

2009

**THE LAVENDER
BOOK**



**The Book of Resolutions
for the
14th Quadrennial Session
of the
CONNECTIONAL LAY INSTITUTE**

INSTRUCTIONS

Resolutions must be limited to three (3) paragraphs of preamble. Only the resolved portions of the Resolutions will be forwarded, if approved, to the General Conference for consideration by the General Conference as law in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. By submitting your resolution you agree to any necessary preamble and grammatical editing by our Resolutions Committee prior to review by the CONNECTIONAL LAY INSTITUTE.

All resolutions requiring changes in the wording and/or legal meaning of provisions in The Book of Discipline of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church Revised 2006 shall state the paragraph, section, page, and language of the passage to be changed and the language to be substituted.

RESOLUTION NO. 1
Duties of Stewards

Whereas Chapter 35, Section 511.2 of the 2006 Book of Discipline list the duties of the Stewards;

Whereas number 8 listed in this section states that Stewards are “To give advice, *if asked*, in planning the work of the church.”

Whereas the wording “*if asked*” is not insinuated or included in the other 16 listing in section 511.2 of Chapter 35;

And whereas Stewards by the nature and scope of the other duties listed, are expected to be involved in the work of the church that calls for their wisdom and advice:

Therefore Be It Resolved that, the words “*if asked*” be stricken from Chapter 35, Section 511.2, listing # 8 and changed to read as follows: To give advice in planning the work of the church.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Clifford L. Harris, Lay Leader
Oklahoma Region**

RESOLUTION NO. 2
The Lay Council

Resolved:

That the section named Department of Lay Ministry on pages 159-160, which reads...

Department of Lay Ministry

¶535. There shall be in each church a Department of Lay Ministry.

§1. The department shall be responsible for the program of lay ministry in the church in accordance with the objectives and structure outlined by the General Department of Lay Ministry. (cf. ¶1160 and ¶1165)

§2. Any member of the local CME Church who indicates a desire to do so may join the Department of Lay Ministry. Upon joining, such persons will be given a membership card.

§3. The department shall be under the direction of a Lay Leader elected by the Lay Department membership. The Local Lay Leader shall be a member of and subject to the Quarterly Conference. The Lay Leader shall preside at department meetings.

§4. The department membership shall elect other officers.

§5. The department shall establish the local chapter of the Christian Methodist Men's Fellowship. (cf. ¶1167)

§6. The department shall present a written report to the District Lay Department

§7. The department must observe Connectional Lay Day.

§8. The membership of the Lay Department shall elect delegates to the Connectional Lay Institute.

continued→

RESOLUTION
The Lay Council, cont'd

...Shall read:

The Lay Council

¶535. There shall be in each church a Lay Council.

§1. The Lay Council shall be responsible for the program of lay ministry in the church in accordance with the objectives and structure outlined by the General Department of Lay Ministry. (cf. ¶1160 and ¶1165)

§2. Any member of the local CME Church who indicates a desire to do so may join the Lay Council. Upon joining, such persons will be given a membership card.

§3. The Lay Council shall be under the direction of a Lay Leader elected by the Lay Council membership. The Local Lay Leader shall be a member of and subject to the Quarterly Conference. The Lay Leader shall preside at Lay Council meetings.

§4. The Lay Council membership shall elect other officers.

§5. The Lay Council shall establish the local chapter of the Christian Methodist Men's Fellowship. (cf. ¶1167)

§6. The Lay Council shall present a written report to the District Lay Council.

§7. The Lay Council must observe Connectional Lay Day.

§8. The membership of the Lay Council shall elect delegates to the Connectional Lay Institute.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye McGhee
New York-Washington Region

RESOLUTION NO. 3
General Conference Delegates

Whereas, the leadership of the Annual Conference is expected to represent us, and to speak for us as the occasions rise; and

Whereas, the Regional Lay Leader, District Lay Leaders, Regional Missionary President, and District Missionary Presidents are considered the primary leaders of an Annual Conference/Region; and

Whereas, these leaders act on our behalf, speak for us, stand for us and stand in for us on the Local, Zone, District, Region, and Connectional levels of our church;

Be it, therefore, Resolved...

