



African Methodist Episcopal Church
1st Episcopal District Lay Organization
Mid Year Meeting • March 4, 2023

Serve with Integrity, Strive for Excellence!

**Dr. Charmaine D. Cohen, Presenter
Western New York Conference**

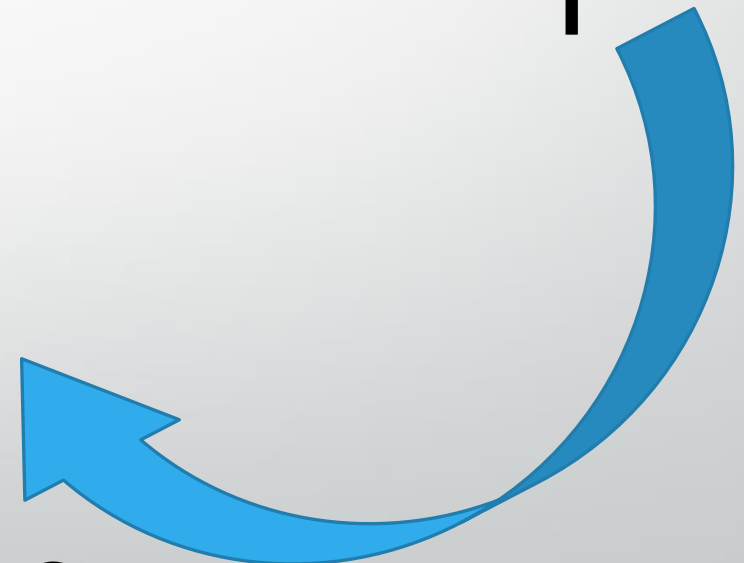
Today's Objective

Review Basic Christian Principals

Reboot

Restore

Reactivate





Part I: Integrity

Part I

Integrity Starts With the One in The Mirror

Proverbs 10:9

*Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who
makes his way crooked will be found out*

Why Is Integrity Important?

- It helps you to be a good person
- You're more likely to make good decisions
- Helps you to treat others with respect
- You intentionally try to do the right thing -
WWJD

If You Lack Integrity

- You can become dishonest or sneaky
- You take short cuts or cut corners that later become a detriment to yourself and or ministry
- You do things you think no one will find out about
- You're unable to appreciate the distinction between what is honest or dishonest
- Your actions can have negative impact on the ministry
- What you do in the dark, comes out in the light

How Do People See You?

- Your reputation precedes you
- An encounter with you leaves an impression
- The work you do leaves an impression
- How do people see you when you're not there?

Example Case Scenarios in a Ministry

- Altering meeting minutes
- Altering financial reports
- Spending some allocated funds on personal use
- Tearing down members of the committee
- Tearing down the ministry “bucking”
- Making decisions on your own without committee input
- Negotiating on behalf of your ministry and in your favor – Kickback
- Fabricating the truth about members/the ministry

Let's check in with the one in the mirror

- What type of reputation do I have?
- What type of impression do I leave?
- What type of impression does my work leave?
- How do people see me when I'm not there?

Operate With Integrity

- Expressing gratitude for others
- Valuing honesty and openness
- Taking responsibility and accountability for your actions, good and bad

Operate With Integrity con't

- Respecting yourself and others around you no matter where you are
- Helping those in need without sacrificing your own health
- Demonstrating reliability and trustworthiness
- Showing patience and flexibility, even when unexpected obstacles show up

Integrity in a Ministry

Church Workers reflecting on and upholding Christian vision and values in all relationships and actions.

The way we think and speak, and the way we act, especially when no one is watching. It is being honest with ourselves, others, and God.

When individuals have integrity, then the ministry is operating under the spirit of integrity – Ministry is Effective/Successful



Part II: Excellence

Part II

Strive for Excellence and Only Settle for The Best!

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Common “Perfect” Phrases

Practice Makes Perfect

I Want the Perfect...

That's Perfect

Pitch Perfect

Perfect Storm

Picture Perfect

Nobody's Perfect

What Does Perfect Imply?

- Having all the required or desirable elements, qualities, or characteristics
- As good as it is possibly can be
- Without flaws or pristine
- No opportunity for improvement

Downside to Perfection

Physiological	Psychological
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depression• Anxiety• Stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creates extremely high standards• Results in a perceived failure despite accomplishments• A strong demand is placed on oneself: self-criticism

What Should We Strive For?

Perfection

or

Excellence



**In Ministry,
Strive for Excellence and Only
Settle for the Best**

Strive for Excellence....

- Push ourselves to deliver the highest quality in everything we do:

Missionary, YPD Leader, Choir, Usher, Stewardess, Minister, Steward, Trustee, Culinary Team, Sons of Allen, Church School Teacher, Lay Organization.

Why Should We Strive For Excellence?

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.


“Well done my good and faithful servant”

Matthew 25:14-30

The Book of Daniel

- Jailed and rose through the ranks
- Interpreted dreams despite circumstance

*"Then Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, **because an excellent spirit was in him**; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm." Daniel 6:3*



**Striving for excellence starts with embracing
a spirit of excellence. It needs to be in you.**

6 Steps to Developing a Spirit of Excellence

Six Steps To Excellence In Ministry by Kenneth Copeland

Step No. 1: Be Dedicated to Excellence in Ministry

Step No. 2: Have Singleness of Purpose

Step No. 3: Follow the Leadership of the Holy Spirit

Step No. 4: Strip Away the Things of the World

Step No. 5: Look to the Word of God Day and Night

Step No. 6: Spend Time Fasting

Dr. Charmaine's Practical Steps to Excellence in Ministry

- Know The Purpose of the Ministry or Project
- Stay in Your Lane or Do Your One Eleven
- Apollo 13 Method
- Dot the I's and Cross the T's
- Collaborate
- You Get Out What You Put In
- Embrace Dr. Martin Luther King's Philosophy



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. embraced excellence.

He so eloquently said: "If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as a Michaelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well."

