



REPORT OF THE
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT
TO THE
CONNECTIONAL COUNCIL
OF THE
AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

JULY 2017
MARRIOTT HOTEL
KNOXVILLE, TN

Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, Board Chairman
Bishop W. Darin Moore, 1st Vice Chairman
Bishop Nathaniel Jarrett, 2nd Vice Chairman
Mrs. Ava Swinton, 3rd Vice Chairman
Rev. Kathryn G. Brown, General Secretary

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURE - EPHESIANS 4:-11--16 NRSV

“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.”



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Schools and Colleges

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OF
CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**



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Livingstone College

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Dr. Vergil L. Lattimore, President

Lomax-Hannon

Rev. Dr. Claude Shuford

A.M.E. Zion University

Rev. Mulbah Gray, President

Hood-Speaks Theological Seminary

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Inoperative Schools

Dinwiddie Institute

Bishop W. Darin Moore

Atkinson

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INTRODUCTION

To Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, President of the Board of Bishops and Chairman of the Board of Christian Education, Bishop George E. Battle, Senior Bishop, Bishop W. Darin Moore, 1st Vice Chairman of the Board of Christian Education, Bishop Nathaniel Jarrett, 2nd Vice Chairman of the Board of Christian Education, Mrs. Ava Swinton, 3rd Vice Chairman of the Board of Christian Education, the entire Board of Bishops of the A.M.E. Zion Church and members of the Connectional Council, I am honored to give account of my stewardship over the Christian Education Department from July 2016 until the present time.

My report is organized as follows:

- Executive Summary
- Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives
- Accomplishments
 - The Division of Home and Church
 - The Office of Church School Literature
 - Audited Financial Report (separate document)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

General Administration

- Identified strategic priorities, goals and objective for 2016-2020 quadrennial period.
- Collaborated with General Officer colleagues and CED staff to implement cost-cutting measures for producing Church School literature, which saves the Department \$9,000 annually.
- With the assistance of the Department's Special Assistant for Financial Management, developed quadrennial budget.
- Collaborated with paid and unpaid staff to establish priorities, produce literature and manage day-to-day office operations.
- Recruited staff to write and edit Church School literature.
- Negotiated contracts for the Winter Meetings and 2018 Quadrennial Convention.
- Collaborated with Rev. LeeVea Jordan-Patterson to facilitate the design of a new CED logo.
- Coordinated monthly meetings with Episcopal Directors and meetings with other personnel within the Christian Education Department.

Executive Summary cont.

Resource Development

- Implemented “Engage, Educate and Elevate” method of instruction for developing Church School literature
- Supported lay-out redesign of Church School literature.
- Supported development of the “Faithful Five,” and “Zion and Zaya” Superheroes for Beginner, Primary and Junior curriculum.
- Developed presentation titled, “Five Shifts That Christian Educators Must Make” for the Central Regional Meeting.
- Development presentation titled, “Refocusing on Our Purpose: Ministry With Emerging Adults” for the 102nd Session of the Ohio Session School of the Prophets. This presentation was requested by Dr. Gerald Young at United Theological Seminary and subsequently sent for possible inclusion in the curriculum.
- Disseminated Children’s Day curriculum developed by Dr. Michelle Searles and Ms. Noral Kathi McNeil (Co-Directors of Varick’s Children).
- Developed resources for Christian Education Sunday (3rd Sunday in September) and Church School Rally Day 1st Sunday in Oct).
- Collaborated with COO to begin receiving a small percentage of the quarterly revenue from the Church School Quarterlies.

Ecumenical Involvement

- Attended the World Methodist Conference in August 2016.
- Collaborated with colleagues in the A.M.E. and C.M.E. Church to develop 2017 Lenten Devotional.
- Participated in the African-American Christian Education Conference at Memphis Theological Seminary.
- Participated in the National Council of Churches Committee for Uniform Series Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL in March 2017. Served as the worship leader for the Installation of the New Chairperson, Dr. Mozella Mitchell of the South Florida Conference).

Board Participation

- Continue to serve as the chair of the Student Life Committee for Livingstone College.
- With the support of Christian educators throughout Zion, raised \$8,000 through the Brick Campaign for Livingstone.
- Received Honorary Doctorate in Divinity from Livingstone College during Founder’s Day Convocation in February, 2017.