That the secretary of the Annual Conference be empowered to cast one unanimous ballot to elect the Regional Lay Leader, District Lay Leaders, Regional Missionary Society President, and District Missionary Presidents as delegates to the General Conference by virtue of their elected office.

Respectfully submitted,

**Gloria P. Gray
R. Faye M. McGhee
New York-Washington Region**

RESOLUTION NO. 4
The Quarterly Conference

Whereas, Many times when inclusive language, i.e. “all other”, is used some who should be included are omitted because they were not specifically named.

Therefore, be it Resolved:

**That ¶ 253. The Quarterly Conference shall have authority as follows:
§3. To confirm the Sunday Church School Superintendents, members of the Board of Christian Education and the President of the Women’s Missionary Society.**

Be changed to...

**That ¶ 253. The Quarterly Conference shall have authority as follows:
§3. To confirm the Sunday Church School Superintendents, members of the Board of Christian Education, the Local Lay Leader, and the President of the Women’s Missionary Society.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Freddie McKnight
R. Faye M. McGhee
New York-Washington Region**

RESOLUTION NO. 5
The Quarterly Conference

Whereas Many times when inclusive language, i.e. “all other”, is used some who should be included are omitted because they were not specifically named.

Therefore, be it...

Resolved:

That ¶ 252.2 The Quarterly Conference shall be composed of the Pastor-in-Charge, Local Preachers, Exhorters, Stewards, Stewardesses, Treasurer, Trustees of church property, and all other organizations authorized by the Church Conference.

Be changed to...

¶ 252.2 The Quarterly Conference shall be composed of the Pastor-in-Charge, Local Preachers, Exhorters, Stewards, Stewardesses, Treasurer, Trustees of church property, the Lay Leader, President of the Missionary Society, and all other organizations authorized by the Church Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

**Freddie McKnight
R. Faye M. McGhee
New York-Washington Region**

**RESOLUTION NO. 6
CLASS LEADERS**

Resolved:

That:

¶510. Class Leaders shall be appointed by the pastor. One member from each class shall be chosen by the pastor to serve as Class Leader.

Be Revised to Read:

¶510. Class Leaders shall be lay persons appointed by the pastor. One member from each class shall be chosen by the pastor to serve as Class Leader.

Respectfully submitted,

Freddie McKnight

R. Faye M. McGhee

New York-Washington Region

RESOLUTION NO. 7
Acting Presiding Elders

Resolved

That:

¶ 252.1 The presiding officer of the Quarterly Conference, without privilege of vote, shall be the Presiding Elder. In the absence of the Presiding Elder, the Pastor shall preside, provided that, in the event there is no pastor, the Presiding Elder shall designate someone else to preside.

Be revised to read...

¶ 252.1 The presiding officer of the Quarterly Conference, without privilege of vote, shall be the Presiding Elder. In the absence of the Presiding Elder, the Pastor shall preside, provided that, in the event there is no pastor, the Presiding Elder shall designate someone else to preside. Pastors may not confirm officers that they are nominating nor hear complaints that have been duly registered according to the provisions of the *Discipline*.

Respectfully submitted,

**Freddie McKnight
R. Faye M. McGhee
New York-Washington Region**

RESOLUTION NO. 8
Rental of Parsonages

Resolved

That

¶603. Rental of Parsonages

§1. If a pastor lives in his or her own home or provides his or her place of residence, the rent from the parsonages designated for the preachers residence shall be given to the pastor; said rent shall not be counted as salary.

Be revised to read

¶603. Rental of Parsonages

§1. If a pastor lives in his or her own home or provides his or her place of residence, the rent from the parsonages designated for the preachers residence shall be given to the pastor after taxes, insurance, and repair costs have been recouped by the church; said rent shall not be counted as salary.

