

MINI EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

**“LAITY BEING ESSENTIAL WITHIN AN ESSENTIAL CHURCH”
STEPPING UP OUR GAME TO REACH THE
MASSES IN THE 21ST CENTURY**



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PHILLIPS TEMPLE CME CHURCH

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA
ARIZONA-NEW MEXICO REGION
CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**

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“LAITY Being Essential Within An Essential Church” – Stepping Up Our Game To Reach, Teach, Minister To, and Equip The Masses In The 21st Century

I. Who are the *Laity* in the Christian Church?

The Laity are those individuals within the body of Christ whose place or service is not defined as the *ministry* of preaching and/or pastoring.

II. What is the *Role* of laity in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church?

To be an advocate and witness for Christ by: _____

III. What is *21ST Century Ministry*? ITS “WORK” under girded by “Intentionality”

IV. What is “*An Essential Church?*” - As defined by Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr. in his Episcopal Address during the 37th General Conference of the CME Church, an “*Essential Church*” is:

- a. A church that is vital and basic to the everyday and ultimate aspirations of its people.
- b. A church that is known more for its testimonies rather than its anthems.
- c. A church that embodies relevance to the life and death issues of humankind.

Where are we in the process? _____

Going Forward We Must:

Adopt Essential Language & Attitudes About Leadership and Service:

Team _____

Ministry _____

Seek and strongly encourage support of leadership: _____

V. Highlights of the New Lay Manual

- a. Introduction**
- b. Guiding Principals**
- c. Department Operations**
- d. Department Structure**
- e. The Foundation on Which We Stand**
- f. Qualification, Roles, & Responsibility of Leaders**

NECESSARY INGREDIENTS FOR PROVIDING EFFECTIVE 21ST CENTURY MINISTRY, IN A TIME SUCH AS THIS

Successful, Effective, and Empowering **21st Century Ministry** must have at its core:

- 1) **Prayer** (individual and cooperate) precedes all else.

Jesus says in Matthew 18 verse 19, 20, “Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything; that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.” “For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst.” – There is great authority in prayer, particularly corporate and agreeing prayer. The reason is that where two or three are gathered together in faith and commitment to Christ, he is in their midst. His presence will impart faith, strength, direction, grace and consolation

- 2) **Belief** built on faith in motion.

David in 1 Samuel 17 visited his brothers in the battlefield as they faced the Philistine army. Goliath, of course, was the giant Philistine who threatened the Israel army every day. David believed that God was bigger than the giant, and he believed his God-given ability to defeat the enemies. Because his faith in God and the ability that he possessed allowed him to slay lions and bears in the past, he now believed he could take on a giant.

- 3) **Passion** that stirs and energizes from the inside out

The Prophet Elijah, in 1 Kings 18, confronted 850 prophets on top of Mount Carmel. Elijah was fed up with the apathy of his own people and wanted to prove to them that the Lord was the true God and deserved their commitment. Although he was greatly outnumbered, his passion enabled him to confront the false prophets, call down fire from heaven, and direct the people back to God. The fire from heaven was symbolic of the fire (passion) that was burning inside of Elijah; it allowed him to bring everyone to a point of decision – and cure them of apathy.

- 4) **Initiative** to get moving and smother out complacency

In the Acts 9 and 27 Paul exemplifies a vivid account of initiative; he was a prisoner on board a ship, with no rights or authority, but he took initiative when the ship and crew encountered a storm and saved the day.

- 5) **Focus** that directs and:

- a) Includes and involves **every representative age group** that makes up “The Body.”
- b) Is unselfish and has a sense of **purpose beyond ones self.**

In Genesis 6 Noah was confronted by God and told to build an ark. - So that he could preserve himself and his family, he stayed on task for 120 years; he withstood criticism and was the brunt of jokes as he prepared for the flood. His focus allowed him to use his abilities and succeed in sparing the human race. Who will be the beneficiaries of your focus?

6) **Preparation** that positions for success

Take a look at Moses, in Exodus 2-4. Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace in Egypt and was given all the education and resources he needed to succeed in his adult life—except for one ingredient. God had to prepare his heart . . . Moses killed who was beating a Hebrew slave (Exodus 2: 12). God sent Moses into the wilderness for forty years where He could prepare him for the job of leading the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt and into Canaan. You see, God took forty years to get Moses ready for his mission; the job was too big for a novice. God made sure Moses' head, hands, and **heart** were ready before turning him loose.

7) **Practice** that sharpens and engages

Let's look at the 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10th chapters of Daniel. – Daniel was a young man when his country was overtaken by the Babylonians. While in a foreign land, he never left the practices that made him such a sharp young leader. One of his gifts was the ability to interpret dreams and visions. Through the years he practiced his gift by helping king after king; so when he was called in to help a king who didn't even know him, he was prepared, and because of his sharp talent he attracted still another king to God.

8) **Perseverance** that sustains the effort

Consider Joseph in Genesis 41. Joseph was given a dream from God as a young man. He was gifted to be a leader, and one day he'd have the opportunity to play that role. As the story goes, there were great obstacles to face along the way; his brothers were jealous of him and treated him abusively. Later they sold him into slavery and while serving in Egypt, Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him. When he refused to lie with her she blackmailed him and had him imprisoned. He was soon forgotten, but eventually got to use his talent to lead when Pharaoh needed it. He first, however, had to persevere through severe hardship.

9) **Courage** that motivates and stimulates

Take a look at Deborah in Judges 4. Deborah possessed amazing talent to plan strategy and lead the people of Israel. In her story, however, she faced an intimidating enemy in the army of Canaan. They were ruthless, possessing 900 iron chariots. Deborah called for Barak, the commander of Israel's army, and gave him a plan to defeat the Canaanites. Do you trust your plan enough to use it in the face of a bigger enemy?

10) **Teachability** that allows for expansion and growth.

Consider Simon Peter, in Acts 10. Peter was a talented preacher. He was the one who preached the first sermon as the church was launched in Acts 2. He spoke all over Jerusalem and clearly, was the "senior" spokesman for the gospel in the first eight chapters of the book of Acts. However, in Acts 10, God challenges Peter with a new insight—that the gospel was meant for the Gentiles too, - not just the Jews. Peter had a difficult time embracing the idea, but thankfully, his **teachable spirit** opened a door for him to take the gospel to those outside of the Jewish faith.

11) Character that seeks and holds to the path of righteousness

Consider Samuel, in 1 Samuel 3. Beginning from his boyhood working under Eli, Samuel was a person of strong character. He was honest and forthright in all of his relationships, from the lowliest to the kings of Israel. In 1 Samuel 3: 19, 20 everyone looked to him from one end of the nation to the other. Samuel's character sustained him long enough to become the most influential man in Israel. Eli, his mentor, was removed from office because he failed at home; Saul the first king was removed from office because he failed at work; Samuel's success outlived them because of his character.

12) Relationships that enhances rather than destroy

Consider Rehoboam, in 1 Kings 12. He was appointed king following his father Solomon. Relationships can make or break a person. In Rehobam's case, they broke him. He had both good people and not-so-good people around him, and he chose to listen to the wrong folk. Afterwards he made some devastating decisions that ruined his reign. The nation of Israel split and was never the same again. Rehoboam's talent and ability to lead was sufficient, but was affected negatively by his relationships.

13) Responsibility that strengthens

Consider Gideon, in Judges 6, 7. Gideon was the runt in his family; belonged to a runt family within his tribe, and many would argue that the tribe was the runt tribe within a runt country, Israel. Gideon, therefore, was the considered the least likely to accomplish anything, - but he did! Once the angel of the lord cast a vision for defeating the oppressive Midianites, Gideon stepped up and took responsibility . . . It was his sense of ownership of this problem that attracted so many men to fight with him. He actually recruited too many troops and had to cut back the volume. His ability got discovered only when he demonstrated responsibility enough to use it.

14) Teamwork that brings the best together

Consider Nehemiah, in Nehemiah 2, 3. Nehemiah saw the need to rebuild the wall round Israel's capital city of Jerusalem. However, he wasn't a builder by trade, he was a cup bearer to a foreign king. Once he decided to act, however, he attracted others by expressing the need for resources and people to participate in the solution. People have a tendency to support what they help create. In retrospect, Nehemiah wisely cast his vision to the folks that lived within the city, who had the most to gain by a strong wall protecting Jerusalem. He harnessed their time, gifts, and energy and built the wall in 52 days. He soon became governor because he was a great broker of not only his own talent but that of others too.