Action Items Approved by the Board of Bishops (Feb. 2017)

1. In alignment with recommendation #1 of the 2016 Board of Bishops Quadrennial Address, authorize the Christian Education Department to collaborate with the Committee on Worship and Ritual to develop a Faith and Order Handbook for the A.M.E. Zion Church. This Handbook will be presented to the Board of Bishops at their 2018 February meeting and upon approval, will be presented during special sessions of the CED Quadrennial Convention in July 2018.
2. In alignment with the recommendations in the 2016 Board of Bishops Quadrennial Address, establish the Pastoral Leadership Fellows Program (PLFP). This program will develop critical leadership skills in pastors identified by each Bishop. The program will allow for each Bishop to select 12 promising pastors or potential pastors to participate in specialized leadership development that will take place three times a year: during the Christian Education Winter Meeting, 2) during the Founders' Day Preaching Institute, 3) during the summer meeting that follows the Connectional Council. Courses that will be included in the PLFP will include Vision Planning and Implementation, Change Management, Conflict Resolution, Interpersonal Communications, Evangelism and Outreach Strategies, Strategic Bible Study Methods, Political and Social Justice Engagement, Youth and Young Adult Ministry Engagement and other sessions as appropriate. The Christian Education Department and Hood Theological Seminary would partner with the Board of Bishops to implement this program.
3. Ensure that subscriptions to Zion periodicals are paid (and list sent) within 30 days of the close of an Annual Conference.
4. Intentionally promote use of the curriculum developed by the Office of Church School Literature.
5. Secure a realtor to sell the former Christian Education Office in Chicago.



Vision
Mission
Goals and Objectives

OUR DIRECTION

VISION

- *The Christian Education Department of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church will become a premiere resource for the development of credible, committed Christian disciples with a specific emphasis on discipleship with African-Americans and those throughout the African diaspora.*

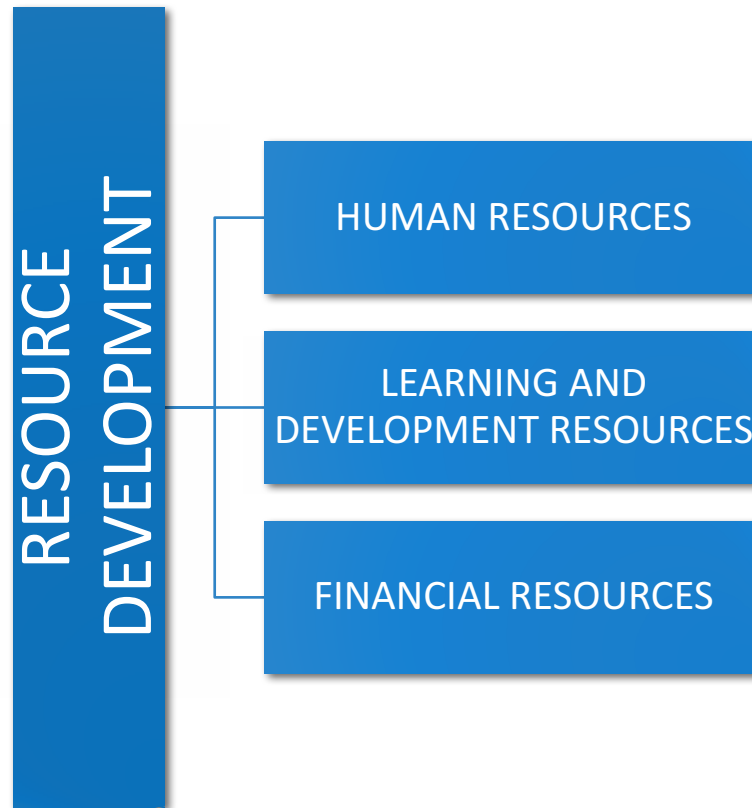
MISSION

- *The mission of the Christian Education Department of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is to unify, promote and supervise Christian training that fosters the development of credible, committed Christian disciples. Through Biblically-based, doctrinally sound, innovative and relevant education, training and worship, the Department works collaboratively with the Board of Christian Education to disciple the entire membership of the denomination.*

METHOD

- **ENGAGE**
- **EDUCATE**
- **ELEVATE**

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



HUMAN RESOURCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ALIGN STAFF POSITIONS WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

