

BILL NO.	CLO PL 03
TITLE	Transparency of Assessments Determination at all levels of the AME Church
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012, Part VII, Section II,A. Page 205; Part IX, Section 1.D., Page 233</i>
INTENT	To inform the AME Church membership, in a clear and succinct manner, of the methodologies and/or algorithms used to determine the financial assessments of each episcopal district toward the General Budget, and the financial assessments of each annual conference and local church toward the General Budget and episcopal district budget..
RATIONALE	The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church specifies budget allocations (financial assessments) to episcopal district budgets, giving only a cursory overview of factors considered in developing the General Budget (of the Connection), such as, projections made to reflect economic conditions in both the nation and church, and the median income of families in each episcopal district. However, there is no clear statement explaining how the percentage allocations are calculated. Absence of a clearly defined, objective methodology makes the assessments seem arbitrary, subjective and subject to negative criticism. In addition, The Doctrine and Discipline also states that allocated amounts also represent assessments to annual conferences and local churches. And similarly, there is no methodology offered to help the local church understand how the size of its assessment is derived from the General or Episcopal District Budgets. The calculus or method(s) used to derive financial assessments to the episcopal district, annual conference and local church need to be shared with all members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.



- 1 CURRENT TEXT:
- 2 No language on method or algorithm.
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- 4 AMENDED TEXT: Add a new paragraph to Section I.D. (Page 233)

5 *By the first meeting of the General Board after the 2016 General Conference, the*
6 *Commission on Statistics and Finance shall submit to the General Board*
7 *documentation of the method(s), system(s) and/or algorithm(s) used to determine*
8 *episcopal district budget assessments for 2016 – 2020. The documents shall consist of*
9 *clearly stated procedure(s) and/or algorithm(s), and shall include details on annual*
10 *conference and local church assessments determination, as applicable. The General*
11 *Board shall carefully review the submitted material for accuracy and consistency with*
12 *the approved General Budget and proposed Episcopal District Budgets. Members of the*
13 *General Board shall return a copy of the assessments determination documents to each*
14 *annual conference within the respective episcopal district that they represent.*

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16 *Thereafter, the Commission on Statistics and Finance shall provide the current*
17 *methodology, system and/or algorithm used to determine episcopal district assessments*
18 *to the General Budget along with the proposed General Budget presented at each*
19 *General Conference.*

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21 CURRENT TEXT:

22 Part IX, Section II.3., page 236 and Part VIII, Section II.A.10 (3rd paragraph); Page 207
23 The Episcopal District Budget with special projects, if any, must be submitted to the
24 General Board at its first annual meeting following the General Conference for approval.
25 The Episcopal District Budget submitted for approval must include sources and amount
26 of anticipated income and expected amount of expenditure in each of the listed account

27 categories. A printed, audited report of Income and Expenditure itemized will be
28 presented to each annual conference which contributes to the fund.

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30 AMENDED TEXT:

31 Part IX, Section II.3., page 236 and Part VIII, Section II.A.10 (3rd paragraph); Page 207

32 The Episcopal District Budget with special projects, if any, must be submitted to the
33 General Board at its first annual meeting following the General Conference for approval.

34 The Episcopal District Budget submitted for approval must include sources and amount
35 of anticipated income and expected amount of expenditure in each of the listed account

36 categories. *The Episcopal District Budget must also include a clear statement*

37 *explaining the methodology, system and/or algorithm used to determine assessments of*

38 *annual conferences and local churches within the episcopal district.* A printed audited

39 report of income and expenditures itemized, *along with a clear explanation of the*

40 *methodology, system and/or algorithm used to determine annual conference and local*

41 *church budget assessments shall be presented to the members of each annual*

42 *conference at the first annual conference after the General Conference.*

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46 **FUNDING: There is no cost associated with this proposed legislation**

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48 **Submitted by the CLO Proposed Legislation Committee**