

HELPFUL RESOURCES IN PREPARATION FOR CONNECTIONAL LAY MINISTRY DAY

“Reaching, Teaching, and Ministering to All Generations, Equipping Them for
Greater Works and Service for Him”



OCTOBER 14, 2018
DEPARTMENT OF LAY MINISTRY
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

**PURPOSE OF THE LAY MINISTRY COUNCIL
IN THE LIFE AND WITNESS OF OUR ZION**

While there certainly must be cooperation and coordination between pastors and laity, - *as laity*, we must fully understand our role and our calling in the life of the church. The role of the Lay Ministry Council is:

- 1) To be an advocate and witness for Christ through precept and example;**
- 2) To assist in bringing the loss to Christ;**
- 3) To support the total program of the church;**
- 4) To strengthen our local churches by helping to create an atmosphere that will foster the equipping and development of informed, confident, and *active* laity.**

**Dr. Clifford L. Harris, General Secretary
Department of Lay Ministry
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church**

DEPARTMENT OF LAY MINISTRY

LAY MINISTRY: "FROM WHENCE WE HAVE COME"

The first official reference to some type of organization for laymen of the Christian Methodist Episcopal [CME] Church came in the Episcopal Address at The General Conference of 1910. The message expressed the thought that provision should be made, allowing each Annual Conference and each presiding elder's district to have a laymen's meeting when there is such a call for one. (But it should be left discretionary with the Annual Conference, on the one hand, and with the District Conference on the other hand, whether such a meeting should be held or not. It was further stated in the message that, "Where conditions are favorable, we think such meetings, with the sanction and high authority of the lawmaking body, might accomplish great good."

At that 1910 General Conference, the laymen who were present held an informal meeting and elected R. L. Smith of Little Rock, Arkansas as the chairman. Smith wrote in the Christian Index that he was preparing a *constitution* and some *by-laws* for presentation at the following General Conference. He also said, "If we laymen would take up the cause of mission in our church, what a great good we could do in the next four years."

E. B. Barco, an active layman of Atlanta, GA announced a National Laymen's Conference set for Chicago, Illinois on September 1, 1912. A. J. Cobb, the editor of the Christian Index, commented, "We are glad to note that our laymen are becoming more successful in the general work of the Church...This laymen movement is a wholesome innovation to the largest majority of our laymen."

The mantle of leadership of the Laymen's Organization passed from Mr. R. L. Smith (1910-1922); to Mr. O.B. Hines (1922-1934); to Mr. E. F. Durr (1934-1950); to Dr. Willie L. Graham (1955-1963); to Mr. Walker E. Solomon (1963-1974); to Dr. I Carlton Faulk (1974-1998); to Dr. Victor Taylor (1998-2010); and on July 1, 2010 at the 37th General Conference in Mobile, Alabama, Mr. Clifford L. Harris was elected the 7th Leader of what we now know as the General Department of Lay Ministry.

During the early years, the laymen of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church worked for a better-prepared ministry and a program of social activity for the youth of the church. Thus, the beliefs of Lay Ministry in the CME Church became and still are: (1) STUDYING God's words; (2) SEEKING lost souls; (3) SHARING God's Blessings; and (4) SERVING all mankind. One of the primary objectives at the time of inception and still today in the work of Lay Ministry is to promote Christian Stewardship among all believers. Through the years this ministry has provided countless opportunities for lay men and women to grow in Christian leadership. At the December 1997 Quadrennial Lay Ministry Institute in Louisville, Kentucky, the Connectional Stewards, Ushers, and Stewardesses were established. In addition, ten Episcopal District Vice Presidents were elected for each of these ministries, as well as the Connectional Lay Council. During the ensuing 1998 General Conference, the new structure and the newly established leadership positions were confirmed. Thus, if those of us who have been called into leadership will continue onward in faith and hard work, effective ministry will continue to be realized.

THE LAY MINISTRY SONG—WE'RE LAITY

Contemporary Words by Dr. Victor Taylor



Original Words By Dr. Willie L. Graham
Traditional Hymn Tune

1. We're ask - ing o - thers to come And join Lay Mi - ni - stry work_ And
2. We know some may_ not come But we won't lose__ the faith,_ For
3. So let us do__ our best In ser - vice of__ the Lord__ To

1. Help to build a stron - ger church And help to build a stron - ger church
2. Christ the Lord is on our side, For Christ the Lord is on our side.
3. Bring God's King - dom here on earth, To bring God's King - dom here on earth.