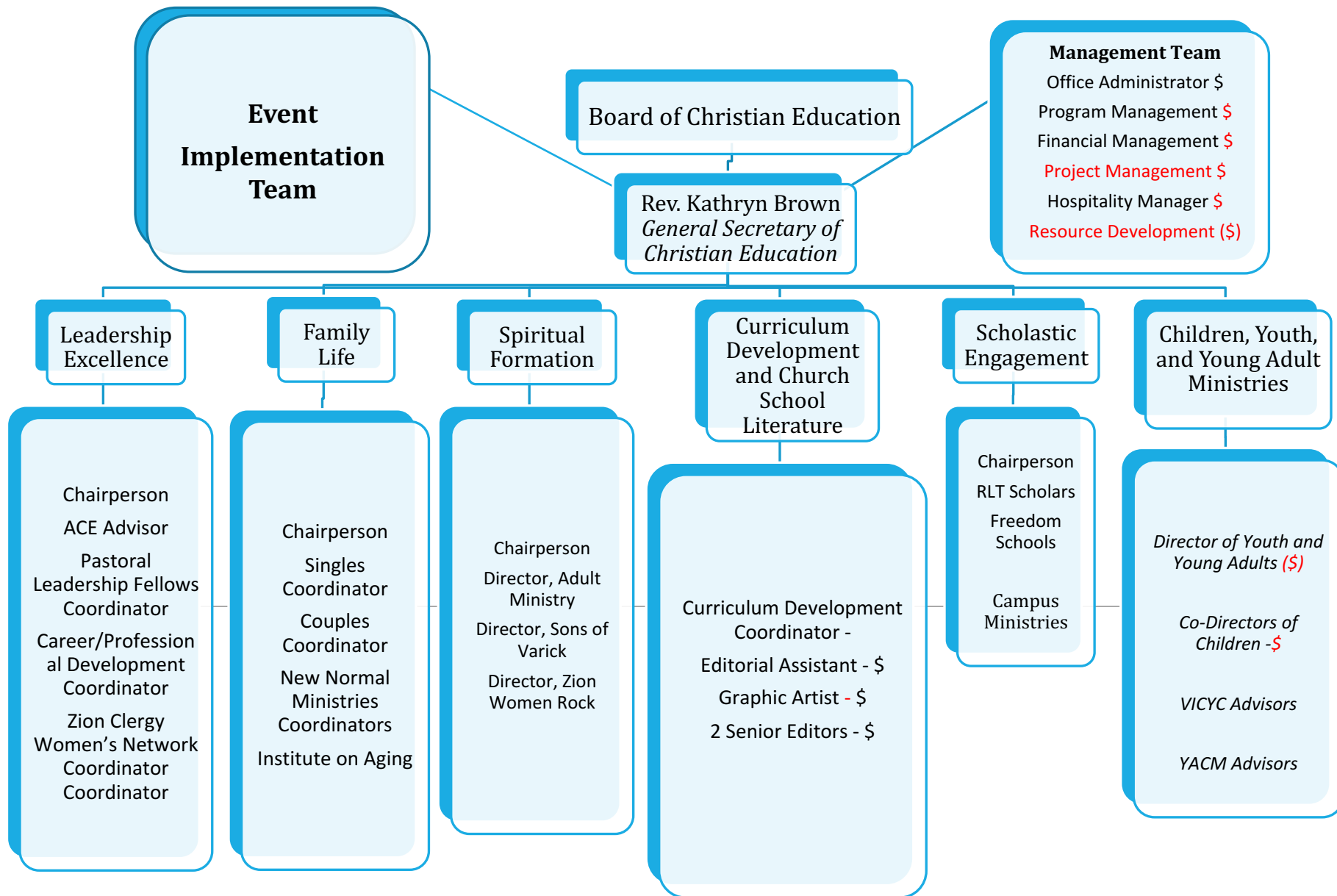
- Review positions, re-align and compensate in accordance with Department's priorities and budget.
- Add new positions as needed

Timeline: 8/2016-8/2018

IMPLEMENT CAPACITY-DEEL MODEL FOR STAFF AND OFFICER RECRUITMENT AND RETAINMENT

- Establish clear roles and expectations for staff and officers.
- Design training and development curriculum for staff and officers.

Timeline: 8/2016-12/2017



LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE GOALS

PROVIDE CHURCHES, DISTRICTS, CONFERENCES AND EPISCOPAL AREAS WITH DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES THAT SERVE THE PRESENT AGE

