



# Know Your 2016 AME Discipline

**Church Mission: The mission of the AME Church is to minister to the social, spiritual and physical development of all people. Page 23, Section II.**

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Presentation to the Pacific Northwest AME District  
Conference

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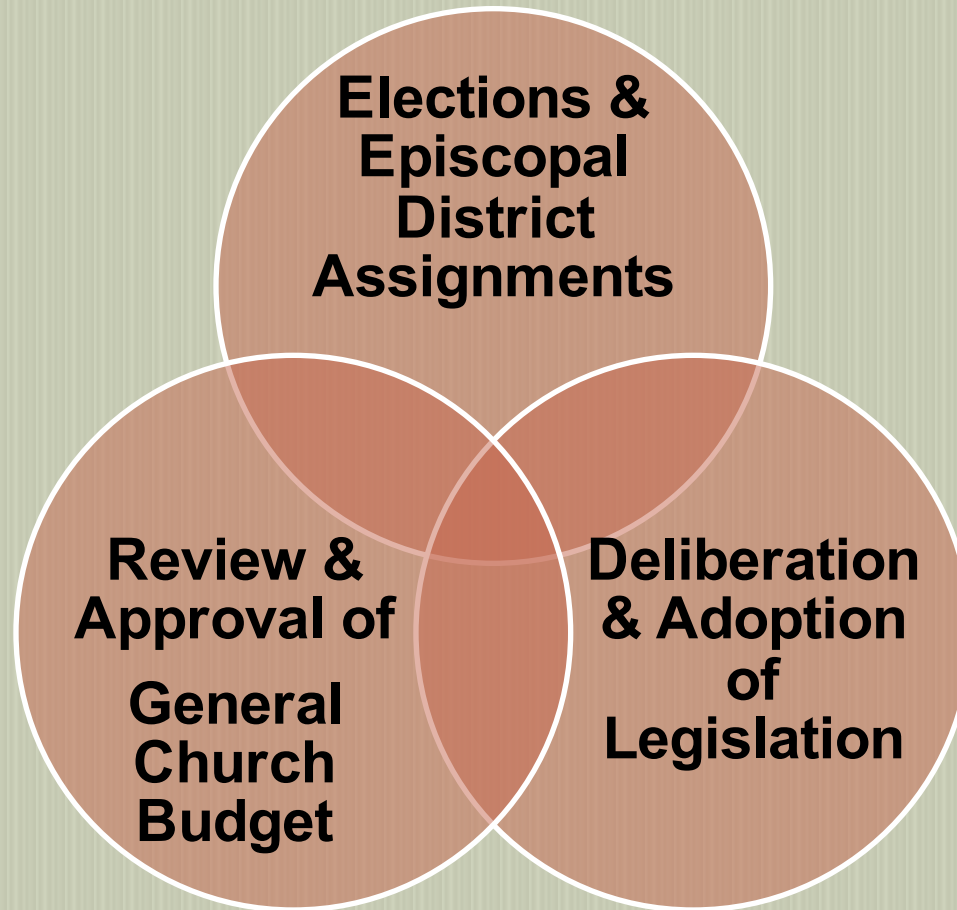
April 26, 2018

# Presentation Outline



- Review the Goals of the 2016 General Conference
- Summarize What's "New" in the 2016 Book of Doctrine & Discipline (BODD)
- Discuss the Purpose of the 2016 BODD
- Outline the Strengths & Limitations of the BODD
- New Legislation Adopted at the 2016 General Conference
- Introduce the Church Finance Supplement
- Propose Next Steps

# Goals of the 2016 African Methodist Episcopal Church General Conference



# What's New in the 2016 Book of Doctrine and Discipline?



- **33 Newly Adopted Bills**
- **Quadrennial Theme (Page 3)**
- **Bicentennial Focus (Pages 15 -21)**
- **Tribute to Emanuel 9 (Page 22)**
- **Improved Structure of Topics (See Local Church Membership Part IV. Sections 2 -3)**
- **Bibliography of AME Publications (Page 808)**
- **List of AME Acronyms (Page 811)**

# Purpose of the 2016 BODD



- H **History** – Historical Preamble, Page 23.
- O **Organization** – Order & Opportunity.
- P **Polity** – Articles of Religion/Affirmation of Faith.
- E **Education** – An educated Clergy & Laity fosters Church Growth and Development.

