

# More than Membership (Part 2):

## MOVING FROM MEMBERSHIP TO LEADERSHIP IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

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# WHAT IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

## **...it is:**

- A mutual acceptance and commitment between an individual and the local church.
- A covenant responsibility to help and be helped, encourage and be encouraged, correct and be corrected.
- An expression to love God's people and be loved by them.
- An acceptance of responsibility in the church, we are letting the church know, "you can count on me."

## **...It is not**

- A list of "rights" that you buy with tithes and offerings.
- It is no having your name of the roll

# What constitutes membership in the AME Church?

There are five manners of local church membership in the AME Church

## Terminated

Membership may be terminated only by withdrawal, expulsion, or death.

Request for withdrawal shall be submitted in writing to the pastor - official board - letter of withdrawal.

A nonresident member for 3 consecutive years is no longer a member.

A member who has joined a church of another denomination.

A terminated member has no rights or title to the personal or real property of the local or general church.

## Full

persons over 18 years of age, baptized and are in full communion.

having publically joined the church and received the right hand of fellowship.

Member's coming from another AME Church or Methodist denominations.

## Affiliate

Member of another AME church, who desires to be in fellowship with your local church.

Entitled to the privileges of that church (pastoral oversight, participation, and the right to hold office.

Membership, is counted and reported only in the membership of their home church.

## Probation

A member in the 90 day probation period.

Not coming from another Methodist Church.

Being instructed in the Bible, The Doctrine and Discipline of the AMEC.

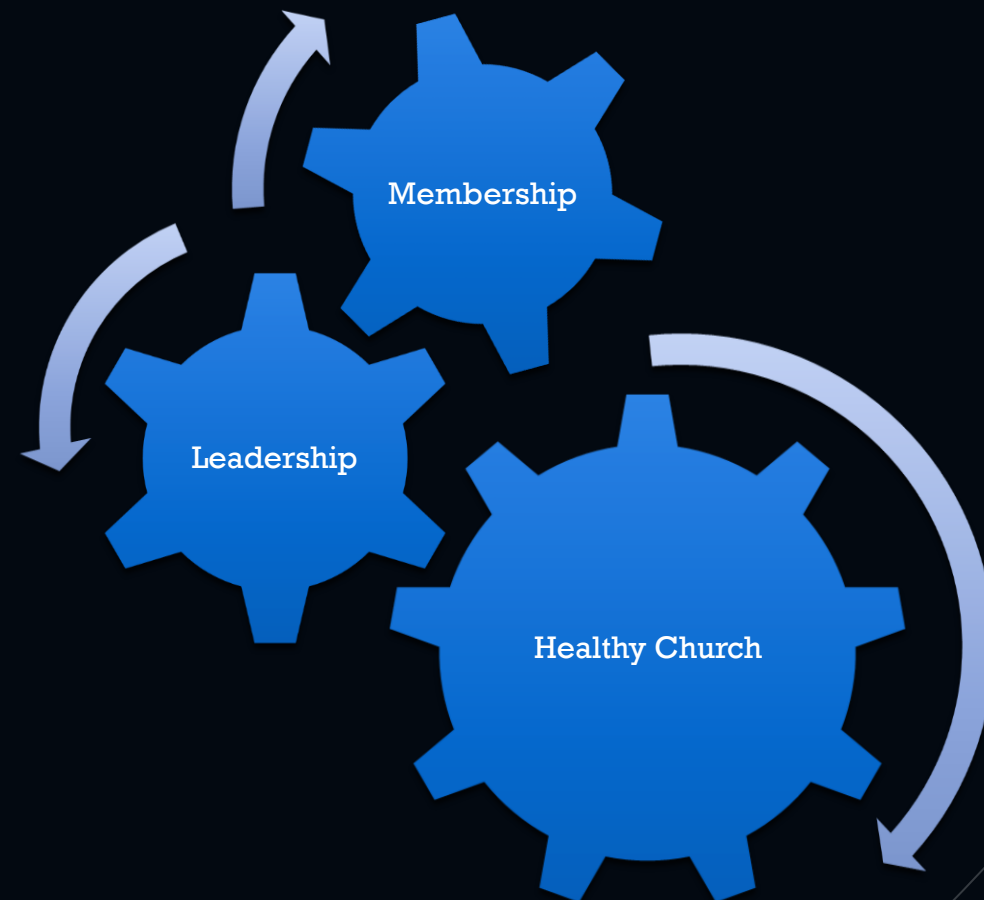
After 90 days may be admitted into full membership.