- Realign age categories for children, youth and young adult ministries. (8/2018)
- Develop on-line resources that develop leadership and discipleship skills of Christian educators. (7/2-17-12/2019)
- Modify the content and format of the Church School Herald-Journal to provide insights and strategies for effectively using the Church School Quarterlies. (8/2016-8/2018)
- Revise the curriculum format for Church School literature. (9/2016-12/2017)
- Develop downloadable resources for developing 18-26 year olds. (2/2017-12/2018)
- Develop resources that support understanding of the denominational theme. (4/2017-12/2019)
- Create learning opportunities that facilitate understanding of what it means to be a credible, Christian disciple in the present age. (4/2017-7/2018)
- Develop curriculum for summer learning and development opportunities within the local church. (7/2017-7/2020)
- In collaboration with the Committee for Worship and Ritual, coordinate the development of a faith and order curriculum for the denomination. (7/2017-2/2018)
- Develop discipleship curriculum for adults 40-65. (1/2017-7/2018)
- Develop program of scholastic engagement for use in local churches, districts and conferences. (5/2017-9/2017)

FINANCIAL RESOURCE GOALS

IDENTIFY FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT STAFFING PLAN

- Evaluate current revenue streams and determine what percentage can be used to support staffing plan. **(1/2017-7/2018)**
- Establish Resource Development Team to identify financial resources that will support the staffing plan. (7/2017)

IDENTIFY FINANCIAL RESOURCES THAT WILL SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

- Explore pricing options for on-line resources. **(2/2017-5/2017)**
- Ensure that prices for current resources are competitive and reasonable. **(ongoing)**



Home and Church

Winter Meeting (Truthville)
Quadrennial Convention (Zion University)
Curriculum Development
Chicago Property

Truthville 2016

Registrations by Episcopal Area (preregistered + on-site):

Piedmont	334 +24 (358)	Outstanding. We'll presented . The material was excellent.
Eastern NC	189 +37 (226)	
Midwestern	110 +26 (136)	This was very satisfactory. The youth brought this back to the church and working on achieving the goal of when to and when not to speak.
Northeastern	290 + 73 (363)	
South Atlantic	189 +12 (201)	
Mid Atlantic	407+86 (493)	They all had good information to share with our pastors and congregation.
AL/FL	177+ 19 (196)	
Southwestern Delta	89 + 1 (90)	These sessions provided relevant information.
Western	85 + 11 (96)	The discussion ands sharing was helpful to my work in this ministry.
Central W. Africa	1 +1 (2)	
Total Registered - 2161		All of the presenters were prepared and in tune with what is needed. Their presentations were practical and the information can be adapted and used in any setting.

Truthville 2017: ADORATION: Back to the Heart of Worship

Declaring the worth of God!

Scripture: Matthew 22:36-40

Purpose:

- To equip local church leaders to plan and lead worship experiences that foster the development of credible committed Christian disciples.
- To equip attendees of all ages for credible lifestyle worship
- Prepare candidates, Episcopal Directors and Conference Directors for the Quadrennial Convention

Target Audience:

Children, Youth and Young Adults

Praise and Worship Leaders

Pastors

Praise Dance Leaders and Dancers

Praise Team Leaders and Members

Choir Directors and Members (of each age group)

Step Team Leaders and Members

Step Team Members

Drama Team Members

Mime Team Members and Leaders

Musicians

Deaconesses

Altar Workers

Rap/Spoken Word/Drama Team Members and Leaders

Local Church Christian Educators

Episcopal, Conference, District Directors Local church Christian Educators

Acolytes

This year's Winter Meeting will include a Young Pastors' Luncheon for pastors under the age of 40. The purpose of this luncheon is to develop pastoral leadership skills and personal development of young adults pastors by exposing them to a select group of seasoned pastors. I am proposing that this luncheon become an annual event and is named in memory of the Rev. Dr. Lewis M. Anthony. Dr. Anthony served as a staff person in the Christian Education Department under the Dr. Hunt and Rev. Brown. A fifth generation Zionite, Dr. Anthony was the epitome of a servant leader. He devoted his life to teaching, preaching, mentoring and serving others. Rev. Dr. Anthony was a celebrated leader in the political, grassroots and religious community. Naming this luncheon in his memory and selecting noted speakers who exemplify his character and commitment will prayerfully inspire young pastors to serve with credibility and commitment.

Quadrennial Convention – Zion University – July 17- 26, 2018

The 29th Quadrennial Convention on Christian Education will take place in Birmingham, AL at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel and Convention Center. Quadrennial Convention:

Zion University @ Birmingham

Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-16

Purpose:

- To equip the leadership of the A.M.E. Zion Church to foster the development of credible, committed Christian disciples in this present age.
- To effectively manage the business of the Christian Education Department so that we are empowered to foster the development of credible, committed Christian disciples.
- To facilitate the development of skills within youth that empower success in the 21st century.

