

State of the Church

To Presiding Prelate of the Mid-Atlantic, Rt. Rev. W. Darin Moore and Missionary Supervisor, Devieta C. Moore, Presiding Elders: Rev. T. Kenneth Venable, Rev. Kenneth W. Crowder, and Rev. Dr. Vincent M. Jones Sr., Presiding Elder Emeritus, E. H. Whitley, Pastors, Ministers, General Officers (Past and Present), Delegates, Laity, Friends, and Visitors.

The church, "Upon this rock I build my church and the very gates of hell shall not prevail against it ." Based on our belief, we believe that God's church will stand. If you listen to the new announcement by the public, they are saying, "The sky is falling." The church is dying, but the truth is that the church is in a transitional period. In our history to be a good American was synonymous with having some connection with a church. Whether, the individuals attended church or not, they felt the cultural or family connection to say, "Yes, I attend that family church". Those who don't have "Skin in the game are shedding the labels". It is no time to join the hype, but it is time to continue with urgency to hit the highway, hedges, and mission fields to point the dying souls to Jesus Christ,

In a closer examination, the church and those in the church have met challenges that we never dreamed possible. The present day church faces challenges like: additional social burdens laid at the church door, government scrutiny about tax exemption status and local government not allowing church in specific neighborhoods, lack of intergenerational worship services, questionable integrity and character within the body, declining monetary resources, and some congregations who have itching ears and do not want clergy to teach/preach the Truth! The Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Reviewing Our Practices, Retooling Our People, Reaching Our Potential, the committee looked at three areas as prescribed by our leadership: Retain, Recycle, and Replace.

Retain

- Promote inclusive worship
- Stand against racism, prejudice, and persecution
- Focus on the mandate of Christ's Great Commission
- Preach/teach the Truth/ Gospel
- Highlight training and witnessing on discipleship
- Promote high energy impactful worship
- Institute in-depth Bible Study programs
- Mentor and witnessing among clergy
- Provide more training on tithing

Recycle

- Involve ourselves more in political elections to include school board, City Council, State, and government
- Revise church outreach programs and activities in local neighborhoods
- Develop relationships with the congregants in/outside the church (e-church)
- Use our own class members program to stay connected to the membership

Seek outside resources to help both the church and stakeholders (non- profit)
Reexamine church policies that do not allow millennials to participate in leadership positions

Replace
Eliminate traditional fundraisers

Humbly Submitted,
The Committee on the State of the Church
Ronald Cook, Della Woodruff, Audrey Jones, Dale Seaborne, Cheryl James, Joseph Perry, Katina Williams, Ashley Charles, Willie Dixon, and Andrea James