## Preparatory

Under the age of 18.

Children are baptized into preparatory membership.

MOVING FROM  
MEMBERSHIP  
TO LEADERSHIP



WHAT IS A LEADER?

WHO CHOOSES THE  
LEADERS?

### **What is a Leader?**

- ✓ A person or something that guides. (Matthew 15:14)
- ✓ One that rules (Hebrews 13:7)

### **Who chooses the leader?**

Paul discusses the kind of people God often chooses in 1 Corinthians 1:26-29.

- ✓ These men were not chosen because they were the best and brightest.
- ✓ They became what they became because they spent time with Jesus.

# WHAT IS LEADERSHIP?

Many people use the term leadership as interchangeable with management, but the two terms are quite different.

- The term management implies someone has been given a position, and through that position or title they have power to guide others.
- Leadership, on the other hand, does not require specific titles.

Leaders take on the role because they are appointed, elected, or emerge into the role.

# WHAT IS LEADERSHIP?

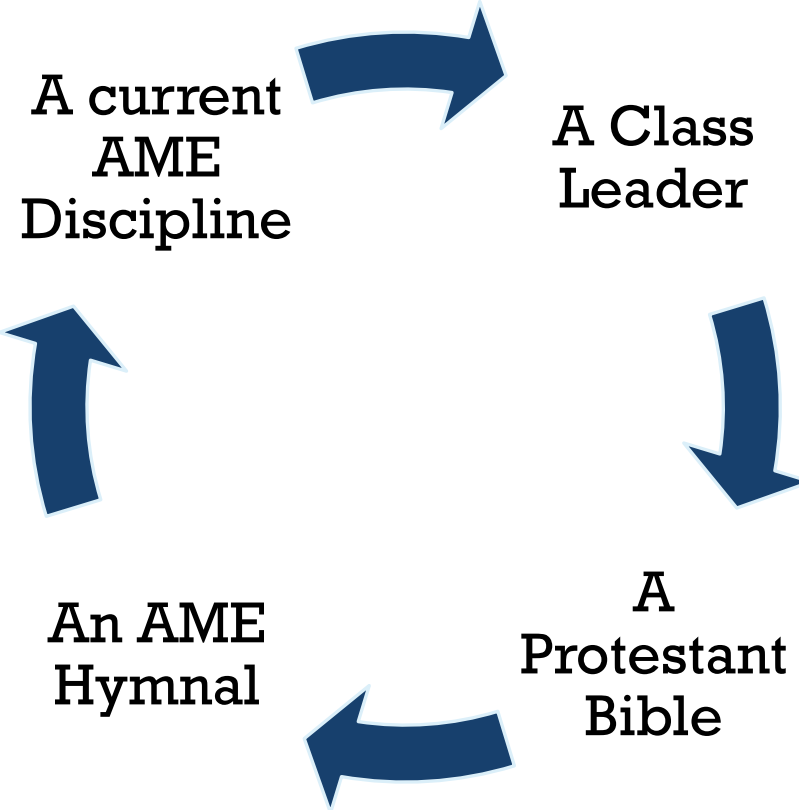
## **...it is:**

- Application of Influence to develop people, to help people reach their potential (John Maxwell)
- Influence; the ability of one to influence others to follow (J. Oswald Sanders)
- The act of making a difference (Hackman & Johnson)
- Servant Leadership is exercising godly leadership for the purpose of influencing, equipping, and empowering people to accomplish God's purpose and plan.
- It is serving others unselfishly while influencing and empowering them to grow in a Christ-directed, purposeful direction.