Structure:

- Weekend College (Certificate Program) Fri-Sat
- Reboot- (22-40) Fri-Sat
- College of Spiritual Formation
- College of Leadership Excellence
- College of Family Life
- College of Children, Youth and Young Adult Discipleship
- Electives
- Center for Worship and Arts
- BOUNCE (13-18)
- Life Labs (19-35)
- Varick's Children Freedom Academy
- Legislative Sessions and Elections
- Sharp Center (Blacks In Wax Expo, Art Contest, Essay Contest, Oratorical Contest, Challenge 21)
- Zion's Got Talent, RLT Thompson Honor Society Induction

Quadrennial Convention – Zion University cont.

- Recognition/Salutes
- Research Symposium
- College Rally Luncheon

Two new leadership initiatives will be launched during the 29th Quadrennial Convention on Christian Education:

- **Marcus A. Edwards Internship Program** – Marcus Edwards was a member of Judah Temple A.M.E. Zion Church who served as an intern with the Christian Education Department. He was hardworking, mature, and committed. A senior at Morgan State University, Marcus was killed in September 2017 while walking home from the library at Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD. Marcus' tragic death impacted many; however, his brief time on earth impacted more. Having served as an intern in the Tiger Woods program, a youth police intern with the D.C. Police Department, an intern with the U.S. Mint and an active member of S.M.O.O.T.H. (a group of series young men at Morgan State who are committed excellence in service, character and leadership, Marcus' life was celebrated by noted leaders in the civic and academic community. The Marcus A. Edwards Internship Program will offer 3 young persons (ages 14-17) who exemplify Marcus' character the opportunity to serve as an intern with the Christian Education Department for the quadrennial period. Interns will receive complimentary registration and lodging and the Winter Meeting and will be assigned to specific areas of service on the Event Implementation Team of the CED. These interns will have the opportunity to cultivate skills in leadership and service.
- **Nathaniel Jarrett Young Leadership Fellows** – Bishop Nathaniel Jarrett has served the Christian Education Department for over 40 years. Having served as an Administrative Assistant (and Director of Youth Ministries) to the late Dr. George Lincoln Blackwell and Dr. Raymon Hunt and as the Chair of the Commission for Spiritual Formation with the current General Secretary, Bishop Jarrett has the longest tenure of service (in recent years) at the Connectional level of the Christian Education Department. Bishop Jarrett currently serves as the 2nd Vice Chairman of the Board of Christian Education. His distinguished service to Christian Education and love for youth leaders warrants the establishment of the Nathaniel Jarrett Young Leadership Fellows (NJYLF). Twelve Young Leadership Fellows will be selected via an application process to serve for one quadrennial period. The NJYLF must be between 18 and 21. They will participate in leadership development experiences that cultivate leadership skills and build strong character. The NJYLF experience will include education, service, coaching, and leadership opportunities. Fellows will receive complimentary registration and lodging to CED Winter Meetings.

Curriculum Development

Curriculum development aligns with the goal of creating learning and development resources for the local church. Rev. Dr. Kenneth James has consented to coordinate the curriculum development process for this year. Our curriculum development plan is as follows:

- Credible, Committed Discipleship Series for Children, Youth, Young Adults, Men and Women
- Freedom Bible Study Series

Our goal is to have both ready by the Quadrennial Convention on Christian Education. We are identifying a team of writers and developers to design the curriculum which will include on-line resources.

The Department is also developing a Pastoral Leadership Fellows Program for pastors within the denomination. This curriculum will be presented to the Board of Bishops in February, 2018 and if approved, launched during the Quadrennial Convention on Christian Education in July 2018. Each Episcopal leader will select twelve persons from within their episcopal area who demonstrate pastoral leadership gifts. These persons will participate in a series of learning and development experiences from July 2018 to December 2019 at the following intervals:

July 2018 – Summer Meeting

December 2018 – CED Winter Meeting

February 2019 – Board of Bishops Winter Meeting

July 2019 – Summer Meeting

December 2019 – CED Winter Meeting

The course of study for Pastoral Leadership Fellows will include Vision Casting, Interpersonal Communication, Conflict Negotiation and Resolution, Emotional Intelligence, Spiritual Formation and Leadership Assessment and Development. The experience will include exposure to Christian leaders within and outside of Zion and effective leadership models within the religious and secular community. The chair of the Commission for Leadership Excellence (Rev. Dr. Gina Casey) and I will collaborate with the Presiding Elder's Council and the Ministers and Lay Association to develop a detailed proposal to vet through the Board of Christian Education prior to submitting to the Board of Bishops.

