



The **TEACHING CHURCH**

*Moving Christian Education
to Center Stage*

An "Essential Church":
Poised for 21st Century Ministry

24th Annual C.M.E. Convocation ☞ Galt House Hotel - Louisville, Ky.
September 21-24, 2010 ☞ Charles L. Coney, Instructor

Our Facilitator

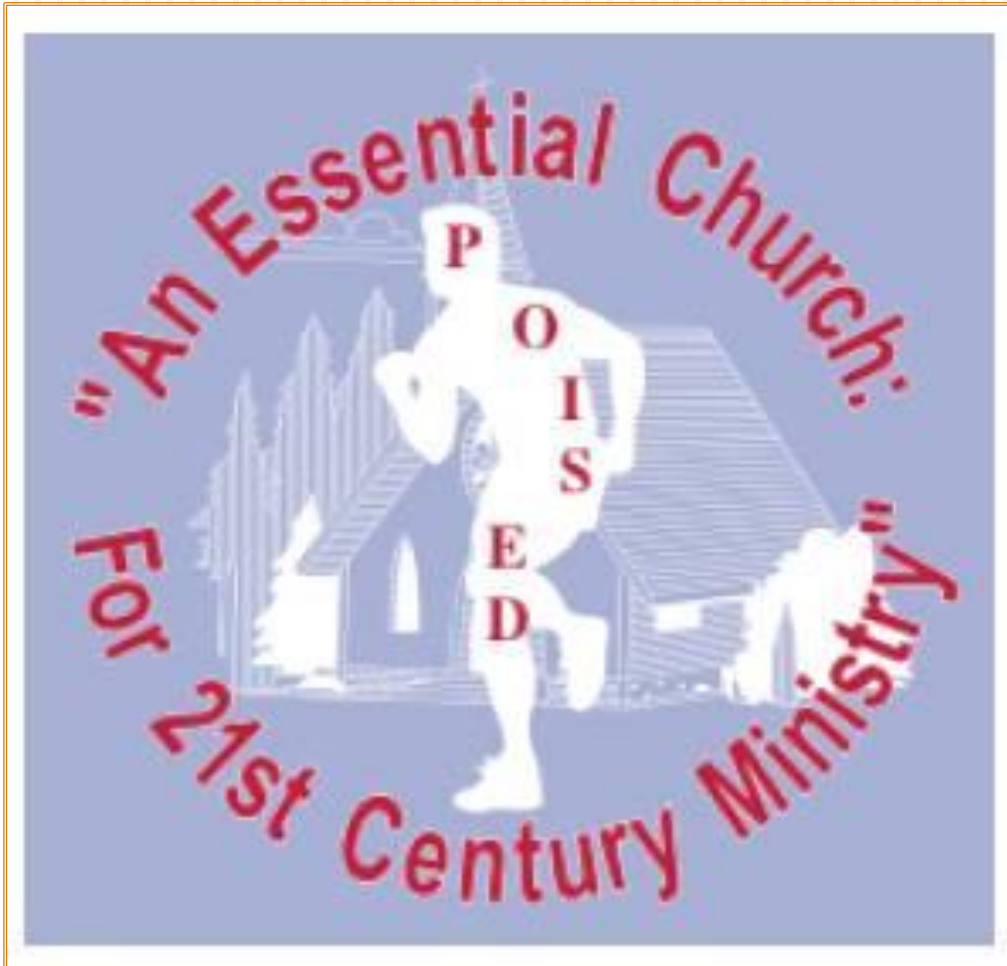


- Lifelong Christian
- Lifelong Christian Educator
- Lifelong Learner
- Public Education Administrator
- Seasoned Conference Facilitator & Trainer