## **...It is not**

- Leadership is not about you.
- Leadership is not about power.
- Leadership is not about control.
- Leadership is not about doing everything yourself.
- Leadership is not about having all the answers.
- Leadership is not about taking credit.
- Leadership is not about deflecting personal responsibility.

**WHAT  
SHOULD AME  
LEADERS  
HAVE?**





# WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW AS AN AME LEADER?

## The Connectional Level

- The 20 Bishops (20 active Bishops); The Retired Bishops
- The General Officers
- The Connectional Officers
- The General Board members from your Episcopal District
- The Judicial Council members from your Episcopal District

## The Annual Conference

- The "back bone" of Methodism.
- Place for ministers to give inventory of their stewardship, be inspired, receive information, and receive their new assignments.
- Composition includes presiding bishop, presiding elders, local deacons and elders, itinerant deacons and elders, retired ministers, licentiates, conference evangelist, president of the conference Lay, missionary society, conference director of Christian education, YPD director, conference director of music, one lay delegate from each charge (church) in the annual conference and when possible one youth delegate.
- Travel and expenses related to the Annual Conference **should be paid by the local church.**

## The District Conference

- Composition includes all traveling ministers, local preachers, evangelists, one steward from each quarterly conference, presidents of the local Women's Missionary Society and Lay Organization, and a young adult representative from each church, circuit or station are also members.
- **Delegate is a steward elected by ballot at the first quarterly conference**
- Called by the presiding elder on an annual basis and must last no less than two days, but no more than three.
- Serves as a place for the pastor to give an account of their stewardship.

## The Quarterly Conference

- Meets at the call of the presiding elder at every local charge.
- Composition: traveling preachers on a circuit or station, supernumeraries, retired ministers, local preachers, exhorters, stewards, stewardesses, trustees, class leaders, General Officers, deaconesses, licensed missionary workers, evangelists and the superintendent of the Church School, president(s) of Lay, A.C.E. Fellowship and WMS, administrators of the A.M.E. institutions, organizations and agencies.
- The head of each auxiliary shall be answerable to the Quarterly Conference secretary record the proceedings in a suitable book, preserved by the stewards.
- 34 disciplinary questions to be asked by the elder and answered by the pastor at every Quarterly Conference

# What should you know as a Leader in your faith community?

- Chief officers of the local church responsible for promoting the program of the church and encourage the membership to support it.
- Appointed annually by the pastor, confirmed by and amenable to the quarterly conference, who may reject the board of stewards and/or to remove them when they fail or refuse to do their duties.
- Be one of solid piety, know and love the word of God and the discipline, fruitful, able to transact spiritual and temporal business of the church.
- A member of the AME church for 2 years. The board shall have no less than 3 and no more than 19 with the pastor as the chair of the steward board.
- ALL indebtedness of the church must be registered through the stewards
- Duties include but are not limited to providing the salary/package for the pastor.
- Give an account of all money
- Register all baptisms, marriages, and deaths within the congregation
- Guarding the pulpit and all things related to worship

# What should you know as a Leader in your faith community?

- Responsible for the temporal or physical plant of the church and may make improvements under the authority of the church conference.
- All property must be registered through the trustees.
- Nominated by the pastor and elected by the members of the church conference. The nominee must have been a member of the local church for at least 6 months and a member of the AME church for 2 years.
- The pastor shall announce the time and place for elections from the pulpit for at least 2 consecutive Sundays after nominating twice the number needed and said persons having provided written consent
- The pastor is the chairperson, and the Pastors signature shall be required to make any acts of the trustee legal. Pastor may appoint a chair pro tem to act on their behalf in their absence
- Shall secure, purchase or hire house for the pastor's family, and also comfortably furnish it; or the pastor may be given a housing allowance (68); They shall pay the Pastor's moving expenses (68).
- amenable to the quarterly conference and shall not prevent or attempt to prevent bishop or ministers of the AME Church from preaching, expounding or serving as Pastor.

## ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE

# What should you know as a Leader in your faith community?

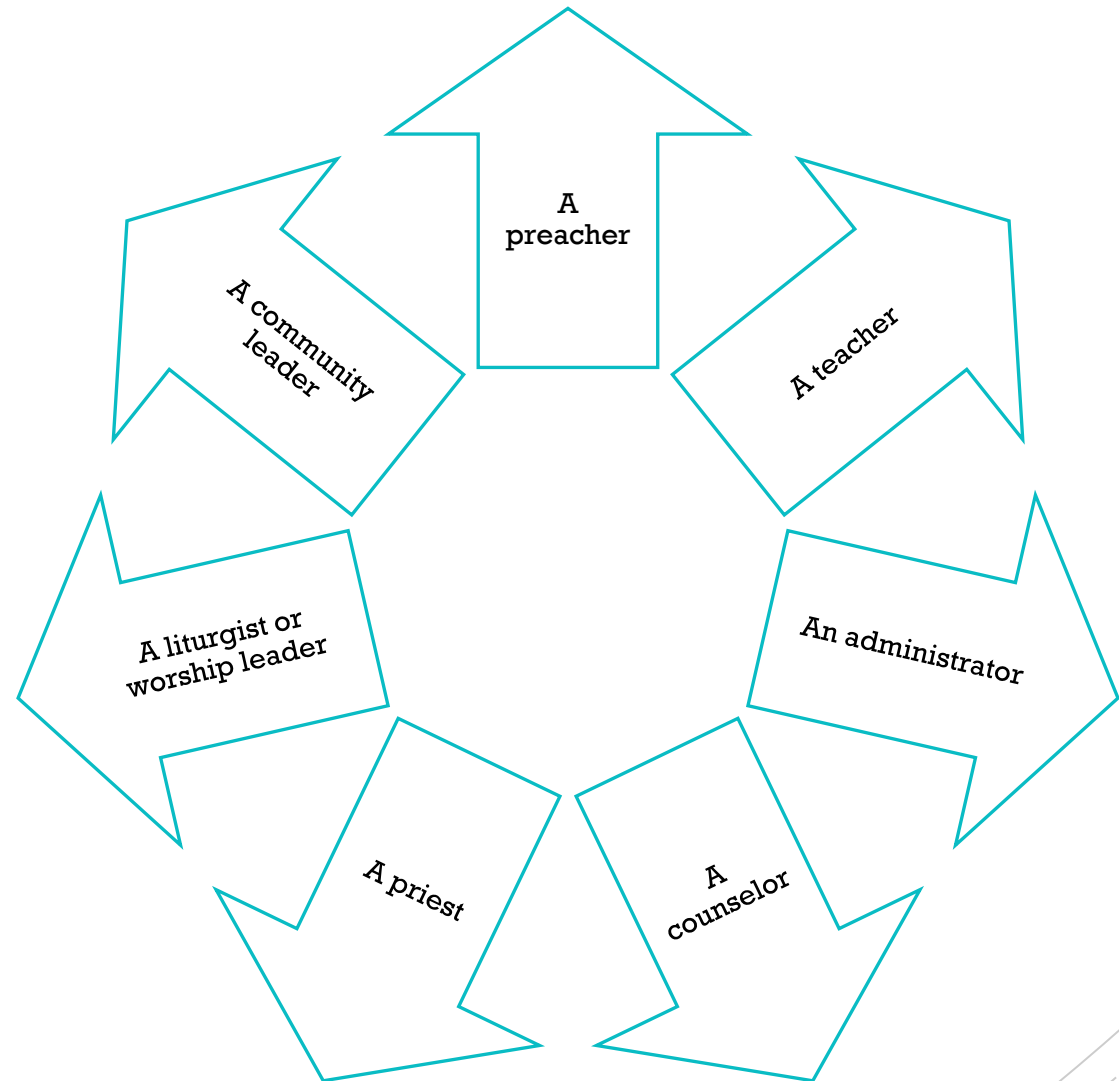
- The Official Board is composed of all class leaders, exhorters, deaconesses, stewards, trustees, stewardesses and presidents of all organizations of a church including the president of the Lay Organization.
- The Pastor is the chairperson ex-officio and a steward is elected to serve as the secretary of the board.
- The Official board should meet at least once per month; local preachers are regarded as honorary members of the board and are required to visit the meetings regularly.
- To pass the Annual Church Budget
- **\*\*Nothing in the AME Church happens – we are an accountable church but too often release people from accountability.**

**ROLE OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD**

# ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PASTOR

WHAT  
LEADERS  
SHOULD  
KNOW?