CHICAGO PROPERTY

The former Christian Education Department headquarters in Chicago, IL has been vacant for over 20 years. The Michigan Conference has assisted in paying the taxes on the property; however, for several years they have been unable to do so. Delinquent tax notices, inadequate maintenance, and citations from the city have resulted in a recent decision to sell the property. I have been working with Rev. Dr. Eric Leake to find a relator and real estate attorney to assist us in selling the property and preventing any action by the city. We have identified a realtor and an attorney and are preparing to sell the building.

Upon the advice of the realtor and attorney, I sent a letter to the city indicating that we had not abandoned the property. The letter included a course of action that we would take to rid the property of hazards posed by the dilapidated condition of the building. I am awaiting further information from the lawyer.

Dr. Leake secured someone to clean up the outside of the property. The Department paid \$350 to clear the glass, cut the grass, etc.

Rev. Dr. Joel Miles has been our contact regarding the taxes. He has additional information regarding the taxes that he will give me while attending the Connectional Council.



Office of Church School Literature

- Staff
 - Committee for Uniform Series
 - Literature Design
-

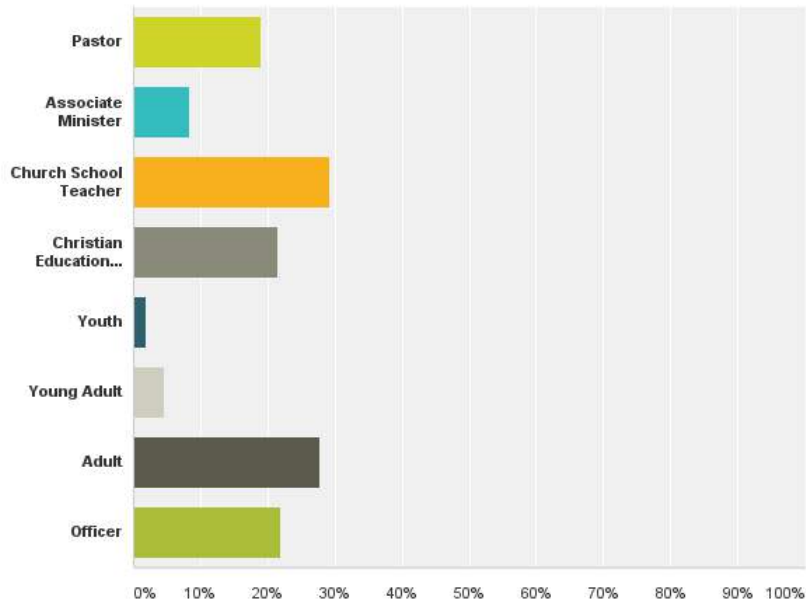
Office of Church School Literature

- **Staff** - In addition to two full time staff persons who have served the Office of Church School Literature for over 28 and 13 years, respectively, I have hired two Senior Editors to serve for a 12 month period. Rev. Dr. Michelle Searles serves as the Editor for Children's Literature and Rev. Dr. Adrian Nelson serves as the Editor for Intermediate-Senior and Young People-Adult Literature. I decided to use this staffing model instead of hiring one Editor because the volume of work and specific skillsets required to develop literature for different age groups. We have a variety of writers who write for our literature and we continue to try different models for writing assignments.
- **Committee for Union Series** – The Office of Church School Literature is a member of the Committee for Uniform Series (CUS). Our Church School lessons follow the outlines provided by CUS. Dr. Helen Scott Carter is the outgoing Chairmen of CUS and Dr. Mozella Mitchell was installed in March 2017. I was blessed to be in attendance for the installation and annual CUS meeting. Bishop Seth Lartey delivered the message for the Installation Service which was held in Jacksonville, FL.
- **Format/Design** – After receiving over 650 survey responses to a survey that I developed to obtain feedback about our literature, the editors and I developed a new format and design for all of our Quarterlies. The format includes the instructional method implemented by the Christian Education Department: Engage, Educate (Contextualize and Contemporize), Elevate. The “Faithful Five” and “Zion and Zaya” Superhero characters were introduced to help children 12 and under relate to the lessons. We continue to tweak and redesign our format to serve the present age. We have also redesigned the Church School Herald-Journal. In addition to providing resources to assist Church School workers, the Herald-Journal offers articles and information to assist pastors and Christian educators. Changes in both the Quarterlies and Herald-Journal have increased our production costs; however, we have not increased the cost of our literature.
- **Collaboration with the Publishing House** - The Publishing House distributes the Quarterlies and Church School Heralds ordered with the Quarterlies. The COO and Manager of the Publishing House (Mr. Herbert Watkins), solicits bids for printing prices to ensure that we obtain the most cost effective pricing for the Quarterlies and the Herald-Journal. Data collection regarding the number of churches within an Episcopal area and/or conference is currently unavailable. Mr. Watkins, Dr. Elvin Sadler (General Secretary-Auditor) and have discussed strategies for collecting this kind of data. We need this data to properly plan and market our literature. Given the current business model for the Publishing House and Office of Church School Literature, close collaboration is essential.