Respectfully submitted,

Freddie McKnight
New York-Washington Region

Travis Story
Southern California Region

RESOLUTION NO. 9
District Lay Council

Resolved:

That...

¶1166. District Lay Board

§1. The District shall be organized into zones.

§2. The Zone Leaders shall submit a written report to the District Council.

§3. The District Board shall submit an annual written report to the Conference Lay Department.

§4. The District Lay Leader shall preside at District Board Meetings. The Lay Leader shall be elected by the Lay delegates to the District Conference in session. Other officers shall be elected by the District Board.

§5. The District Board shall meet as often as necessary to effectively carry out the work of the Board.

§6. The Board shall conduct the program of lay activities as outlined under the direction of the Department of Lay Ministry by promoting the listed objectives.

§7. The minutes of all meetings of the Board shall be kept in a permanent journal by the secretary.

Shall be amended to read...

¶1166. District Lay Council

§1. The District shall be organized into zones.

§2. The Zone Leaders shall submit a written report to the District Lay Council.

§3. The District Lay Council shall through its' District Lay Leader, submit an annual written report to the Region/Annual Conference Lay Council.

§4. The District Lay Leader shall preside at District Lay Council Meetings. The District Lay Leader shall be elected by the Lay delegates to the District Conference in session. Other officers shall be elected by the District Lay Council.

§5. The District Lay Council shall meet as often as necessary to effectively carry out the work of the District Lay Council.

§6. The District Lay Council shall conduct the program of lay activities as outlined under the direction of the Department of Lay Ministry by promoting the listed objectives.

§7. The minutes of all meetings of the District Lay Council shall be kept in a permanent journal by the secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Faye M. McGhee

New York-Washington Region

RESOLUTION NO. 10
Incorrect Reference

That page

¶1167. Local Lay Council (cf. ¶ 522)

Correctly refer to the Local Lay Council (cf. ¶ 535)

Respectfully submitted,

R. Faye M. McGhee
New York-Washington Region

RESOLUTION NO. 11
The Regional Lay Council

Resolved: That....

¶1164 The Regional Lay Council

§3. This Department shall hold one annual meeting in conjunction with the Annual Conference and such other meetings deemed necessary and/or upon the call of the Lay Leader.

§4. The Department shall submit a written report to the Annual Conference and to the Department of Lay Ministry.

§5. The minutes of all meeting of the Department/Board shall be kept in a permanent journal by the secretary.

Shall be amended to read...

¶1164 The Regional Lay Council

§3. This Regional Lay Council shall hold one annual meeting in conjunction with the Annual Conference and such other meetings deemed necessary and/or upon the call of the Regional Lay Leader.

§4. The Regional Lay Council shall submit a written report to the Annual Conference and to the General Department of Lay Ministry.

§5. The minutes of all meeting of the Regional Lay Council shall be kept in a permanent journal by the secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Faye M. McGhee
New York-Washington Region

RESOLUTION NO. 12
The Regional Lay Council

Resolve: That...

¶1165. The Department shall carry out the program of lay activities as outlined under the direction of the General Department of Lay Ministry by promoting the following objectives:

Be amended to read...

¶1165. The Regional Lay Council shall carry out the program of lay activities as outlined under the direction of the General Department of Lay Ministry by promoting the following objectives:

Respectfully submitted,

R. Faye M. McGhee
New York-Washington Region

RESOLUTION NO. 13
The Regional Lay Council

Whereas the elected Connectional Steward President, Connectional Stewardess President, and Connectional Usher President became members of the Connectional Lay Cabinet in 1998

Resolved

That the Annual Conference/Regional Steward, Stewardess and Usher be elected to the Annual Conference/Regional Lay Cabinet.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Faye M. McGhee
New York-Washington Region

RESOLUTION NO. 14
Background Checks

Resolved:

The CME Church shall seek comprehensive background checks on our clergy, church staff-workers (clergy and lay), and volunteers to include criminal, financial, motor vehicle and educational credentials.

