The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church—Department of Christian Education

Making disciples through "events that form and transform"

eLearning Christian Education Certification Program—"Online you get to know your students' minds not just their faces."

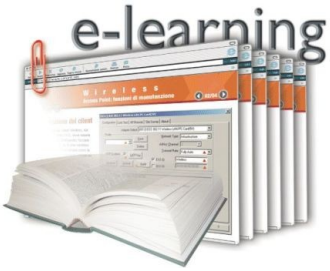
eLearning

eLearning is the use of technology to enable people to learn anytime and anywhere. eLearning includes training, the delivery of just-in-time information, and guidance from experts. Imagine having a Sunday School teacher available to you at your convenience, not just on Sunday morning…

If we could stop time and inexpensively bring together all of the people in the CME Church who need to learn and the resources to teach them, we would not need e-learning. In the real world, people have jobs to do and funds are limited. We envision our learning program leveraging the power of technology to overcome the limitations of time, distance, and resources. Some examples of how we will deliver eLearning include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Asynchronous eLearning
- ✓ Self-paced Courses
- ✓ Discussion Groups
- ✓ Synchronous eLearning
- ✓ Virtual Classroom
- ✓ Audio and Video Conferencing
- ✓ Chat
- ✓ Shared Whiteboard
- ✓ Application Sharing
- ✓ Instant Messaging

No single e-learning method is best for every learning need. We will most likely need to use several eLearning technologies as well as traditional learning methods. Our blended learning program will combine eLearning and traditional learning methods. Thus providing the convenience, speed, and cost effectiveness of eLearning with the personal touch of traditional learning.



2010 was an exciting year for the Department of Christian Education as we launched our "full service" website. Along with content, the website also supports distance learning in an eLearning format. This feature allows posting of outlines and PowerPoint presentations from Christian Education workshops over the years and from the Annual C.M.E. Convocation this past September.

The new eLearning feature moves us into a new phase of Christian Education ministry in the C.M.E. Church. Thanks to excellent assistance from our Technology Consultant, Mr. Charles Coney, and Mrs. Lauran James, Instructional Designer for Online Learning, we launched our first Christian Education Certification course on January 24, 2011.

The Certification track consists of six classes (modules) that will be held from January through mid-September. The Christian Education Certification program is designed to provide the theory, knowledge, and skills necessary for Christian educators in the African American Church. The Certification course of study will span from January 2011 through mid-September 2011, culminating with certification completion recognition at the Annual C.M.E. Convocation.

A pre-assessment instrument will be administered upon registration to determine prior knowledge of learners in the areas of Christian education and computer literacy. Upon completion of this certification program, the learner will be able to:

- 🕮 **Give a definition of Christian Education**
- 🕮 **Develop a lesson/teaching plan**
- 🕮 **Lead an evaluation of the local church's Christian Education Ministry**
- 🕮 **Have a basic understanding of learning styles**

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Who should enroll in this certification program? Pastors; Christian Educator leaders; Teachers in the Church; Young Adult leaders; and Children and Youth leaders.

The Certification program consists of the following six modules: ❶ Christian Education in the African American Church; ❷ C.M.E. History and Polity; ❸ Providing Age-Appropriate Ministry; ❹ Transforming a "Graying" Church; ❺ Identifying Leadership Skills; ❻Christian Education Project (creating a local church, district and regional curriculum).

Each module contains the following: Introduction to the lesson; Lesson objectives and expectations; Videoed lecture (by presenter), when applicable; Reading assignment(s); Learner discussion postings (peer-to-peer); Writing assignments; Resource libraries; and Grading rubric for learner discussions and writing assignments.

Each course module is from Monday through Sunday. Discussion postings are due by Thursday 11:59 p.m. and writing assignments are due by Sunday 11:59 p.m.. General modules will be created on Time management skills, Research Guidelines, and Critical Thinking.

In addition to the certification for Christian educators, the Department of Christian Education will also create learning modules for each auxiliary of the C.M.E. Church. ▪

CED101 - Christian Education in the African American Church

CED102 - Understanding C.M.E. History and Polity

CED103 - Providing Age-Appropriate Educational Ministry

CED104 - The "Graying" Church Through Educational Ministry

CED105 - Identifying Leadership Skills

CED106 - Creating Christian Education Project

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION