

Coordinating Personal Evangelism within the AME Church Action Plan – 5th Episcopal District

To evangelize means to proclaim the good news of the gospel of Christ. Jesus in giving the Great Commission to the eleven apostles says in Matthew 28:19-20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you.”

We are also under this obligation to teach others. Jesus had just commanded the eleven to go teach and to teach those who were converted to observe all things he had commanded them, which included that *we are also to be taught to go and teach.*

Goals: Understand what Personal Evangelism is and use that understanding to assist all Lay Members and laity on how to comfortably share their Christian faith with others throughout the AME Church and into the Community. Sharing Christian faith, hope and hospitality is a spiritual journey of formation and transformation.

Assist the Lay and all laity in discovering and better understanding our faith in Christ. To accomplish this, we must strive for clarity and a better understanding of the ten most Basic Fundamentals of Christianity. Those Fundamentals being the Bible; God; Jesus Christ; the Death and Resurrection of Jesus; Man and Sin; Salvation; the Holy Spirit; Angels, Satan, and Demons; the Church; and Future Things that are to Come.

Objective: We will achieve our Goals by doing the following:

1. Prepare a three month training program (longer if necessary)
 - Basic/Preliminary Training Package (PTP) to be prepared by the 5th District’s 3rd V.P and Chaplain. Theme: “Know What we Believe and Why.”
2. Basic/Preliminary Plan will be sent to 5th District Conferences
 - Provide Conference Presidents with a “courtesy” copy of Action Plan
 - Notify Conference Presidents that training materials will be forthcoming and when training shall commence
 - Conference Presidents will be responsible for distribution of Materials to their 3rd Vice Presidents or designee and Chaplains
 - Vice Presidents or designee and Chaplains will have **three weeks** to review, add comments, suggestions, critique, etc. to material
 - Comments, suggestions, etc. are to be e-mailed back to the 5th District 3rd Vice President
3. Once information has been received from the Conferences, District’s 3rd VP and Chaplain will review within two to three weeks.
 - Where like suggestions and input have been made, and if deemed appropriate in keeping with the Goals of the Personal Evangelism Program, information will be incorporated into the Basic /Preliminary Training Materials.
 - A telephone conference call will be scheduled with all Conference 3rd Vice Presidents/designee(s) and Chaplains including the 5th District Chaplain to discuss submitted materials.
 - Material(s) to be included in final training package will be determined.

- 4 District's 3rd Vice President and Chaplain will then prepare final Training Package
- 5 Discuss Plan and Training Materials with District's Director of Lay Activities
 - Determine how best to train Local Lay Organizations. (**Training of District and Conference Officers will be included with their local Lay Organization training**)
 - Create Evaluation Form to measure effectiveness of material and training
 - All participants will complete Evaluation Form. Completed Evaluations will be returned to the 5th District's 3rd Vice President and discussed with District's Director of Lay Activities
 - Evaluations will then be discussed with all Director's Of Lay Activities, and District and Conference Officers that attended training, via a telephone conference call
 - Adjustments will be made where deemed necessary for effectiveness of training.

Strategy: After training of Local Lay Organizations is complete, coordinate with Church and Church Ministries:

1. Conference Presidents: Coordinate with Local Presidents to discuss with local Pastors on implementation of training and coordination with church ministries.
 - Recommend starting with:
 1. Church School
 2. Class Leaders
 3. New Member Classes
 4. Bible Studies
 5. Into the Community
2. Follow-up
 - Conduct Quarterly follow-up with each Conference
 - Determine/Evaluate Progress being made
 - Discuss any needs and or assistance with any aspect of program

This Action Plan is a living document and can and will be adjusted as needed. A written report will be provided to the 5th District President every six months or at his request.