Harper Chapel CME Church
Southern California Region

RESOLUTION NO. 15
National Usher day

Whereas our Ushers are faithful and committed to door-keeping in the house of the Lord; and

Whereas, we believe they should be recognized annually for their service in the church;

Be it therefore Resolved

That the second Sunday in September be recognized as National Usher Day.

Diana Winton
Southern California Region

RESOLUTION NO. 16
Unofficial Titles

Whereas, the Discipline of the CME Church gives job descriptions and names for all positions in the church; and

Whereas, administrative assistant, liaison, assistant Bishop, Associate Bishop, associate pastor, minister, co-pastor, co-bishop are not described or recognized by the Discipline of the CME Church;

Therefore, be it resolved

That the title of administrative assistant, liason, assistant Bishop, Associate Bishop, associate pastor, minister, co-pastor, co-bishop will not be recognized and shall not have a voice in the CME Church.

Evangeline McCallum-Ellison
Southern California Region

RESOLUTION NO. 17
Delegates to the General Conference

Whereas the business of the General Conference calls for Delegates to vote on all legislative laws;

Whereas, there must be delegates at all sessions including the last session;

Whereas some delegates have skipped the last sessions of the Conference to prepare to return home;

Be it therefore Resolved

That all elected delegates of the General Conference be in attendance from the beginning to the end or reimburse their Region for expenses and/or services incurred but not used on their behalf.

Harper Chapel CME Church
Southern California Region

RESOLUTION NO. 18
Passing Of Character

Whereas, the Quarterly Conference is the conference-of-record for the interest and claims of the CME Church in the Local Church; and

Whereas, pastors in charge should have updated Quarterly Journals at the time of the District Conference according to the Discipline [¶234]; and

Whereas, in the passing of character of pastors-in-charge and considering the threat and reality of many lawsuits in our litigious society.

Therefore, be it resolved

That ¶802 be extended to include this statement:

Quarterly Journals must be updated at the time of character passing at the Annual Conference

Los Angeles –San Diego Journal Committee
Evangeline McCallum-Ellison
Southern California Region

RESOLUTION NO. 19
Candidates for Bishop

Whereas, the Bishops of our church are the Fathers and CEOs and constitute the Executive Branch of the CME Church;

Whereas, persons wishing to become Bishop must give the responsibility serious prayer, thought, and study to come to that conclusion;

Therefore, be it resolved

That candidates for Bishop will vacate all positions that they hold in the CME Church so that others may seek them without reservation.

Brenda Johnson
Southern California Region

RESOLUTION NO. 20

Orderlies

Whereas, in large assemblies, such as the General Connectional Board, General Conference, Regional Conferences, it is necessary to use orderlies or attendants; and

Whereas, the job description is to be able to distribute materials among the body as assigned by the Bishops; and

Whereas, in most cases the assignments are given to male clergy.

Therefore, be it resolved...

That orderlies will be made up of equal numbers of clergy and lay (male and female included).

**Evangeline McCallum-Ellison
Southern California Region**

RESOLUTION NO 21

Sexuality

Resolved:

Having a meaningful action to better understand, prevent and eliminate sexual misconduct by clergy and lay, church-workers and volunteers.

**Harper Chapel CME Church
Southern California Region**

RESOLUTION NO 22
Sexuality

Whereas the CME Church loves everyone regardless of sexual orientation;

Whereas, homosexual sex acts as well as heterosexual sex acts outside the bonds of marriage are against the rules and teachings of the Bible and CME Church;

Be it Therefore Resolved,

That the unmarried are to remain celibate regardless of sexual orientation.

Harper Chapel CME Church
Southern California Region

RESOLUTION NO 22
Sexuality

Resolved:

Adulterous behavior: heterosexual and/or homosexual; consensual and/or nonconsensual will not be tolerated in the CME Church.