*“People don’t care how much you know
until they know **how much you care.**”*

--President Theodore Roosevelt

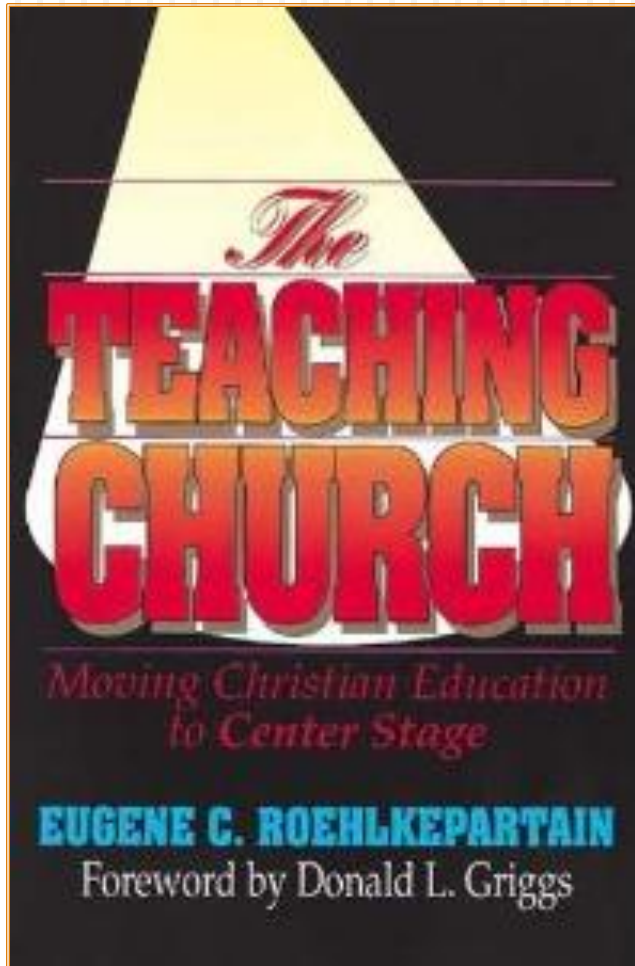
Welcome & Introductions



➤ Name; Episcopal District; Local Church; C.E.D. Role

- Favorite Hobby
- Favorite Place
- Favorite Memory
- Dream Job
- Wildcard

Primary Resource Book



- Explores the problems and possibilities uncovered by the Effective Christian Education study conducted by Search Institute
- Written for pastors and Christian Educators expanding on the survey's findings, presenting new information and analysis, and placing the study in the context of other recent thinking about Christian Education
- Contains worksheets and checklists to be used in evaluating a congregation's educational programs; charts and graphs that interpret data effectively; and a faith-maturity index to diagnose the educational competence of a congregation

Key Themes

- It is not just a matter of education; there must be an emphasis on nurture
- Values in educational strategies from the past must be reclaimed

- New models of Christian Education must be discovered and implemented
- Christian Education must be viewed holistically, not as a separate entity

Churches at Risk?



- Declining memberships
- Increased illiteracy about the Bible and our denomination
- Fear that faith is reduced to a superficial, peripheral part of life for many professing Christians



Christian Education is the most important vehicle within congregational life for helping people grow in their faith.

Why come to church?



- First, to grow in faith
- Second, to become loyal, active members of the community

FAITH
LOYALTY

How do we get there? How do we help people grow in their faith, while also promoting a sense of commitment to the church?

Influences on Faith Maturity

Adults

Youth

Weak
Relationship

- Age
- Gender
- Income
- Education

- Age
- Gender
- Geographic Region

No Clear
Relationship

- Geographic Region
- Denomination
- Congregational Size

- Income
- Denomination
- Congregation Size

Influences on Faith Maturity

Adults

Youth

Strong
Relationship

- Lifetime church involvement
- Lifetime involvement in effective Christian Education

- Lifetime family religiousness
- Lifetime involvement in effective Christian Education

Modest
Relationship

- Friends and spouse religiousness
- Involved in a caring church
- Involvement in non-church religious activity
- Serving others
- Family religiousness during childhood and youth

- Lifetime church involvement
- Friends religiousness
- Involvement in a caring church
- Involvement in non-church religious activity
- Serving others

Influences on Faith Maturity

*So, while effective Christian Education isn't the only thing that matters in church life, it is by far **the most influential factor in nourishing faith.***

*Thus, if we want to enhance our faith and loyalty, the best approach is to involve members in **effective Christian Education.***

Our Primary Task



Equipping the
saints for
ministry

“Come, you that are
blessed by my Father...”

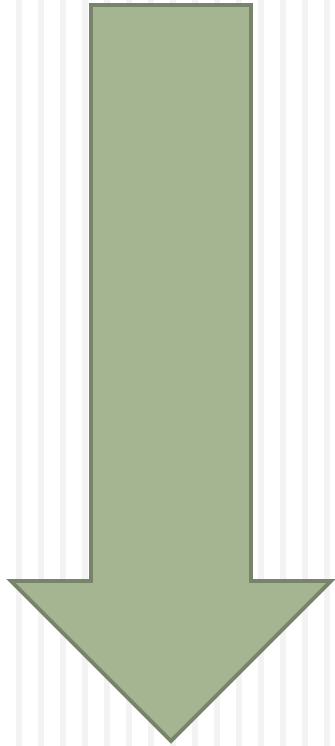
*The church should empower people for ministry,
rather than accomplishing the ministry for them.*

Myths

- Christian Education is for children
- A “good” Christian Education program is a “big” Christian Education program
- “Good” teaching means transferring information

- Teaching can occur without training
- Christian Education is **separate** from the rest of congregational life

Dimensions of Faith



**Relationship
with God**

The vertical dimension of faith symbolizes God reaching “down” to humanity; our life-transforming relationship to a loving God.

