



Communication and Information Technology (CIT) Connectional Department Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

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Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr.
Vice Chair

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Mrs. Sharon Doss
Vice President

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Rev. James Dunbar
Rev. Silas Ufot
Mr. Itohowo Joseph
Mr. Ndagijimana Pascal

August 25, 2017

To: Bishop James B. Walker, Chair of the CIT Connectional Department; Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr., Vice Chair; the College of Bishops; the CIT Advisory Committee; the CIT Standing Committee, the General Officers, and the General Connectional Board.

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ!

On behalf of the Communication and Information Technology (CIT) Connectional Department, the following report provides an update on the strategic planning efforts and projects over the past year.

The mission of the Communication and Information Technology Connectional Department is to assist the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in using communication and information technology tools and resources; and to connect, unite, and share information within and beyond the walls of our Connectional Church. In all that we do, it is always the goal of the CIT Connectional Department to serve well the College of Bishops, General Officers, Connectional Officers, and the clergy and lay of our great Zion!

Over the past year, the CIT Connectional Department continued to plan communication and technology initiatives for our Zion. During the past year at the Unity Summit and Pastors' Conference, I was invited to meetings with the College of Bishops and the General Officers to identify and discuss their communication and technology needs, provide our vision and committed technology projects, and to seek ways to collaborate on future projects.

The following were CIT projects and accomplishments during the years of 201-2017:

- Collaboration with the College of Bishops and the Presiding Elder's Council on the plans for the national **Founder's Day Live Stream**. **The CME Church celebrated its 146th Anniversary** on Saturday, December 17, 2016 which was hosted by the Bishop and Dr. Williamson and the First Episcopal District at Mother Liberty CME Church in Jackson, TN. Thanks to CMEtv, the service was live streamed. CIT coordinated with the local churches around the nation that served as broadcast sites.
- Through collaborative efforts with the College of Bishops, the **Pastor's Report Form** was updated, standardized, and made Web-based before the start of the Annual Conferences in 2017!
 - Concerns were heard and it was the intent to make the form user-friendly and easy to fill out online.
 - The form must be filled out online and any browser may be used to fill it out.
 - The form is compatible with most mobile devices.
 - Upon completion, the Pastor's Form can be previewed, saved and printed.
 - Before clicking on the submit button, notice the prompts to email the form to your Presiding Bishop and other appropriate persons identified on the form.
 - The person filling out the form will receive by email a PDF attachment of their form.
 - Presiding Bishops will receive the Pastor's Forms by email, and can also access the forms at their online portal to provide others.
 - For convenience purposes, the form is posted at the top of all pages on the official CME Web site – www.thecmechurch.org

Although there were some challenges and concerns expressed by our members using the new online form, we will continue to tweak the form to meet the needs of our leaders and pastors!

- The official Web site of the CME Church is continuously updated with relevant news and announcements at: www.thecmechurch.org. From August 1, 2016 to August 1, 2017, the CME Web site received **12,516,704** million hits!
- In collaboration with Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton and the College of Bishops, the Web portal for the 2018 General Conference is now available at www.thecmechurch.org/GeneralConference2018. Pertinent information and online registration will emanate from the General Conference portal. Additionally the portal is available for Presiding Bishops and General Officers to provide materials for download to delegates, alternates and registered guests, when necessary.
- CIT setup online registration for all connectional events using RegOnline. Thanks to Vice President Sharon Doss for her valuable assistance as a staff member with the CME Unity Summit and use of RegOnline who helped process the Third Episcopal District registrations immediately following Annual Conference.

- Consultation was provided Dr. Clifford L. Harris to feature online training sponsored by the Department of Lay Ministry in the upcoming months. It is Dr. Harris' goal to produce training seminars on demand for the laity with the assistance of CIT. More information will be forthcoming.
- Ongoing updates are made to the **CMEChurch app**, developed by the Communications and Information Technology (CIT) Department. The app made its debut at last year's Unity Summit. Information about CME events, ministries, news, social media sites and a searchable index of CME churches are a few of the many app features.

To date, the app has been viewed and downloaded to **2,600 devices** (Apple, Android, Window). All connectional events and online registrations are featured on the app. One may use the app to view the program about the Connectional Lay Institute and Unity Summit, and stream the services.

The CMEChurch app is available for all mobile devices in your app store! To download the free app, go to your device's app store and search for '**CMEChurch**'. Please continue to Connect and Engage using the CMEChurch app!

- CME Church Communications distributed **170** e-blasts and other news this year to a base of 11,500 connectional members and organizations/friends of the CME Church.

Special thanks is given to Rev. Dale Dennis, a pastor in the 7th Episcopal District and phenomenal graphic artist, who designs many of our flyers and banners for our communications and flyers.

- Social media: We continuously update the Facebook and Instagram page for the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church – www.facebook/thecmechurch . Important announcements and photographs emanate from these media sites and are shared with CME groups/pages.

Let me take this opportunity to thank our Chair Bishop James B. Walker for his leadership, wise counsel, and for being an advocate for technology and the CIT Connectional Department. Thanks to Vice Chair Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr. for being tech savvy and his desire for our Zion utilizing technology.

Thanks for our officers and members for their diligent work in serving nationally and within their Episcopal Districts.

It has been a pleasure to serve the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and work with the Advisory Committee members and committed colleagues. Thank you for this opportunity to report on the CIT Connectional Department as we strive to provide *essential* communication and information technology services to the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Humbly Submitted,

Ms. Theresa Duhart, President

Officers:

Mrs. Sharon Doss, Vice President

Dr. Princess Pegues, Secretary

Mrs. Carolyn Hassell, Treasurer

Advisory Committee:

First Episcopal District
Second Episcopal District
Third Episcopal District
Fourth Episcopal District
Fifth Episcopal District
Sixth Episcopal District
Seventh Episcopal District
Eighth Episcopal District
Ninth Episcopal District
Tenth Episcopal District
Eleventh Episcopal District

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Mr. Michael Morgan
Mrs. Sharon Doss
Dr. Princess Pegues, Mrs. Paula Wiley-Boute
Mrs. Carolyn Hassell
Rev. Javon Jackson
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Mr. Rick White
Ms. Theresa Duhart
Rev. Ufot Silas

Communications and Information Technology Standing Committee

First Episcopal District
Second Episcopal District
Third Episcopal District
Fourth Episcopal District
Fifth Episcopal District
Sixth Episcopal District
Seventh Episcopal District
Eighth Episcopal District
Ninth Episcopal District
Tenth Episcopal District
Eleventh Episcopal District

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