Sample CSL Survey Questions and Results

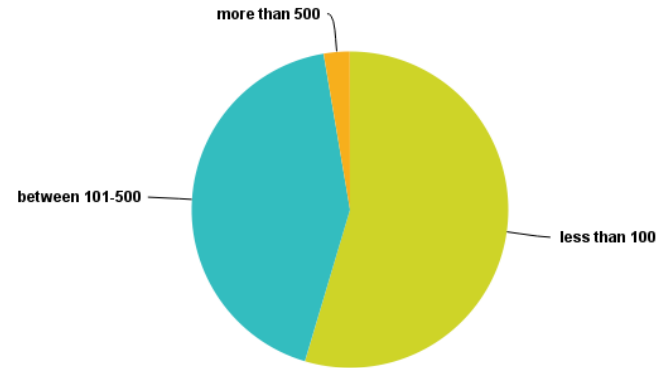
Q2 What is your role in your church?

Answered: 632 Skipped: 49



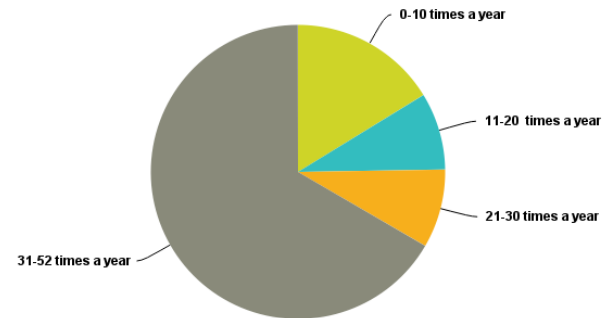
Q3 Approximately how many members are there in the church that you attend?

Answered: 674 Skipped: 7



Q4 Within the last 12 months how often have you attended Church School?

Answered: 671 Skipped: 10



Sample CSL Survey Questions and Results

Q5 What do you find most beneficial about attending Church School?

Answered: 618 Skipped: 63

Teacher School Literature Biblical Small Group
Interaction Christ Sharing Enjoy Teaching
Christian Lesson Dialogue Discussion
Spiritual Growth Learning Participation
Word Attend Bible Ideas Scripture Living
Life Morning Worship Service Ask Questions
Gaining a Better Understanding Knowledge Church School

Q6 What do you find least beneficial about attending Church School?

Answered: 520 Skipped: 161

Understanding Materials Worship Creativity Children
Students Reading Interest Teaching Boring
Church School Morning Lesson
Think Attendance Word Teachers
Enjoy Beneficial Love Book Attendees
Learning Literature Participation Members of the Class
Discussion

Sample CSL Survey Questions and Results

Q7. What would help you attend Church School more frequently?

Answer Choices	Responses
I already attend almost every Sunday.	75.90% 466
If Church School took place on a day other than Sunday.	4.89% 30
If Church School took place later in the day.	5.86% 36
If Church School took place earlier in the day.	0.81% 5
If more of my age group attended.	11.24% 69
If I had transportation.	1.30% 8
If food were served.	5.21% 32
If there was more discussion during class.	11.73% 72
If there was less discussion during class.	0.81% 5
If I could be assured that I would not have to read.	1.30% 8
If there were more opportunities to explore questions that I have.	7.17% 44
If I could apply the lessons to my life.	6.35% 39
If there were more activities to explain the lessons.	12.38% 76
If the teachers were more consistent.	7.65% 47
If the students were more consistent.	7.17% 44
Total Respondents: 614	

Sample CSL Survey Questions and Results

Q 11. you do not use A.M.E. Zion Church School books, please tell us what you use and why.

For the children's classes has used Urban Ministries literature because it presents the bible lesson and then another story that students can relate to their life.

Urban Ministries Inc., it provides engaging Sunday School and Vacation Bible School curricula

Union Gospel Press, Standard Lesson Commentary more explanations and details has posters teachers manual and dvd pages of questions and answers to print for students

We were using the David C. Cook books, but were told to discontinue to do so.