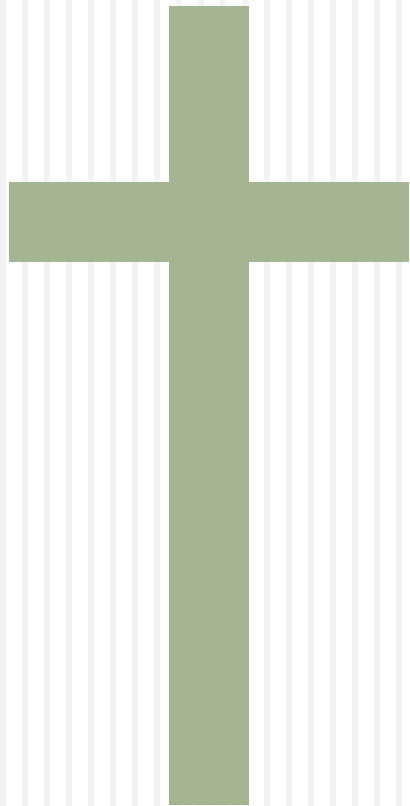
Dimensions of Faith



**Relationship with
our Neighbor**

*The horizontal dimension of faith is
a consistent devotion to serving others.*

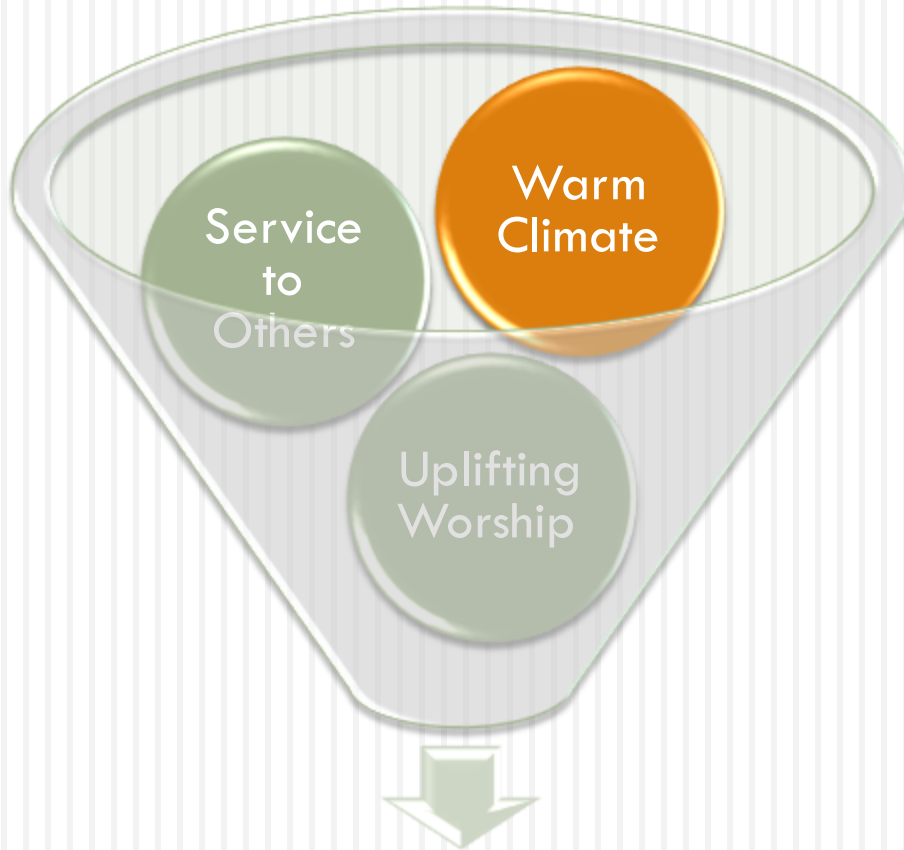
Dimensions of Faith



**Relationship
with God**