Harper Chapel CME Church
Southern California Region

RESOLUTION NO 23

The Book of Discipline

The following change(s) is proposed to the The Book of Discipline of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church 2006 :

Change page 99, ¶417 §3 the current wording reads:

The candidate for the order of Elder must : (a) pass an approved examination on the Course of Study proscribed by the College of Bishops; (b) shall be encouraged to pursue a Bachelor's of Arts degree or an equivalent thereof; (c) be recommended by the Committee on Ministerial Examination before a vote to elect to orders by the Annual Conference is taken.

This should be changed to read (all proposed changes are in ***BOLD Italics***):

The candidate for the order of Elder must : (a) pass an approved examination on the Course of Study proscribed by the College of Bishops; (b) shall be ***required to complete*** a Bachelor's of Arts degree or an equivalent thereof; (c) be recommended by the Committee on Ministerial Examination before a vote to elect to orders by the Annual Conference is taken.

Rationale:

As chapter twelve of The History of the CME Church by Bishop Othal Hawthorne Lakey, makes clear that the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (then the Colored methodist Episcopal Church) and Bishop Holsey recognized as early as 1898, in his article "*The Purpose of the Colored M. E. Church*" written in the **Independent**. This and the history of CME's holding school in church buildings during the week and in Schools on Sundays when churches had been destroyed. It is clear that education is a key in that one of the founding ideal of the C.M.E. Church has been the need for education; this was further demonstrated with the founding of Lane and Paine Colleges in 1882, and by the continuing support that the connnectional church provides to the five (5) C.M.E. Colleges.

As the Pastor of a church is the spiritual leader and guide of a congregation, it is vital that he as the Elder be on a educational par with the majority of the Lay membership. As the membership of the C.M.E. Church becomes increasing more well educated, by attending CME &/or other colleges and universities, the lack of an equally educated and prepared ministry will continue to contribute to a growing lack of respect for the clergy. For how can you expect to lead where you have not been and why should others follow you?

We are no longer in the 19th and early 20th centuries when a person with a high school education was considered well educated. Now in the 21st. century when people with graduate degrees are unemployed; why should the membership be expected to rely on and follow the leadership of the uneducated? Therefor it is vital to for the continued growth prospects of our church that ALL our clergy keep up educationally.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela L. Davis
Mt. Carmel C.M.E. Church
Chicago District
SE MO, IL & WI Annual Conference

RESOLUTION No. 24
RETIREMENT COMPENSATION FOR GENERAL OFFICERS

Whereas the retired Bishops of the CME Church are paid $\frac{1}{2}$ the salary of active Bishops and General Officers are paid $\frac{1}{2}$ the salary at the time of the General Officer's retirement;

Be it resolved that paragraph 1039.4 article 1 & 2 be stricken and two new paragraphs replace as follows:

GENERAL OFFICERS RETIRING

1039.4.1

A General Officer who serves twelve (12) consecutive years or more, and retires while actively in office as such General Officer, shall be entitled to a sum equal to one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of a current General Officer's salary.

1039.4.2

A General Officer who serves a minimum of eight (8) consecutive years or more, and retires while actively in office as such General Officer, shall be entitled to a sum equal to one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of a current General Officer's salary.

RESOLUTION NO 25
Electing Delegates

In recent San Francisco District Department of Lay Ministry monthly meetings we have been discussing the election of delegates to our District, Annual and General Conferences.

The discussions have centered around the need to elect delegates who are active in local and district lay ministry in our churches. In an effort to both strengthen the Lay Department in our churches and get better representation at these conferences we are considering a resolution to the General Conference to make it a requirement that at least one delegate from each charge elected to District and Annual Conferences be an active member of the Local Lay Council at each church.

We recognize that many of our smaller churches do not have an active Local Lay Council; however we still want to plant the seed that participation in your local lay council is important to the growth of your church and lay ministry in general. We should also be aware of the need to have and active Local Lay Board in each church.

