schools to improve academic achievement, social behavior, and personal development of our students. The motion was carried.

Bishop Williamson asked if this can go on website? Yes; this is a world-wide effort. Black Male Project-CME Church's ministry to men. We are registered as a department of our church as a partner in this ministry. There are slots that must be filled and we have a slot already.

Bishop Cunningham arrived and was recognized and welcomed.

Bishop Williamson encouraged us to begin this initiative of men of our church making arrangements to be at our schools on the first day of classes in the fall; at the return of school after Christmas break, and for the last day of classes at the end of the school year.

General Secretary Pinkett stated that many parents are simply not able to be there as often for their children as they would like to be, so the men of our church could be a great benefit for them and our children.

Mr. Pinkett discussed men's participation in Sunday church schools and highlights of a discussion that was held at a Men's Retreat. He shared how an elderly gentleman shared his difficulty growing up and not having the experience of Sunday church school; but when he got the Sunday school experience; it made the transition from there to worship service much easier. We should use retreats to open up discussions for men to share their concerns, fears; to discuss manly issues, etc. in a comfortable setting.

There was discussion about increasing the number of Men's Retreats that have taken place across the connection. Mr. Pinkett suggested that we should not allow the cost of retreats be a hindrance to men being able to attend; but that the department leaders seek to have their retreats underwritten so that costs can be kept affordable for all our men. Be all-inclusive for all ages of men.

Bishop Williamson stated that we have not dealt with the sexuality identity well enough in our churches and in the Black community. We should also deal with pornography, gambling, incest, etc.

Rev. Willie Dockery suggested that there be a document or Ministry to Men Handbook that will aid churches in better developing local ministries. Mr. Pinkett stated that this department has asked each district to make contributions to be printed so that their efforts can be made available to other churches. This is being done; manuals from the 6th and 8th Episcopal districts have already been produced. Handbooks are being mailed out by contacting the General Secretary of Ministry to Men, Mr. Leo Pinkett. He also suggested that everyone get the books The Ships That Sail Us From Good To Great. Books that are written and published by the CME Church.

Rev. Julio Andujo recommended that all Ministry to Men Ministries refer to the list of ideas for ministry on page 26 of the 2007 Connectional Board minutes; as well as those found on the CME website, and use them to develop ministries for men in our local churches.

Bishop Williamson called for recommendations. The following are the recommendations from the Department of Ministry to Men:

#1. Each Episcopal District develop a Department of Ministry to Men and partner with The Black Male project. The intent is to encourage our men to be present for the first day of school in our communities in the fall of 2008, after Christmas break, and the last day of the school year. This is a program where black men can be visible in our schools and members of the (National Black Men Project).

2. [Rev. Julio Andujo made the recommendation] That local Ministry to Men Ministries partner with the One Church One School program to create a partnership at local schools to improve academic achievement, social behavior, and personal development of our students. The motion was carried.

#3. Ministry to Men should partner with Save Our Sons to increase or initiate male mentoring programs in every local CME Church and to provide scholarship aid for the Save Our Sons Program.

#4. We want to applaud all the bishops and Episcopal districts that have had retreats for men in our churches. And we recommend that those retreats continue; and where there have been no retreats; we encourage those districts to “Man-Up” and establish retreats for their men.

#5. Departments of Ministry to Men should adopt short-term projects working in communities repairing churches, and homes of elderly members; a worthwhile project that will build unity and strength among men. “Project Nehemiah” should be the name.

#6. That all Ministry to Men Ministries refer to the list of ideas for ministry on page 26 of the 2007 Connectional Board minutes; as well as those found on the CME website, and use them to develop ministries for men in our local churches. The direct link is, www.c-me.org/core/ministrytomen.htm.

#7. Let Ministry to Men serve as a referral for persons that are overcome by addictions of gambling, pornography, incest, etc., and refer them to local resource groups to help them deal with these pressing issues.

#8. A national compilation committee be established for the development of a Connectional Handbook. This compilation committee will be made up of representatives from each Episcopal district’s Ministry to Men coordinators; with said publication being available at the 2009 General Board Meeting, with recommendations to be adopted at that 2010 General Conference.