# Assessing the 2016 BODD



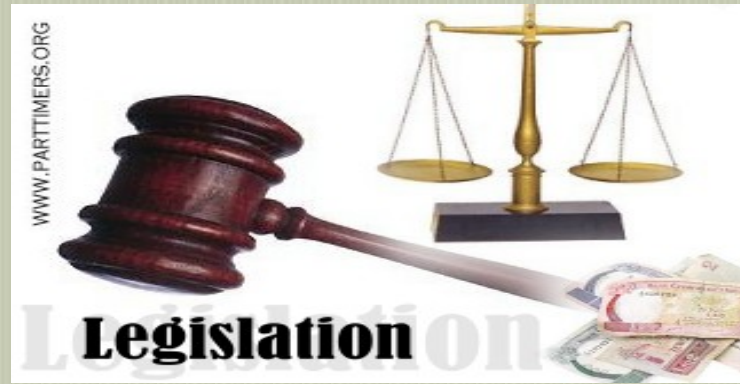
## Strengths (Triple “A”)

- **Access** – Any AME member can obtain a copy. The 2016 BODD is smaller in size compared to previous editions.
- **Affordability** – 2016 BODD is priced at \$30.00.
- **Accountability** – BODD emphasizes that everybody (clergy & lay) are held responsible for their actions.

## Limitations

- **Publication took too long.**
- **BODD still too long (879 pp)**
- **Small font size will impede reading.**
- **No electronic version of the 2016 BODD available.**
- **Church Finance Section deleted in 2016 BODD.**

# 2016 General Conference Legislation by the Numbers



- 140 – Bills given to Revisions Committee
- 69 -- Bills approved by Revision for General Conference Consideration
- 41 -- Bills presented on General Conference Floor
- 8 -- Bills rejected by the General Conference
- **33 -- Bills passed (23.5% of the Total Bills Received)**

# Legislation Passed at the 2016 G.C. – Part I



- Emanuel 9 Observance
- 2. CC8 Effective Date of Adopted Legislation
- 3. CC14 Maintain Accurate Records of Churches with Societies
- 4. CC16 Quarterly Conference
- 5. CC22 Youth Ages 13-17 as Preparatory Members
- 6. CC24 Young Adult Age Redefinition
- 7. CM4 Membership
- 8. CS01 Bylaws of the AME Women in Ministry
- 9. CS05 Conn-M-SWAWO Plus Pks C & B Revision--Structure
- 10. CS07 MCAM Constitution and Bylaws, 2016-2020
- 11. CS08 Submission Part 2 – MCAM Constitution and Bylaws, 2016-2020
- 12. CS09 Presiding Elder District RAYC
- 13. CS010 Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the International Health Commission
- 14. CS011 Constitution and Bylaws of Connectional Lay Organization
- 15. CS012 WMS Constitution and Bylaws - Amended
- 16. GGB5 Connectional Presiding Elders Council
- 17. GGB6 CONVO
- 18. GGB10 HALT – 1(HIV/AIDS Legislative Team): Annual Report
- 19. GGB11 HALT - 2 Leader Training on HIV -AIDS
- 20. GGB15 Revised Commission on Health Departmental Statement



# Legislation Passed at the 2016 G.C. – Part II



- 21. GGB17 The Bishop Sarah Frances Davis Covenant Keepers and Intercessors
- 22. GGB19 The General Board
- 23. GGDA2 Authority of Active Bishops
- 24. GGDA4 Chief Financial Officer(Treasurer) of the AME Church
- 25. GGDA10 Filling the Vacancies of Connectional Officers
- 26. GGDA12 Guiding Principles to Consider When Transferring a Minister & Creation of Uniform Assessment Procedures
- 27. GWD2 The H. B. Senatle AME Church Centre
- 28. ICP1 Local Church Property Transfer of Property
- 29. JA1 Amendment of Charges
- 30. JA5 Composition of the Judicial Council
- 31. JA12 Sexual Misconduct Reporting Clarification
- 32. MN4 Background Checks Revealing Criminal History
- 33. MN6 Change in Terminology from Handicap to Diferently Challenged in the Preachers Admitted on Trial

# 2016 Church Finance Book



- **Members must pay \$5 to obtain a copy of the Church Finance Supplement.**
- **Was the deletion from the BODD legal?**
- **Table of Contents not aligned with the pages in the supplement.**
- **Budget Data Provides No Comparison between the 2013 and 2016 Connectional Budgets.**

# Where Do We Go From Here?



- Demand the 2020 BODD (Print & Electronic Version) be published concurrently and on time!
- Why did the 2016 BODD take nearly two years to produce and distribute? See the Compilation Committee's Duties (Pages 261-263). An Apology?
- Publish a Small "Pocket-Size" BODD (Similar to Compact Bibles with NT & Psalms/Proverbs).
- Restore the Church Finance Section to the BODD!
- Are we AME or AMEINO? (True Identity)

# Conclusion:

## Questions, Comments & Innocuous Criticisms



*The BODD is a great tool to supplement our Kingdom-building working for Christ. It is vitally important however that we not become “Pharisaic” in our zeal to manipulate the BODD for our selfish agenda.*

*Bill Dickens, April 20, 2018*