If you are the chairperson or president of a board, department or auxiliary you should be a part of your local lay board.

We need these boards and councils working together to help work through and resolve some of the issues and problems that arise in our churches. By working together on these boards and councils we should get a better understanding of the responsibilities of each board and auxiliary in our church.

As presidents and chairpersons of these boards and auxiliaries it is our responsibility to ensure that training and development takes place for all officers for whom we are responsible.

This is also part of our need for internal evangelism. We need to minister to the needs of those who are working in the church by better equipping them to perform the duties of the office they have been elected to.

These same people who are better educated in the working of our church should make better delegates to our conferences.

I would like to hear your thoughts regarding this idea of a resolution to have better lay representation at these conferences.

Darryl Hunter

Lay Leader, San Francisco District, Northern California Region, 9th Episcopal District

RESOLUTION NO 26
Delegates

A resolution to include an active member of the Local Lay Council as a delegate to the District and Annual Conferences.

Whereas, ¶ 213.3(d) Each pastoral charge shall have the right to elect two (2) lay members to the next session of the Annual Conference..., and for the District Conference, ¶ 231 ... There shall be at least one delegate elected from each charge...

Whereas, ¶ 1160. §1. There shall be in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and organization known as the Department of Lay Ministry. And

Whereas, ¶ 535. §1. The department shall be responsible for the program of lay ministry in the church in accordance with the objectives and structure outlined by the General Department of Lay Ministry. (cf. ¶ 1160 and ¶ 1165);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, ¶ 213.3(D) reads, “*Each pastoral charge shall have the right to elect two (2) lay members, one of which shall be active in the Local Lay Council, to the next session of the Annual Conference..., and for the District Conference, ¶ 231... There shall be at least one delegate elected from each charge, who shall be active in the Local Lay Council...*”

Humbly Submitted,

Darryl Hunter, Lay Leader, S

an Francisco District Department of Lay Ministry

RESOLUTION No. 27
Resolution Format

WHEREAS the information pertaining to resolutions is listed under Chapter 5, The General Conference, ¶206, pages 44 – 49 (The Book of Discipline, 2006); and

WHEREAS the information excludes examples related to writing resolutions;
and

WHEREAS the information excludes the procedures, including all points of origin of resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That an example of writing resolutions should be included in the Book of Discipline; and

RESOLVED, That all points of origin of resolutions be included in the Book of Discipline, as well as creating a separate section devoted to resolution writing.

Dr. Joseph L. Fox
Carolina Region

RESOLUTION No. 28
Church Employee Procedure

WHEREAS the information pertaining to Personnel Services is listed under Chapter 48, The General Board of Personnel Services, ¶1034, pages 229 – 239 (The Book of Discipline, 2006); and

WHEREAS the information pertaining to Personnel Services excludes examples on church hiring of employees; and

WHEREAS the information pertaining to the liabilities related to hiring employees, such as payroll issues and reporting of income is not addressed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That because liabilities related to church employees are extremely important, it is deemed necessary for such information to be included in the Book of Discipline as a separate section;

RESOLVED, That information related to what constitutes an employee should be included in the Book of Discipline; and

RESOLVED, That specific information related to the hiring process, reporting and paying payroll taxes, and reporting of pastor and employee income to the Internal Revenue Service is provided in the Book of Discipline.

Dr. Joseph L. Fox, Chair
Carolina Region

RESOLUTION No. 29
Resolution on Church Budget Assessment

WHEREAS the information pertaining to church finance is listed under Chapter 45, The General Department of Finance, ¶1004, pages 214 – 221 (The Book of Discipline, 2006); and

WHEREAS the information pertaining to church finance excludes the process of assessing local churches; and

WHEREAS the information related to requesting local church assessment changes/analysis is not addressed in the Book of Discipline; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That because the importance of church assessment is paramount to the operational effectiveness of the CME Church and effectiveness local churches, it is deemed necessary for the process to be included in the Book of Discipline;

RESOLVED, That the process and procedure for budget assessment should be clearly detailed from the General Church to the local church; and

RESOLVED, That the process for local churches to request assessment challenges/review should be included in the Book of Discipline.