**Relationship with
our Neighbor**

*Jesus defined our two interdependent
themes of a mature Christian faith.*

Faith Enhancing Traits



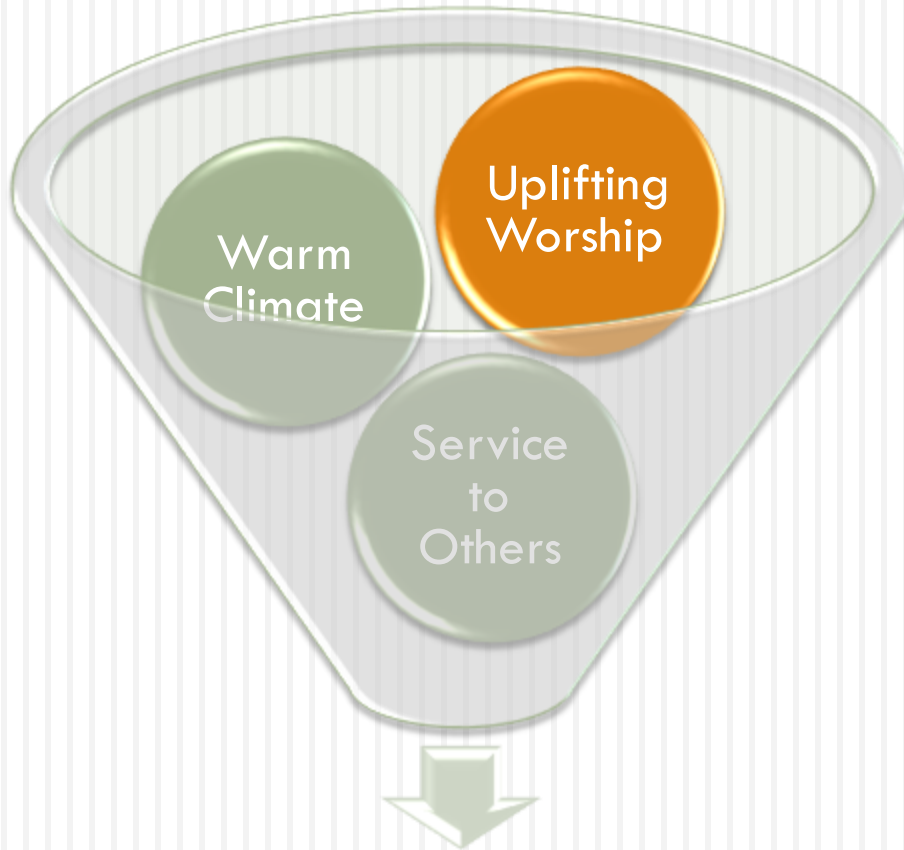
- Make everyone feel welcome
- Help members develop strong interpersonal skills
- Assimilate new members

