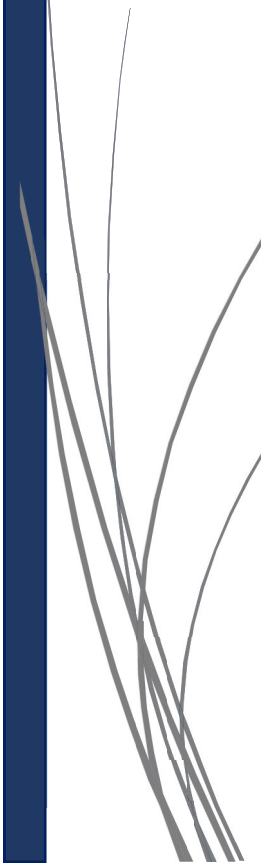




Lay  
Leadership  
101





Bishop  
E. Earl McCloud, Jr.  
Lay Commission



Mrs.  
Valerie Gary Bell  
President



Ms. Ametta L. Reaves  
Director of Lay  
Activities



Ms. Jamesha Williams  
Young Adult  
Representative

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2nd Vice President  
3rd Vice President  
Recording Secretary  
Assistant Recording Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary  
Financial Secretary  
Treasurer  
Chaplain  
Parliamentarian  
Director of Public Relations  
Historiographer

