

# 24<sup>th</sup> Annual C.M.E. Convocation

An “Essential  
Church”

Poised

For

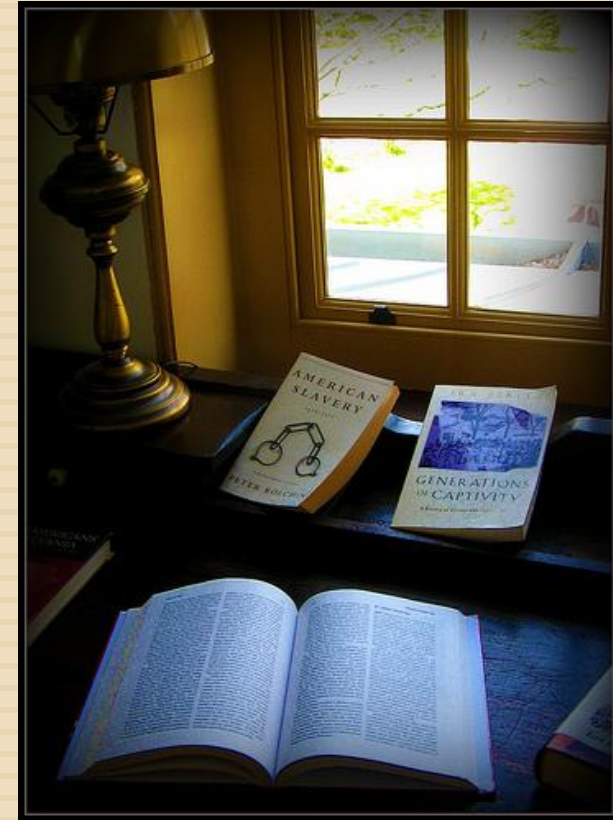
21<sup>st</sup>

Century

Ministry



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General Secretary  
Department of Christian Education



# BECOMING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

2010 C.M.E. Convocation

# Adult Educators

- ❑ Life long learners
- ❑ Teachers
- ❑ Disciples
- ❑ A leader on a journey
- ❑ One who ministers in a community
- ❑ One who forms and nurtures others in the faith

# Participants in Strengthening and Equipping Local Churches

- ❑ Called into ministry to form and nurture others in the faith
- ❑ Equip and empower persons in the local church to do ministry together
- ❑ Encourage and promote active and relevant ministry at every age level of the local church
- ❑ Advocates for Christian Education at every level of the Church

# Spiritual Formation

- Christian educators in the local church should be serious about their own spiritual formation as it is the basis for service and ministry

Personal devotion time

Biblical and theological study

Working knowledge of congregational development, adult education and the different stages of faith development

Develop and share collegial friendships

# FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Six Stages

Human

Development

James Fowler

- ❑ **Early Stages (Infancy)**
- ❑ **Mythic, Literal Stage (starts sorting out real from the make believe)**
- ❑ **Synthetic, Conventional Stage (beliefs held outside of self) where most are**
- ❑ **Individual-Reflective Faith (Internal authority)**
- ❑ **Conjunctive Faith (dialogue)**
- ❑ **Universal Faith**

# The Leading Learner

- ❑ Leading by example
- ❑ Know your congregation's
  - Needs
  - Problems
  - Strengths
  - Languages
- ❑ Develop processes that nurture a learning community within the local church



# Let's Talk Faith

- God's gift John 6:44 and Eph. 2:8
- Christian community must share its lived faith
- Christian community must make faith accessible embodied in the tradition
- Faith comes through hearing (Rom. 10:14-17)

# Three Dimensions of Faith-Groome

- Faith as believing—cognitive dimension
- Faith as trusting—affective dimension
- Faith as doing---loving engagement in the world

# GATHERED TO LEARN



# Local Churches as Learning Communities

- ❑ Reorientation required
- ❑ Members need to be mentors and learners to each other
- ❑ Christian educators provide guidance, vision and resources in helping the congregation live into this reorientation

# Community of Teachers and Learners

- Recognizing all members as Christian/Religious educators and life long learners
- No faith community is an island
- Each local church resides within a specific context

# Seeing God at Work in our Communities

- ❑ Teaching the Bible in a way that enriches the lives of people in the local church and community
- ❑ Regard the Bible as the Word of God but not equate it with God
  - ❑ God cannot be confined to words alone
- ❑ The Bible is a living reality

# An encounter with the Living God

- ❑ Important how we teach the Bible
- ❑ Teaching that brings persons in the congregation to encounter the living God.
- ❑ The local church provides the only curriculum that is real and viable for the people

# Curriculum of the Local Church

- A Community of Teachers and Learners
- Curriculum becomes God and God's people in this time and place
- A learning community emerges where all else becomes resource
- Curriculum is formed by incorporating all the differently abled people in the congregation

# Active and Relevant Communities

- Move beyond separation of teachers and learners
- Learn to become gifts to one another
- In learning communities teachers and learners exist and grow together
- A continual cycle emerges of teaching and learning and learning to teach

# Intergenerational and Intentional

- Being relevant includes being consciously intergenerational
- Intentional structuring
- All become speakers of the Word as well as hearers
- The three year old is teacher and the seventy year old is learner
- A transformed society where people of all ages connect and become carriers and witnesses of the Word of God

# Eight Facets of Learning Methodologies

1. Community
2. Presentation
3. Discussion
4. Study
5. Individual
6. Confrontation
7. Experience
8. Reflection

# CHALLENGED TO GROW



# Challenging Minds to Grow

- Created to learn
- Designed to develop
- Adult Learners
- Children and Youth
- Young Adults
- Leadership

# Equipping for the Task of Teaching

- Being grounded biblically for the task
  - ▣ Ephesians 4:1-16
- Having a comprehensive planning strategy
- Ongoing teacher education and training
- Empowerment and partnership

# SENT TO SERVE



# The Learning Serving Community

- Learning leads to mission
- Mission leads to learning
- One does not happen without the other
- When learning is rooted in baptism built on the word which carries us and we carry it learning has the potential for and must be measured by mission

# Mission of Learning Communities

- To provide a safe learning environment for people to come together
- To provide respect for all learners, individually different, with the support of Christian peers so they can grow and change
- To help learners set and achieve their own goals and give them responsibility for mission
- To make full use of the resources of the Christian community; globally and historically; to be a holistic community for the work of ministry

# Conclusion

- Local churches in the CME Church can be strengthened and equipped for relevant and active Christian Discipleship when they
- Gather together to **LEARN**
- Are Challenged to **GROW**
- And Sent to **SERVE**