Effective Christian Education

The Church: The Power to Help and to Hurt

--Daniel G. Bagby

Faith Enhancing Traits



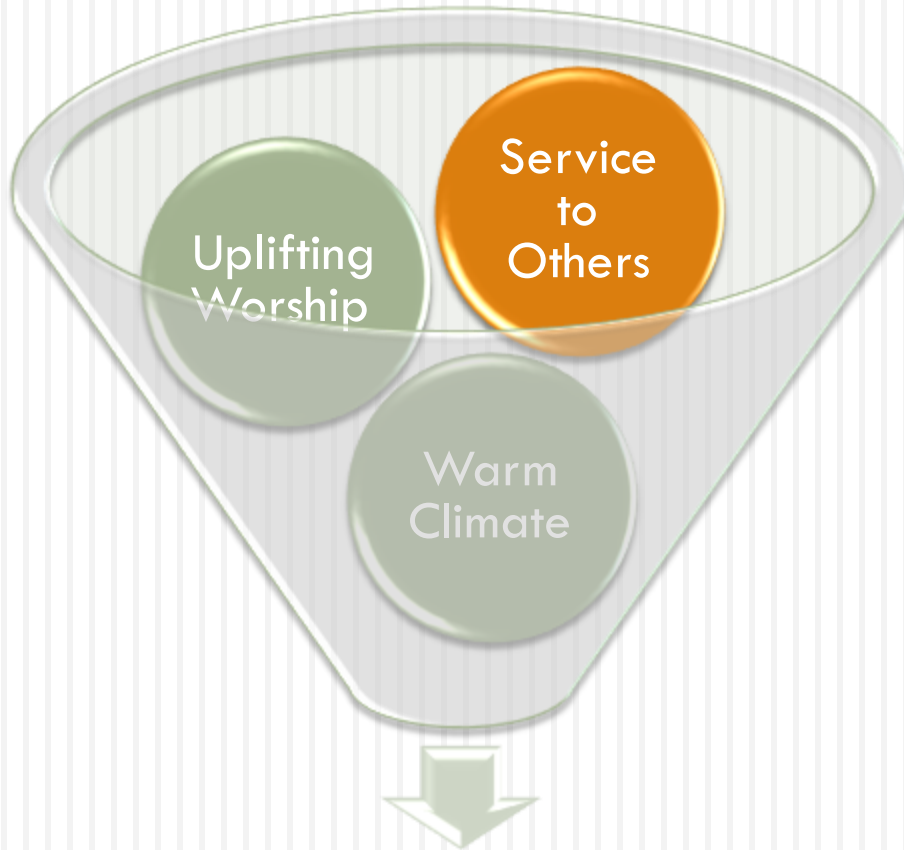
Effective Christian Education

- Warmth and winsomeness
- Dynamic and Inspirational
- Quality Preaching
- Powerful Liturgy
- Comfortable Seating

Twelve Keys to An Effective Church

--Kennon L. Callahan

Faith Enhancing Traits

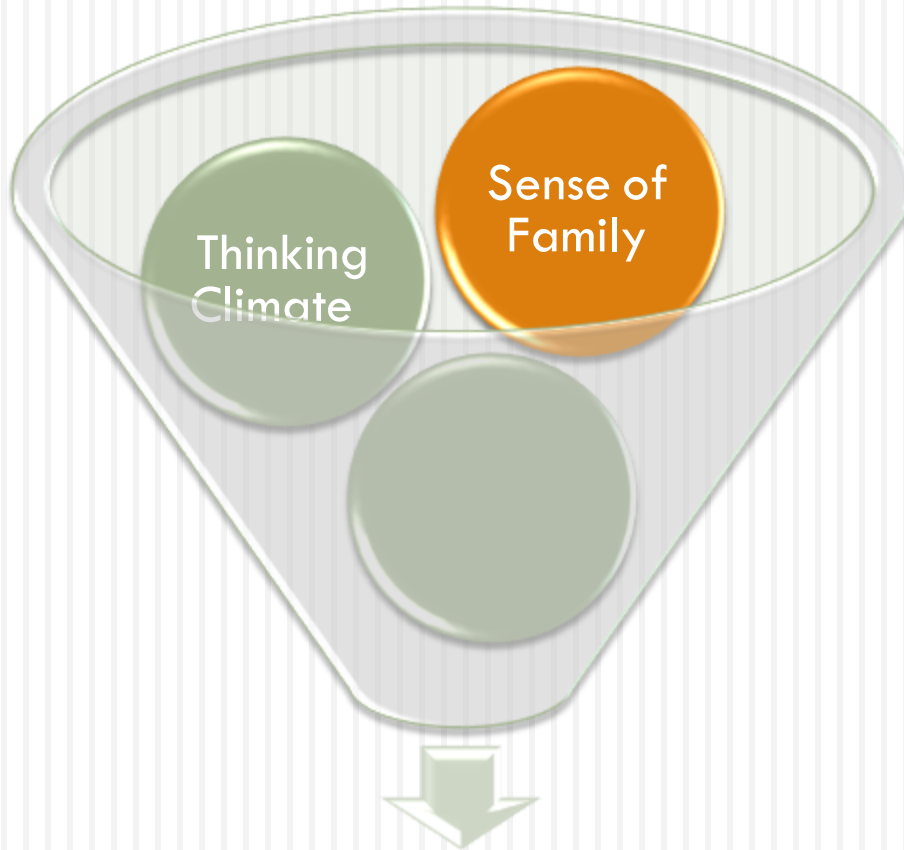


- Build an Identity
- Raise Awareness
- Focus on Member's Concerns
- Create Service Opportunities
- Link with Others
- Involve the Youth