1. And win more souls to Christ, And win more souls to Christ.
2. With Him we can - not fail, With Him we can - not fail..
3. And win the hearts of man, And win the hearts of Man.

We're La - i - ty, God's peo - ple, His ser - vants we're du - ti - ful Lai - ty.

We're Lay who're work - ing for Je - sus__ To build the King - dom of God.__

DEPARTMENT OF LAY MINISTRY
CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE LAY MINISTRY BELIEFS

STUDYING

WITH PURPOSE AND DETERMINATION

SEEKING

AND BEING SENSITIVE TO THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW CHRIST

SHARING

WITH A SENSE OF THANKFULNESS

SERVING

WITH A GLAD HEART

THE LAY MINISTRY MISSION

**“TO REACH, TEACH, AND MINISTER TO ALL GENERATIONS, -
EQUIPPING THEM FOR GREATER WORKS AND SERVICE FOR HIM”**

THE LAY MINISTRY OBJECTIVES

1. To study the Holy Bible with purpose and determination
2. To promote and engage in ministries yet unfulfilled in the local Church
3. To promote and exemplify Christian Stewardship
4. To study and appreciate the Discipline of the C.M.E. Church
5. To assist in establishing and maintaining a sound financial system
6. To inspire and encourage members to become more informed about the Church
7. To assist in communicating the need for and support of a strong tithing program
8. To assist in making Christian commitment more meaningful to one's whole life
9. To assist individuals in developing personal evangelism
10. To promote lay speaking training for church officers and other interested persons
11. To study, understand, and appreciate parliamentary procedure
12. To study and appreciate the history of the C.M.E. Church
13. To seek and maintain a good working relationship between pastors and laity
14. To promote, encourage, and model financial support of the Church's programs
15. To embrace a collaborative spirit in developing a vigorous teaching ministry

THE LAY MINISTRY THEME – 2017-2021

**LAITY IMPACTING THE WORLD: “DEFENDING THE CROSS,
REACHING THE LOST, AND EQUIPPING THE SAVED”**

THE LAY MINISTRY LOGO MEANING



THE WORDS AROUND THE SHIELD – Laity as essential members of “The Body of Christ” are to: **STUDY** with Purpose and Determination; **SEEK** the Lost and Hurting; **SHARE** with a Sense of Thankfulness; **SERVE** with a Glad Heart. Laity in the CME Church have been furthering the Beliefs of Studying, Seeking, Sharing, and Serving SINCE 1910.

THE SHIELD – Symbolizes the “shield of salvation” and “the breast plate of life” that all Christians should wear as Children of God.

CME – THE CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH was founded by 41 African American men on Friday morning, the 16th day of December 1870, in Jackson, Tennessee, after a night of prayer and commitment to God.

LAY MINISTRY – Laity actively and orderly addressing the needs and concerns of one’s neighbor, church, community, and world.

THE CROSS – The ever-present symbol of Jesus the Christ, who died that all men and women might live and have a chance to make a difference in the lives of others.

THE LAMP AT THE TOP OF THE CROSS – The light of Jesus that illuminates the path of lay men and women, so that all can make meaningful contributions to the life and witness of God’s Church in the world.

LAUREL LEAVES - The laurel leaves represent our opportunity for triumphant salvation and the unwilling victory over sin because of the shed blood of Jesus the Christ. 2 Tim. 2:1 “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

LAY MINISTRY LAPEL PIN MEANING



PURPLE & GOLD – Laity are the unordained people of God, furthering the mission of the Church in the world, members of the Royal Priesthood: 1 Peter 2:9 “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”
THE OUTER OVAL – Lay Men and Women are encircled by the presence of God Himself, who guides believers toward righteousness and protects them in the cradle of his arms.

THE WORDS WITHIN THE OUTER OVAL – Laity as essential members of “The Body of Christ” are to: **STUDY** with Purpose and Determination; **SEEK** the Lost and Hurting; **SHARE** with a Sense of Thankfulness; **SERVE** with a Glad Heart. Laity in the CME Church have been furthering the Beliefs of Studying, Seeking, Sharing, and Serving **SINCE 1910**.

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ALSO LOOK FOR THE FOLLOWING ON THE LAY MINISTRY WEB SITE:

Lay Membership Card

Lay Ministry Charter Ceremony

Lay Ministry Day Litany 2018

Lay Ministry Officers Installation Ceremony