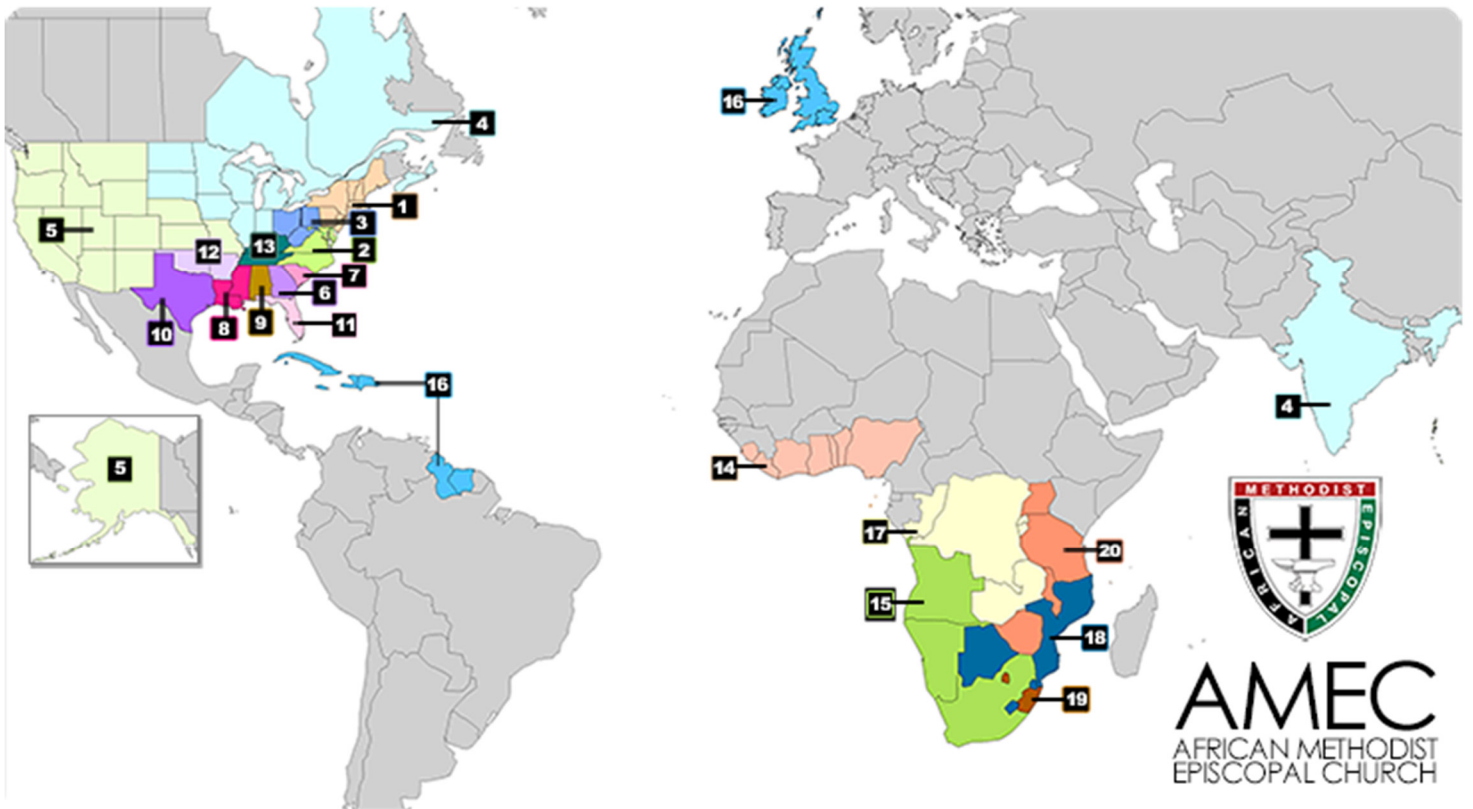
#### District Presidents

First  
Second  
Third  
Fourth  
Fifth  
Sixth  
Seventh  
Eighth  
Ninth  
Tenth  
Eleventh  
Twelfth  
Thirteenth  
Fourteenth  
Fifteenth  
Sixteenth  
Seventeenth  
Eighteenth  
Nineteenth  
Twentieth

Mr. Matikane Abednego Makiti  
Mr. Simon Letsoko  
Mrs. Starr L. Battle  
Mrs. Doris M. Bell  
Mrs. Brenda Holland Curry  
Mrs. Ada L Groff  
Mrs. Lyndia M. Mayo, I  
Mr. Richard L. Bowden  
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Mr. Michael Brown  
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Ms. Patricia Wright  
Dr. Dorothy Henderson  
Ms. Dorothy Ealy  
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Mr. Mzwake "Chris" Qwane  
Dra. Isabel Medina-Dishmey  
Mr. Martin Lombe  
Mr. Edwin Lehasa  
Mr. L.A. Sekoala  
Mr. Sailles Gulule



With God as our guide, we are proud to share with you Lay Leadership 101. This document is designed as a tool for Lay Leaders in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is our prayer that you will find the information helpful as you continue or start your journey as a leader in our Zion.

The A.M.E. church has been, and continues to be, a place where many great leaders are cultivated. From our beginning in 1787, Bishop Richard Allen, Flora Allen, Sarah Allen and Jarena Lee were servant leaders who left an unforgettable legacy that lives in each of us. From the Allegany mountains of Pennsylvania to the “Cape of Good Hope” in South African we are committed to the teachings of Jesus Christ. We have been, and continue to be, the voice of social justice from the red clay dirt of Alabama to the beautiful beaches of the U.S. Virgin Islands. From our humble beginning in a blacksmith shop, we are leaders who promote and demonstrate economic empowerment. We are political and environmental leaders making a difference in the lives of all of God’s children. We are leaders who have been called and equipped for such a time as this.

*Lay Leadership 101* is designed to enhance your knowledge of what it means to be a leader using and embracing all your God given talents. *Lay Leadership 101* is not a study guide but is a resource to enhance and/or confirm what you believe to be true about being a “servant leader.” The information shared is designed to help you revisit and rethink what does “God require” of you within and beyond the walls of the A.M.E. Church.

Your Humble Servants,

Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell, Ms. Ametta Lorene Reaves & Ms. Jamesha J. Williams

## Overview

## LAY LEADERSHIP 101

### Note from Director of Lay Activities

I pray that *Lay Leadership 101* will inspire you to be a change agent in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. May you walk in greatness as you share the Liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ. May you pursue a collaborative relationship with the Bishops, General Officers, Connectional Officers, Clergy and Laity of the AME Church. May we continue to embrace and welcome the zest and wisdom of all regardless of age, gender or birth country.

**Lay Leadership 101** is designed as a tool for individual or small group study. It is divided into 4 sections and a worksheet to capture your key discussion points or next steps. Before beginning it is recommended that you pray and read the Book of Nehemiah.