Effective Christian Education

Energizing the Congregation
--Carl S. Dudley & Sally A. Johnson

Faith Enhancing Traits



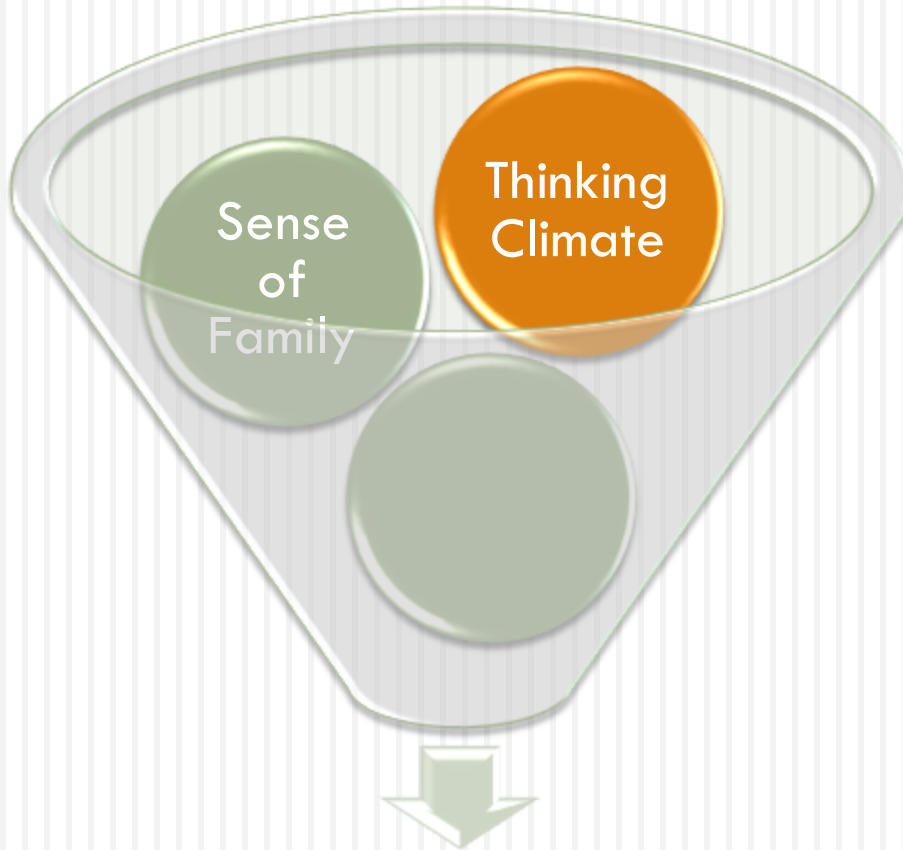
- Christian Education
- Small Groups
- Shepherding Programs
- Specials Needs

Effective Christian Education

What Can We Do About Church Dropouts?

--C. Kirk Hadaway

Faith Enhancing Traits



- Questions Encouraged
- Diverse Opinions
- Exercise Faith in Everyday Lives
- Discover Answers **NOT** Give Them

Effective Christian Education

What Can We Do About Church Dropouts?