Dr. Joseph L. Fox
Carolina Region

RESOLUTION No. 30
Book of Discipline Editing

WHEREAS the information included in the Book of Discipline is the guiding body of literature for the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS the information presented in the Book of Discipline should be consistent; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Book of Discipline should be edited for consistent use of the term C.M.E, Stewardess, and information listed in the Table of Content, and Index.

Dr. Joseph L. Fox
Carolina Region

RESOLUTION No. 31
Election of Lay Leader

WHEREAS the information pertaining to the election of the Lay Leader is listed under Chapter 5, The General Conference, ¶201.5 - ¶201.7, pages 42 – 43 (The Book of Discipline, 2006); and

WHEREAS the information related to the procedures for electing a Lay Leader excludes terminology related to voting Lay delegates, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That specific wording should be included in the Book of Discipline to state:

A simple majority of votes cast by registered Lay Council delegates, from active local Lay Councils, shall be the minimum required for any person to be elected. ¶201.7 §1

Dr. Joseph L. Fox
Carolina Region

RESOLUTION No. 32
Admitting Preachers on Trial

WHEREAS the information pertaining to pastors' requirements is listed under Chapter 16, Admitting Preachers on Trial, ¶413, §4, page 96 (The Book of Discipline, 2006); and

WHEREAS the pastor is the leading executive officer of the local church; and

WHEREAS the pastor must understand not only spiritual issues, but issues related to church law, church liability, church risk, and church budgeting processes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the requirements for admitting preachers on trial should be amended to include the wording, "college degree."

Dr. Joseph L. Fox
Carolina Region

RESOLUTION No. 33
Leadership Accountability

WHEREAS the information pertaining to **Spiritual Expectations of Church Officers, Boards, and Auxiliaries** is listed under **Chapter 35, Church Officers, Boards, and Auxiliaries, ¶509, pages 144 – 1161 (The Book of Discipline, 2006); and**

WHEREAS the information excludes terminology related to church leadership accountability; and

WHEREAS the information excludes terminology referring to expectations of **Bishops, Presiding Elders, and Ministers; now, therefore, be it**

RESOLVED, That the section on Spiritual Expectations be expanded to include that church leaders will be held accountable for their spiritual development, as well as the duties and responsibilities to the Church; and

RESOLVED, That the section be expanded to include that Bishops, Presiding Elders, and Ministers will be held accountable for their spiritual development, as well as the duties and responsibilities to the Church.

Dr. Joseph L. Fox
Carolina Region

RESOLUTION No. 34
Financial Accountability

WHEREAS the information pertaining to Church Officers, Boards, and Auxiliaries is listed under Chapter 35, Church Officers, Boards, and Auxiliaries, ¶509, pages 144 – 161 (The Book of Discipline, 2006); and

WHEREAS the information related to the Church Treasurer is listed in ¶514 and ¶514.1; and

WHEREAS the information excludes terminology referring to financial responsibilities, bonding, checks and balances, misuse of church finance, and separation of accounting duties; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the section on the duties of the Treasurer should be expanded to include information related to bonding individuals handling church funds, creating a system of financial checks and balances, misuse of church finance, and creation of a system of division of labor related to accounting duties and responsibilities.

Dr. Joseph L. Fox
Carolina Region

RESOLUTION No. 35
Parliamentary Procedures
for all CME Conference and Meetings

WHEREAS the *Book of Discipline* stipulate that the rules of order of the 2006 General Conference in Chapter 58, ¶1400.11, page 323; and

WHEREAS these rules of order are not stipulated for any other conference or meeting of the CME church; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That each of the conferences listed in PART II, Chapters 5 thru 10 of the *Book of Discipline* contain a paragraph making this same stipulation, and the paragraph should be changed to read: ... and in all matters be governed by the rules herein provided and the common practices of parliamentary usage found in *Robert's Rules of Order* and by the *Discipline* of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. These rules shall not be suspended except by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting, and

RESOLVED, That an entry for *rules of order* be placed in the index to reference these paragraphs.