### *Facilitator's Notes*

Target Audience	Laity; Laity and Clergy; Officers-local, conference, district levels
Group Size	Small Group - 5-10 participants; Medium Group 11-20; Large Group 21+
Pre-work	Read the book of Nehemiah; scriptures referenced in Section A; any of the resources listed
Presentation Techniques	Plan presentation techniques -lecture; demonstrations, small group discussion and/or activities;
Setting	Face to face; webinar; conference call
Material/resource	Determine if additional materials or resources are needed
Face to Face/ Webinars/Conference Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-work have participants to read each section and complete their worksheet</li> <li>• Facilitate a review of each section - what are the key points</li> <li>• Facilitate a discussion - what I know, what I want to know, what I learned about Lay Leadership</li> <li>• How will they share and use the information</li> </ul>
4 sessions x 30 minutes 8 sessions x 15 minutes	
Face to Face/Webinar 1 session x 2.5 - 3 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-work determine presentation techniques and group activities</li> <li>• Introduction - Have several participants to describe a servant leader/flip chart their responses</li> <li>• Facilitate a discussion or small group - what I know and what I want to know</li> <li>• Facilitate a review of each section - what are the key points</li> <li>• Share leadership quotes or show leadership video</li> <li>• Facilitate a discussion -What I learned about Lay Leadership</li> <li>• How will they share and use the information</li> </ul>



## Section A

## SERVANT LEADERS

### Prayer

Lord I pray to be Led to and by You.

### Primary Scripture

But among you it will be different. Those who are among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. Luke 22:66 NLT

### Additional Scriptures

Mark 10:45 ~ I Peter 4:10-11 ~ Galatians 5:13-14 ~ Mark 9:35  
Philippians 2:1-11 ~ Luke 22:25-27

### Learning Objectives

Participants will increase their understanding of what it takes to be a servant leader.

**What is a Servant Leader?** A servant leader is one who has accepted Christ as their personal savior and is committed to Christian discipleship. Servant leaders are followers of Christ who have a desire and commitment to share the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ. They inspire, envision and become agents of change. They desire to serve others and promote an agenda that will glorify God.

At the age of 17, Bishop Richard Allen accepted the Lord as his personal Savior. From the point of his conversion, Bishop Allen began to evangelize and break the chains of slavery. He dedicated his life to being a servant leader who used his influence to establish the Free African Society (FAS) and the AME Church. The mission of the AME Church was based on the teachings of Christ to preach the gospel, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, provide homes for the homeless and encourage thrift and economic development. Bishop Allen, and the early leaders of the AME Church, sought to be servant leaders.

Over 230 years later, members of the AME church are still called to be servant leaders. Lay leaders are called to go beyond the walls of our Zion to seek and save those who are lost. We are called to demonstrate the love of Christ in all that we do.

A servant leader is defined as one who puts the needs of others first. As servant Lay Leaders, we are called to be stewards, trustees, church school teachers, musicians, and officers in our Lay organizations. We are called to give the best of our time, talent and tithes for the building of God's kingdom.

## Section B

## NEHEMIAH

“For the people had a mind to work”

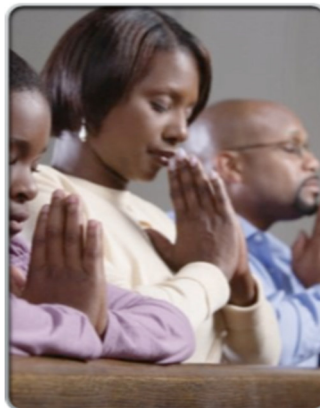
Nehemiah is the story of servant living in a foreign land who rises to become a model leader. Nehemiah, an ordinary man, answers God’s call to accomplish an extraordinary task. He was focused and didn’t allow opposition or prior experiences to stop him from being an obedient goal-oriented leader.

### Qualities of a Servant Leader

#### Nehemiah:

- Had intimate relationship with God
- Prayed daily
- Was goal oriented
- Was well versed in the scriptures
- Exercised self-discipline
- Was sensitive to the needs of others
- Was confident and man of courage
- Led with integrity
- Faced adversity without fear
- Was purpose driven
- Worked within the will of God
- Inspired others

*“Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name” (Nehemiah 1:11).*



## Section C

## QUALITIES OF SERVANT LEADER

Dear Lord, help me to be servant leader, help me to use my voice to lift your name to others. Help me to be a positive influence and to do good for others to bring honor and glory to you dear Lord.