--C. Kirk Hadaway

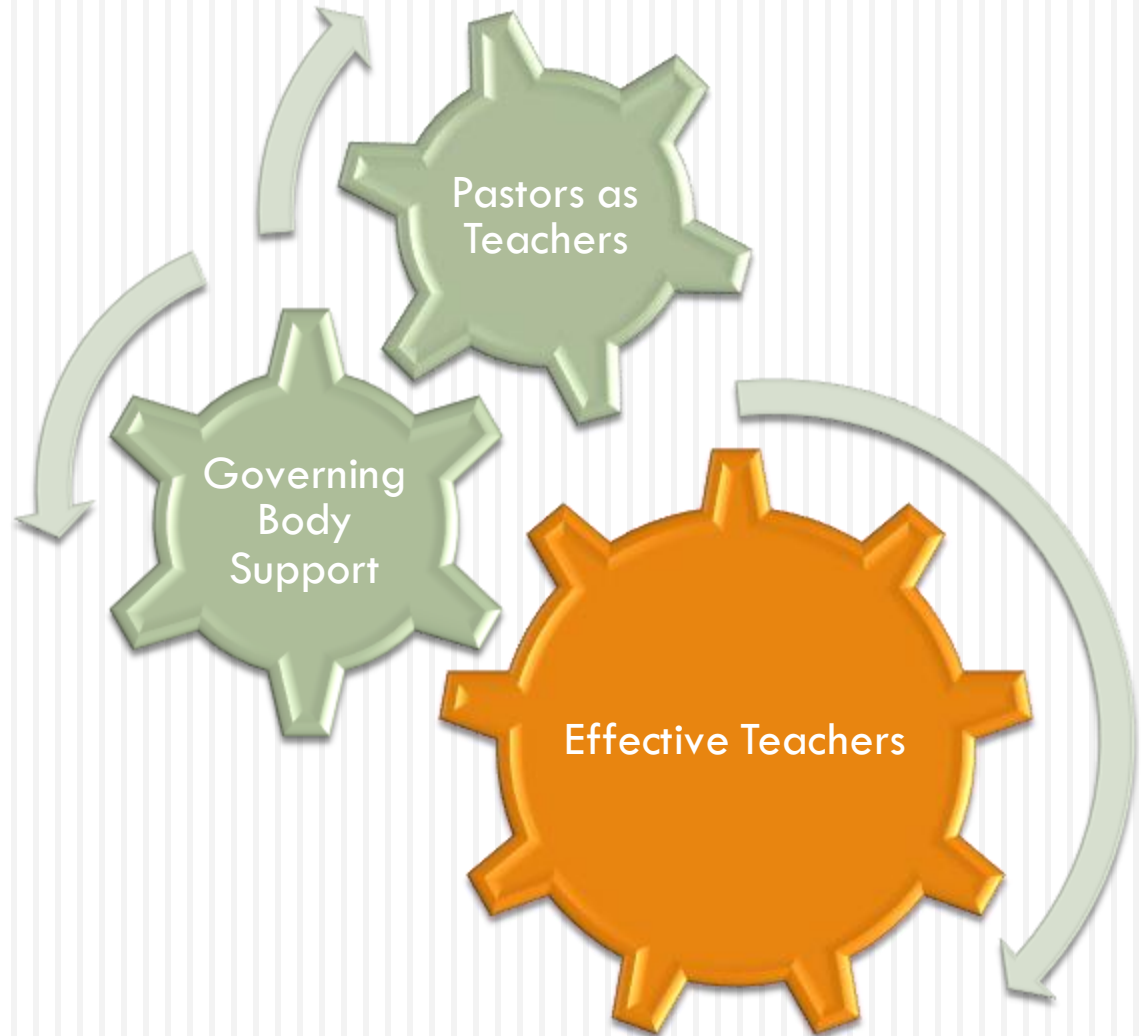
Effective Christian Education

- More than Children's Programs
- Offered at Times in Addition to Sunday School
- Involves the Pastor in Planning & Leading
- Applies Sound Educational Principles

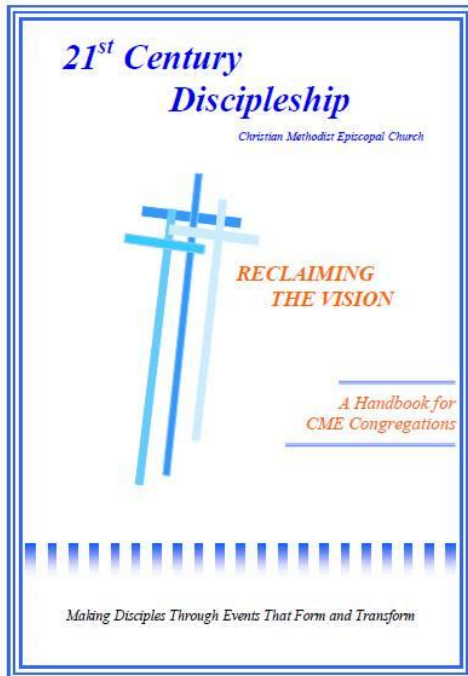


Leadership **MAKES** the **DIFFERENCE**

- **Meaningful Interpretation**
- **Community Formation**
- **Empowering Public Ministry**

