



THE ROLE OF LAITY IN GROWING THE CHURCH AND EFFECTIVE MINISTRY IN A CHANGING WORLD

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Scripture

- "For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."

Isaiah 43:19 NLT

Background

- Statistics concerning the decline of church attendance and membership are alarming
- According to Francis A. Schaffer Institute of Church Leadership Development, the US ranks third following China and India in the number of people who are not professing Christians
- Every year, more than 4,000 churches close their doors due to membership decline, inability to pay bills, and the inability to reach new people. Now how many AME churches is in this number?

Reasons Church Membership is Declining

- Lack of vision
- Inept leadership
- Poor or no evangelism efforts
- One-way communication
- Church mentality
- Little working capital
- Outdated youth programs
- Inadequate childcare
- Others....

- Some experts also believe that churches are declining because some churches just don't want to grow.
- Some churches' members have very little desire to change, they have become complacent, don't like to change and are unwilling to follow pastoral leadership.

How can we change this?

- The church, local and connectional must become more serious and intentional about church growth.
- As a denomination, we often place politics, polity, and tradition ahead of intentional and relevant church growth.
- Church growth must become our primary focus, not secondary or an afterthought.
- It is imperative that the pastor and laity form a cohesive working relationship in order to reverse the decline in church discipleship.

The Shift- Why Should we embrace a shift for effective ministry?

- This is what we have been commissioned to do Matthew 28: 16-20
- So, we can have an impact on our communities and move closer to a liberated world Galatians 5:1
- "Your ministry will never be bigger than your vision of Jesus" Patty Hammond

So what's our role of the Laity in Growing the Church and Effective Ministry

- 15- minute break out sessions to discuss

Make Evangelism a Priority

- Spreading the good news
- Being intentional and relevant
- Use positive language

Willingness to do things a little differently

- Worship services
- Hospitality
- Ministries vs. Boards
- Transparency
- Marketing/Media
- Enhancing Technology

Laity emulating the characteristics of a Servant Leader

- Stewardship
- Tither
- Transparency
- Spiritual
- Honest

- In closing, the biblical text proves that by working together, we can grow our churches and communities at the same time.

Questions