Urban Ministries materials give the opportunity to respond to more questions. The materials are better written and explain the scriptures better.

The bible most students and pastors in my experiences seem to like using the bible.

I have found an e-book of the Sunday School Lesson online.

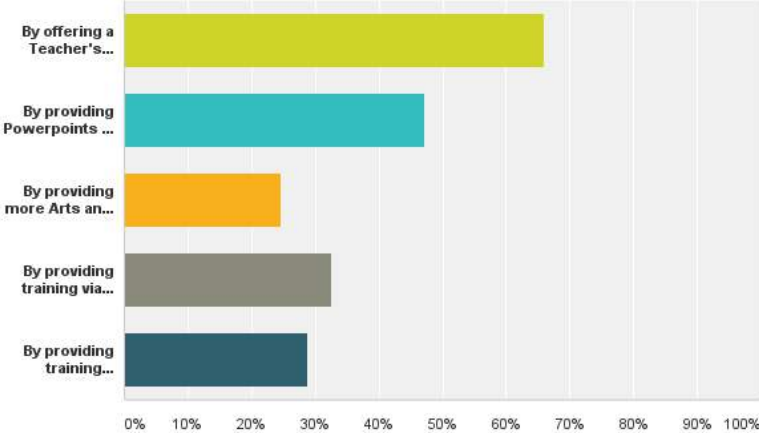
Urban Ministries at Pastor's direction.

Because the adult class voted not to use it. I am always out voted. I want to use the AME Zion Book. It is the right thing to do.

Sample CSL Survey Questions and Results

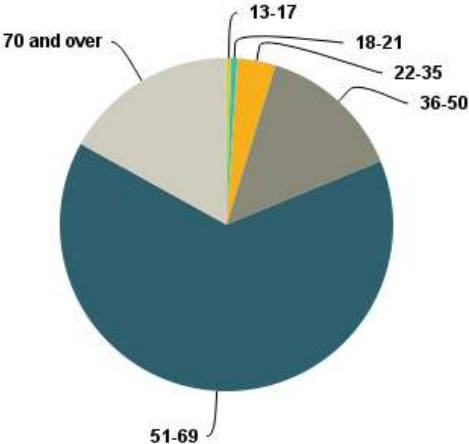
Q13 If you teach Church School, how can the Office of Church School Literature assist you? If you are not a teacher, skip to the next question.

Answered: 326 Skipped: 355



Q14 What is your age range?

Answered: 655 Skipped: 26



Summary and Acknowledgements

The role of the General Secretary of Christian Education encompasses planning, marketing, curriculum and resource development, supervision, human resource development and management, contract negotiations, board participation, ecumenical affairs, training, learning, coordination, visioning, and collaboration. It involves oversight of four organizations (VICYC, ACE, YACM and Varick's Children), six commissions (Spiritual Formation, Leadership Excellence, Family Life, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Children's Ministries and Scholastic Engagement, the Office of Church School Literature and properties deemed as "schools and colleges." These words from Psalm 124:1 (NLT) conveys my sentiment: "What if the Lord had not been on our side?" I am thankful that I do not have to find out how to manage without the Lord on my side!

I am grateful for the support, counsel, concern and love of my Board Chairs, Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, Bishop W. Darin Moore and Bishop Nathaniel Jarrett. They are phenomenal leaders and I do not take their leadership for granted. I am also grateful for the awesome team of individuals who serve the Department and make my job more rewarding. I especially want to thank Mrs. Jennifer Armstrong, Mrs. Lisa Barkley, Mrs. Kirsten Martin, Rev. Patrick Barrett II, Mr. Domonique Turner, Ms. Cleo Chaney, Rev. Dr. Adrian Nelson, Rev. Dr. Michelle Searles, Rev. Dr. Kenneth James, Rev. Dr. Kathy McFadden, Dr. Hele Scott Carter, Mr. Cesar Alvarez, Ms. Allison Lee, Ms. Angellica Sweat, Rev. Tamika Jackson, Ms. Jennifer Ruffin and Rev. George McKain for your service to Christian Education. God has given me a tremendous "village" with whom I share my life! They know who they are and I thank God for them!

This has been quite a year! I am honored to serve in this role and am as passionate about this work today as I was when I was first elected six years ago. This calling is not for the fainthearted! I solicit your prayers as I continue to foster the development of credible, committed Christian disciples.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Kathryn G. Brown
Your Madam Secretary