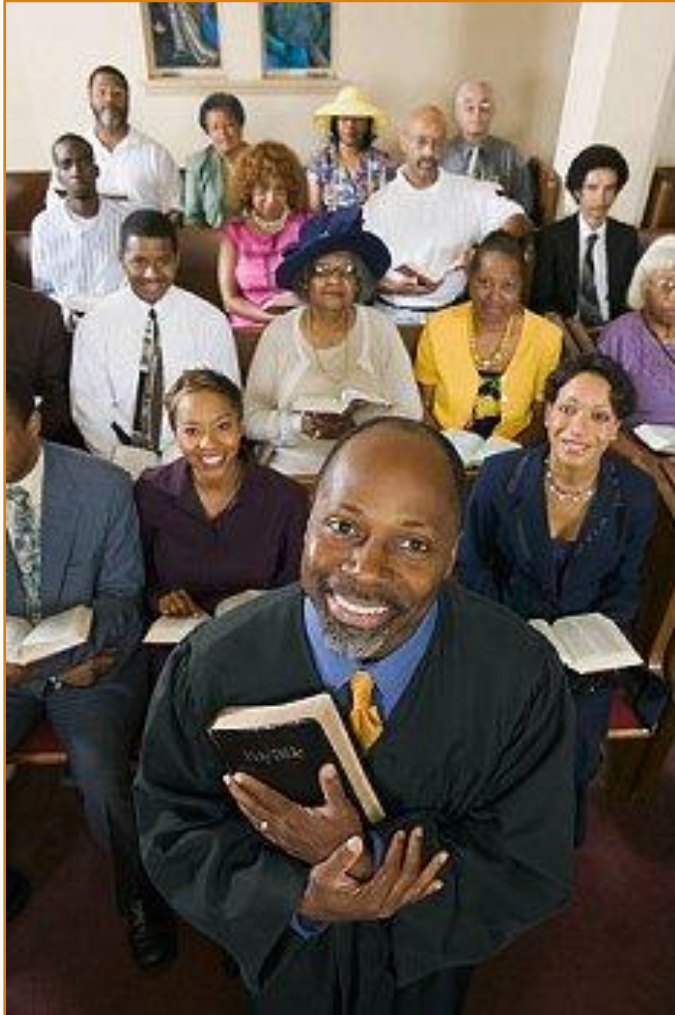


Leadership Covenant



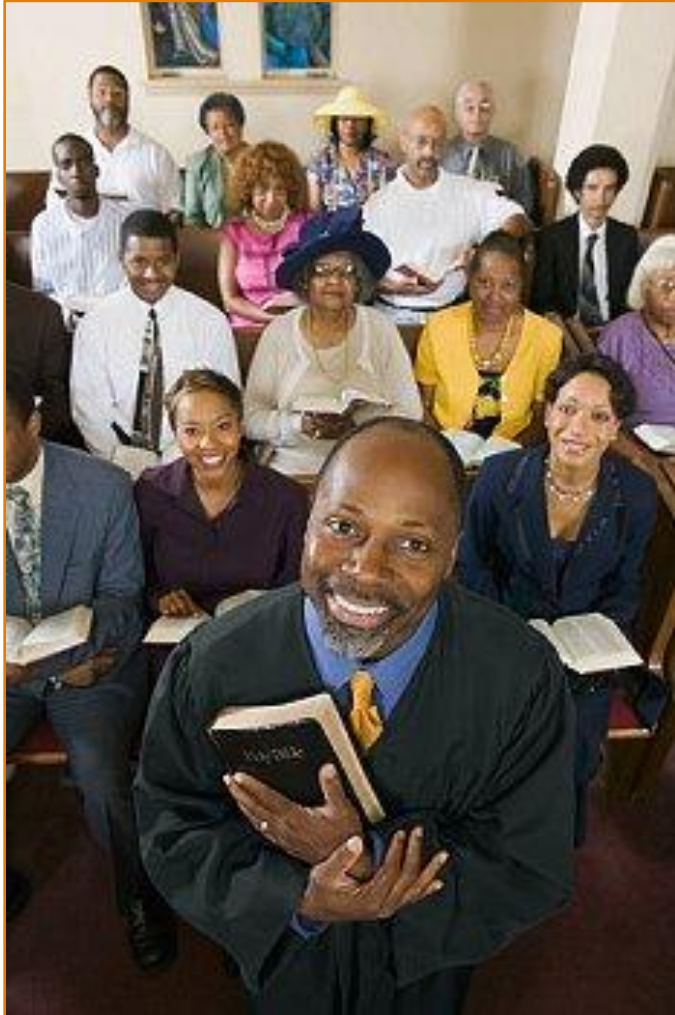
- With God's grace and help, we covenant to:
- Read the Bible each day as a devotional exercise;
 - Pray each day in solitude and in public for our families, friends, and enemies and for the establishment of 21st Century Discipleship in our local church;
 - Pray each day at noon for the members of our church;
 - Be faithful in attendance and participation in worship weekly, and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion monthly.

Where Do We Go From Here?



- **Become Intentional**
- **Reexamine Programs**
- **Build on Interests & Needs**
- **Reach Adults Through Children**

Where Do We Go From Here?



- Recognize Different Commitment Levels
- Expect Involvement
- Publicize Christian Education

Our Primary Task



Equipping the
saints for
ministry

“Come, you that are
blessed by my Father...”

Christian Education addresses the whole human being (body, spirit, and mind) with events that form and transform.

Questions & Answers



Resources



- The Teaching Church: Moving Christian Education to Center Stage
- Effective Christian Education: A National Study of Protestant Congregation
- Organizational Guide: C.M.E. Department of Christian Education
- 21st Century Discipleship: Reclaiming the Vision – A Handbook for C.M.E. Congregations
- Wondrous Grace: A Guide to Understanding the C.M.E. Church