#9. A salute to our General Secretary of Ministry to Men for his due diligence. In the wisdom of the Chair of this committee, Bishop Henry M. Williamson and in concurrence of the committee’s membership; that our General Secretary, who within just two short years has directly impacted 3,729 men in retreats and workshops, and through the reach of each of those men; using a 4.2 multiplier, he has effectively impacted nearly 16,000 individual lives. This committee thereby recommends the highest salutation and commendation be extended to our General Secretary, Dr. Leo Pinkett, a recent recipient of Humane Letters of Texas College.

The meeting was closed by Bishop Williamson with prayer at 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bishop Henry M. Williamson

Dr. Leo Pinkett

Willie F. Dockery

Princess Pegues

Leroy Lindsey, Sr.

Dexter Harris
Ernest Taylor
John L. Ghee
Clyde Collins
Tony L. Hall
Anthony M. Alford, Sr.
Julio Andujo
C. J. Price, Sr.
Matthew Conyers
Earl Bryant
Darryl F. Madlock
Travis G. Hicks
Charles E. Holbrook, Sr.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR MINISTRY:

Greek Sunday – Invite Greek organizations to worship service and celebrate their community involvement. Give a spokesperson for the organization a chance to speak briefly about their organization during the service.

Celebrate the Men’s Sunday Church School class and bring emphasis to their presence and encourage young men to follow their leadership.

Establish “Man-Up” Ministries. Encourage men to step up and get more involved in the church and community.

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MTM should recognize men from other walks of life; lodges, fraternities, and other groups and celebrate them. Historical men of the CME Church should be celebrated also.

Bishop Williamson presented the General Secretary of Ministry to Men, Dr. Leo Pinkett. [The hardest working General Officer in the CME Church]. General Secretary Pinkett has traveled to every available location and district where the desire to gather men for spiritual enrichment, fellowship, and study would allow by time and schedule when invited. What he has found are God-given, God-anointed, and God-equipped men who are true leaders. "Their passions are wonderful clues to what God would have us to do for the men of our church and community. If we allow them to pursue their calling, they will be more engaged, the ministry will be more effective, and, best of all, more leaders will be attracted. This ministry will grow-naturally and in God's own time."

ACTION: Bishop Williamson called for acceptance of the General Secretary's report. It was moved by Mr. C. J. Price that the General Secretary of Ministry to Men's report be received with commendations. It was seconded by Mr. Leroy Lindsey and the motion was carried.

General Secretary Pinkett talked about the need for the presence of our men in our city schools and the need to get more information out about the opportunities for our young Black men to go to college free of cost. The involvement of men in education is key to their success.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Tony Hall that this body recommends that a partnership be developed with The Black Male Project. It was seconded by Mrs. Princess Pegues and the motion was carried.

The committee discussed the need for clarity in this partnership and what we can do specifically to get into the school systems. Letters should be written to superintendents and contacts should be made to principals and work through them. Background checks will be made.

Bishop Williamson encouraged this initiative of men in our church making arrangements to be at schools on the first day of classes in the fall of 2008; at the return of school after Christmas break; and for the last day of classes at the end of the school year. This will be a great benefit to parents whose schedules will not allow them to be present at their children's schools.

ACTION: It was moved by Rev. Julio Andujo that local MTM Ministries partner with the One Church One School program to create a partnership at local schools to improve academic achievement, social behavior, and personal development of our students. The motion was properly seconded and carried.

The committee discussed how the number of Men's Retreats that have taken place across the connection could be increased. Mr. Pinkett suggested that ministries not allow the cost of retreats be a hindrance to men being able to attend; but that the department leaders should seek to have their retreats underwritten so that costs can be kept affordable for all our men. Be all-inclusive for all ages of men.

Bishop Williamson stated that we have not dealt with the sexuality and sexual identity of Black men well enough in our churches and in the Black community; and we should also deal with pornography, gambling, incest, and other things that harm our families.

Rev. Willie Dockery suggested that there be a Ministry to Men Handbook that will aid churches in better developing local MTM ministries. This is being done; manuals from the 6th, 8th, and 9th Episcopal districts have already been produced. Handbooks are being mailed the General Secretary of Ministry to Men. He also suggested that everyone get the books The Ships That Sail Us From Good To Great. Books that are written and published by the CME Church.

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Respectfully Submitted: The Committee on Ministry to Men

Dr. Charles E. Holbrook, Sr., Secretary

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