### Qualities of a Servant Lay Leader

Seeks God's Guidance

Committed to Christian Discipleship

Engages in daily devotion (Prayer, Bible Study)

Embraces the "Great commandment"

Gives freely – Time/Talent/Tithes

Leads with the Right Questions

Serves Others

Positive Outlook

Has a Spirit of Gratitude

Appreciates and Celebrates Others

Supportive & Encourages Others

Engages in Positive Conversations

Appreciates the Best of What Is

Envisions What Might Be

Attends Bible Study 1x/per week

Attends Worship Service 1x-2x /per week

*"Effective leaders must be spiritual. That is to say, they must have a professing faith in God, foster and sustain a relationship with the divine as Masters of their lives, and live the Godly belief of love and service"*

*Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram*

## Section D

## LAY LEADERS

- A follower of Christ
- Member of an AME Church
- Engages in daily/weekly devotion (Prayer & Bible Study)
- Attends all worship services and contributes to the spiritual growth of the church
- Supports the growth and development of the AME church
- Supports the finances of the church (tithes & offerings)
- Member of the local Lay Organization
- Demonstrates a love for the African Methodist Episcopal Church and appreciation for its rich history and traditions
- Advocates and respects constituted authority and leadership
- Attends the church, quarterly and annual conferences.
- Attends conference, and district Lay meetings
- Attends the General Board meetings, Convocations, General Conference, and Lay Biennials
- Attends and supports the ministry of Connectional Organizations and Departments
- Owns a current copy of *The Doctrine & Discipline of the AME Church*
- Subscribes to all church periodicals
- Envisions and engages in positive discussion about the AME Church, its leaders and our future
- Embraces the zest of Young Adults and respects the wisdom of the “young at heart”
- Supports and respects all members from districts 1-20

*“WHEN YOU SURRENDER COMPLETELY TO GOD, AS THE ONLY TRUTH WORTH HAVING, YOU FIND YOURSELF IN SERVICE OF ALL THAT EXISTS. IT BECOMES YOUR JOY AND RECREATION. YOU NEVER TIRE OF SERVING OTHERS.”*

*MAHATMA GANDHI*



## Worksheet

*“Leadership is for everyone. Because every person who accepts Christ is called to influence others.” John Maxwell*

- Take a few minutes to reflect on what you know about being a servant leader.
- Think about your role as a leader and what you need to know to enhance your skills and knowledge.
- What have you learned about servant leadership from the word of God and others

What I know about servant leadership.	
What I want to know about servant leadership.	
What I have learned about servant leadership from others.	
How will I share the information with others?	
What will I do different as servant leader?	

## RESOURCES

Prayer

### *The Holy Bible*

*NKJV, Maxwell Leadership Bible, eBook: Lessons in Leadership from the Word of God*

BibleGateway.com

AME Church Website [ame-church.com](http://ame-church.com)

Mother Bethel Website [-motherbethel.org](http://motherbethel.org)

*Equipping the Saints for Service*, Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram

Conservations with members of the AME Church

Appreciative Leadership, Diana Whitney, Ph.D.

Appreciative Inquiry: Organization Development and the Strengths Revolution. In *Practicing Organization Development: A guide to leading change and transformation (4th Edition)*, William Rothwell, Roland Sullivan, and Jacqueline Stavros (Eds). Wiley

Positivechange.org

## Acknowledgements

This tool was inspired by the leadership, wisdom and guidance of President Valerie Gary Bell; Ms. Jamesha Williams, Young Adult Representative; former Directors of Lay Activities Mrs. Ethel M. Wallace Jenkins, Mrs. Florence J. Warren and Mrs. Edith Bartley Cartledge.

Lay Leadership 101 is dedicated to all the Director of Lay Activities who paved the way for such a time as this. I also dedicate this tool to my father, Rev. W. G. Treadwell who continues to inspire and teach me the true meaning of “servant leader”.

I praise and thank God for my deceased mother who reared me in home with a well-read Bible, the AME Hymn book and a love for human kind.

I am grateful for the love and support of my family, Mr. Carl A. Foster, II; Bishop & Dr. Young; Rev. Wesley I. Reid; Ms. Kimberly G. Brooks and the great people of the in the 3rd and 9th Episcopal Districts.

In the pursuit of Excellence, AMETTA

African Methodist Episcopal Today Tomorrow Always

*DEAR LORD, OPEN OUR MINDS AND HEARTS THAT WE MAY ALWAYS BE LEADERS OF  
GOOD WILL WHO BRING*

