African Methodist Episcopal Church
50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference

Department of Church Growth and Development

The Rt. Rev. McKinley Young, Commission Chair
Dr. James C. Wade, Executive Director
THE VISION

With intensive biblically grounded, spiritually impacted, culturally relevant teaching, practical training, and resources the vision of the Department is to:

• Create and develop radical disciples and disciple-makers for the sake of the Gospel;

• Equip members of our Zion to become spiritually empowered witnesses for the Kingdom of God in order to RECLAIM, REBUILD, and RECOMMIT to serving as greater laborers for the harvest;

• Ensure that the presence of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the place of African Methodism is present wherever people are situated throughout the world.

We have endeavored to make the vision a reality through...
THE GREAT BIBLE RACE

An interactive video game for ALL AGES that reveals the stories, people, and teachings of the Holy Scriptures.

The Department of Church Growth contracted with the company to customize The Great Bible Race for African Methodists worldwide. Therefore, in addition to the teachings of Scripture, players receive AME...

- Church History
- Doctrines
- Teachings

Complete with images!

Along with equipping and empowerment with...
In addition to holding sessions for Clergy and Laity, we have consistently created space for the:

- Women’s Missionary Society
- Young Adult Network
- Sons of Allen
- Lay Organization
- Pastoral Care and Counselors
- Chaplains

To teach and train their members to become workers in the vineyard according to specific needs for transformative outcomes, because...
The Department was intentional in providing presentations and teachings which addressed the profound impact of the involvement of God’s people in general and the AME Church in particular, in the fight for social and racial justice.

- Dr. Andre Johnson spoke of the evangelistic and prophetic spirit of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner in the face of racial injustice during his day;

- Mr. Dred Scott Madison, the great-great grandson of Mr. Dred Scott, addressed the implications and ramifications of his great-great grandfather’s legacy when in 1846 he launched a legal battle to gain his freedom from slavery;

- Dr. Dwight N. Hopkins, challenged us to continue the press for fighting for justice, despite what it looks like and;

- The Rev. Dr. Sharon Grant, reminded persons of Christ’s work on behalf those who oppressed and marginalized, and our need to go, do and be likewise.

Mindful of these historical issues and biblical mandates...
THE EVANGELISM AND CHAPLAINCY CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

Experienced an increase in registered and returning students along with a phenomenal number of 150 graduates in large measure to due to the tremendous work of our facilitators who led students in:

- **Operation Multiplication**
- **Spiritual Formation**
- **Apologetics: Basic and Advanced**
- **Operating in Divine Purpose**
- **Youth Confirmation**

Which also led us to help individuals and congregations work to be better stewards by becoming...
HEARERS RECEIVED:

✧ Strategies to help individuals, families and organizations get out of debt.

✧ Practical information to overcome the culture of debt.

✧ Dynamic wisdom to attain financial independence.

✧ Knowledge that after four years of using the dfree strategy to motivate families to pay off debt and use resources that facilitate financial freedom

As a result of our work through the Seminar and Certification Programs...
This initial event represents the evolution of a ministry that began on the Quincy District, and the expansion of a program of the Department of Evangelism of the African Methodist Episcopal Church...

We are also grateful to Dr. James Wade and the Department of Evangelism and Church Growth for making this two-year certification program available. We are already seeing the dividends of that vision in the Florida Conference...It is our prayer that your devotion will meet the desired goal of Operation Multiplication in each local congregation.
WHERE IN THE WORLD HAS JAMES WADE BEEN THIS QUADRENNIAL?

As far as the East to the West and the North to the South, Dr. Wade has traveled nationally and internationally to educate, equip, and empower congregations. Individually and with a delegation of missional clergy and laity His work has impacted:

The 16th Episcopal District
St. Croix
- Operation Multiplication
- Door to Door Evangelism in Housing Project
- Street Ministry * Basic and Advanced
- Revival

The 17th Episcopal District
- Teaching the Congregation How to Pray for the Spiritually Lost
- Street Ministry * Basic and Advanced
- Revival
The Department of Church Growth and Development will create an online Evangelism Certification Program uniquely designed for our International AME members. This Certification Program will allow students to receive teaching and training that will lead clergy and laity to become evangelists specific to their contextual settings.

Students would take FOUR CLASSES, in six month intervals covering...

- Biblical Foundations for Evangelism
- Biblical Fundamentals for Evangelism
- Apologetics: Defending the Faith in the Face of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism
- Spiritual Formation
- Leadership According to Scripture
- The Heart of the Evangelist
- Evangelism: Everyone Has a Role in the Work and Witness
- Preparing the Congregation for Evangelism

Engage in a Practicum and receive CEU’s from Payne Theological Seminary!
RECOMMENDATIONS

In accordance with the Episcopal Address, the myriad of challenges facing us can be met in many difference ways. Some of our recommendations include:

ITEM 1
Discipleship training for members can be facilitated through the Lay Organizations (Operation Multiplication Becoming a Disciple Maker) at the Episcopal, Annual Conference, District Conference and Local Church levels.

In addition Dr. Melanie Valentines new book, “Quit Waiting For Them To Show Up” is an excellent new resource for the church.
RECOMMENDATIONS

ITEM 2
We recommend the course from the World Methodist Council on Evangelism entitled, “Faith Sharing,” which teaches persons how to share their faith, be used to meet the goal of 2 million souls for Christ every year for the next four years.

ITEM 3
The Department gladly accepts the responsibility of meeting the 3rd Quadrennial goal of preparing tracks and other materials about church growth.