Billy L. Watts
Carolina Region

RESOLUTION No. 36
Resolutions

Strike section ¶206.2, page 45, from The Book of Discipline of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church 2006 and replace it to read:

Resolutions mailed, sent or given to the Episcopal District representative shall be examined by him or her to ascertain if they meet the requirements for proposed legislation (all resolutions requiring changes in the wording and or legal meaning of provisions in the Discipline shall state the paragraph, section, page and language to be changed and the language to be substituted). In addition to the requirements referenced, resolutions shall not contain more than three preamble paragraphs. If the resolutions do not meet the requirements, they shall be returned for corrections.

Respectfully submitted,

**Angela L. Davis, Mt. Carmel C.M.E. Church
Ralston B. Simmons, St. Paul C.M.E. Church
Chicago District
James White, Scruggs Memorial C.M.E. Church
St. Louis District**

SE MO., IL & WI Annual Conference

RESOLUTION No 37
Rental of Parsonages

The following change(s) is proposed to the The Book of Discipline of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church 2006 :

Change ¶ 603 *Rental of Parsonages* current wording follows:

§ 1, If the Pastor lives in his or her own or provides his or her place of residence, the rent from the parsonages designated for the preacher's residence shall be given to the Pastor; said rent shall not be counted as salary.

To read (all proposed changes are in *BOLD Italics*):

§ 1. If the Pastor lives in his or her own or provides his or her place of residence, the rent from the parsonages designated for the preacher's residence, *provided that there is no encumbrance/loan/mortgage upon said Parsonage. If there is any encumbrance/loan/mortgage, any rent received shall first be applied to those encumbrances/loans/mortgages After the monthly payment is paid any remaining funds from the received rent shall be given to the Pastor; said rent shall not be counted as salary.*

Additionally proposed are the following addition to ¶ 603 to become § 2 - 3.

§2. *Should the preacher have his or her own residence, and choose to reside there during the conference year, notice of his or her intent shall be provided to the church in writing at the first church conference of the conference year.*

§3. *In the event that the preacher shall have moved into the parsonage for ANY period of the conference year, notice of his or her intent/decision to move from the parsonage for any reason shall be provided to the church in writing at the first church conference immediately after the decision to move/vacate is made. Should the church choose to rent the parsonage, the provisions of § 1, regarding payment of rent to the preacher shall not apply for that conference year and all rent shall go to the church in full.*

continued→

This provision shall not apply if the parsonage is deemed unsuitable/unsafe for human habitation by reasonable standards [i.e., local health department standards] for example, peeling &/or falling ceilings, Mold, excess water damage (flooding) that has not been corrected, etc. Should this occur a meeting between the Presiding Elder, Pastor and the appropriate church officers (and Bishop, if needed) shall be called to reach a mutually acceptable solution.

Rationale:

While the membership recognizes the need to provide a safe and livable residence for the preacher (and their family), the stewards and trustees are encouraged to develop and maintain the parsonage with the same attention and vigor that they do the church proper. There must also be a recognition by the ministry of the burden both financial and in terms of time that the process of renting a parsonage would place on the local church, especially in cases where there may still be an encumbrance/loan/mortgage on the property. There are numerous situations in which parsonages have not been adequately maintained and are not up to current local codes, making rental impossible or would require the imposition of a substantial financial burden on the local church in order to bring them up to current rental standards and codes.

These changes will provide for more consistent upkeep of parsonages across the connection.

Respectfully submitted,

**Angela L. Davis
Mt. Carmel C.M.E. Church
Chicago District
Southeast Mo., Illinois and Wisconsin Annual Conference**