According to the Pastor's Manual (vl. 2, pg. 116) there are 7 roles of the pastor:



# ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PASTOR

## WHAT LEADERS SHOULD KNOW?

The Doctrine and Discipline outlines 28 responsibilities for the Itinerant preacher. Take special note of those that apply to Pastors:

- 2) shall be a tither,
- 3) attend their quarterly conference,
- 6) at the beginning of each conference year convene an official board for the purpose of laying the administrative plans for the church, outlining the calendar of events,, plan for financing the various enterprises of the church,
- The Appointment of the Pastor is in the hands of the Presiding Bishop. Pastors are appointed annually but can be moved at any time with 90 days' notice or by written consent. The Pastor is the Chair/Ex-Officio of every organization and Ministry of the Local Church. The Pastor is amenable to the Annual Conference.

# FINANCIAL STATE OF THE CHURCH

WHAT  
LEADERS  
SHOULD  
KNOW?

(Remember this is business NOT personal)

1. What are the bare bones cost of running the ministry?
2. What is the historical giving trend of the church?
3. Has there been any major loss of revenue or income? Why? When?

# SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE CHURCH

WHAT  
LEADERS  
KNOW?

1. What previous teaching/training has happened in the congregation had?
2. What teaching or re-teaching does the congregation need?
3. What are the spiritual gifts in the church?
4. Who are the people or what are the circles, cliques or familial ties in the church that have the potential to be problematic for the future of the church?



# EMOTIONAL STATE OF THE CHURCH

WHAT  
LEADERS  
KNOW?

- a. Of the Pastor - Are they angry, bitter, happy, indifferent, or excited to be there?
- b. As a congregation- Are you angry, bitter, happy, indifferent, or excited to be there?
- b. Of the Pastor - Do they have a support system (outside of the church) to encourage you or humble you while you serve at this station?

# EXAMPLES OF BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP

1. Noah: Leaders do what's right even if they are alone (Genesis 6)
2. Abraham: Leaders embrace the unknown (Genesis 12)
3. Joseph: Leaders endure in spite of circumstances (Genesis 37)
4. Moses: Leaders stick up for their people (Exodus 3)
5. Joshua: Leaders rule by example rather than command (Joshua 24)
6. David: Leaders are not afraid of giants (1 Samuel 17)
7. Isaiah: Leaders rise to the occasion (Isaiah 6)
8. Daniel: Leaders maintain their resolve without regard for consequences (Daniel 6)
9. John the Baptist: Leaders aren't afraid to call out the phonies (Matthew 3)
10. Jesus: Leaders are servants (John 13)
11. Peter: Leaders recover from failure (Acts 2)
12. Paul: Leaders are passionate for what they believe in (Acts 9)
13. Eve: Leaders are the target for temptation (Genesis 3)
14. Rebekah: Leaders are always willing to give (Genesis 24)
15. Miriam: Leaders look out for the helpless (Exodus 2)
16. Deborah: Leaders inspire their followers (Judges 4)
17. Ruth: Leaders demonstrate loyalty (Ruth 1)
18. Mary of Nazareth: Leaders embrace great opportunities (Luke 1)
19. Mary Magdalene: Leaders are the first to know (Luke 24)
20. Mary, Sister of Martha: Leaders aren't too busy for what's important (Luke 10)
21. Priscilla: Leaders criticize with tact (Acts 18)
22. Lois: Leaders look generations into the future (2 Timothy 1)