

Disciple Making Utilizing The Class Leader System

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Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

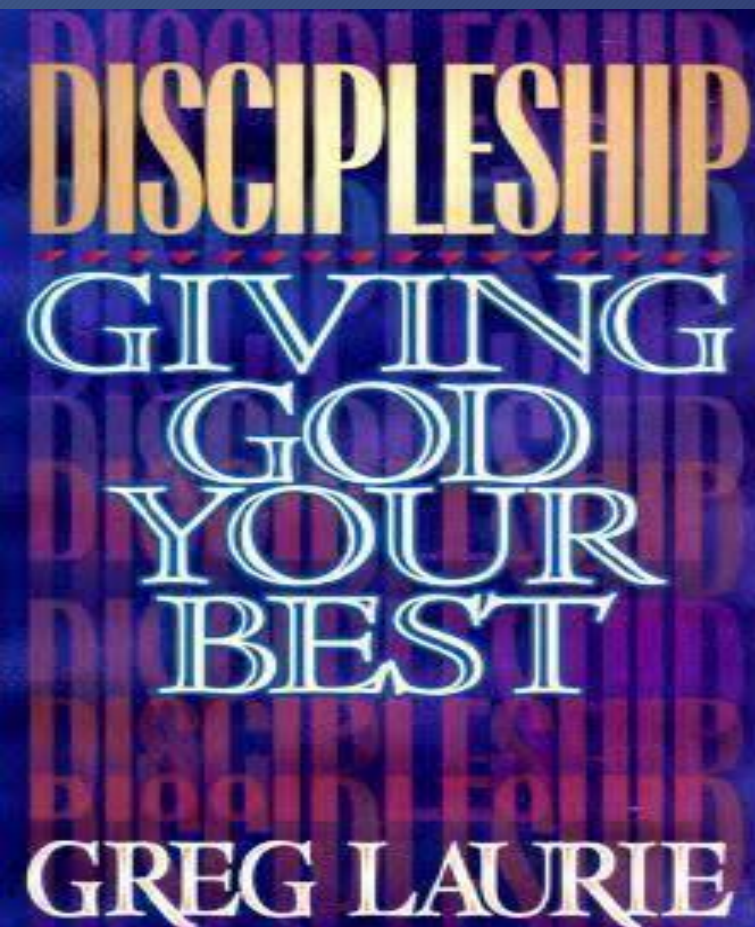
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Discipleship: Giving God Your Best



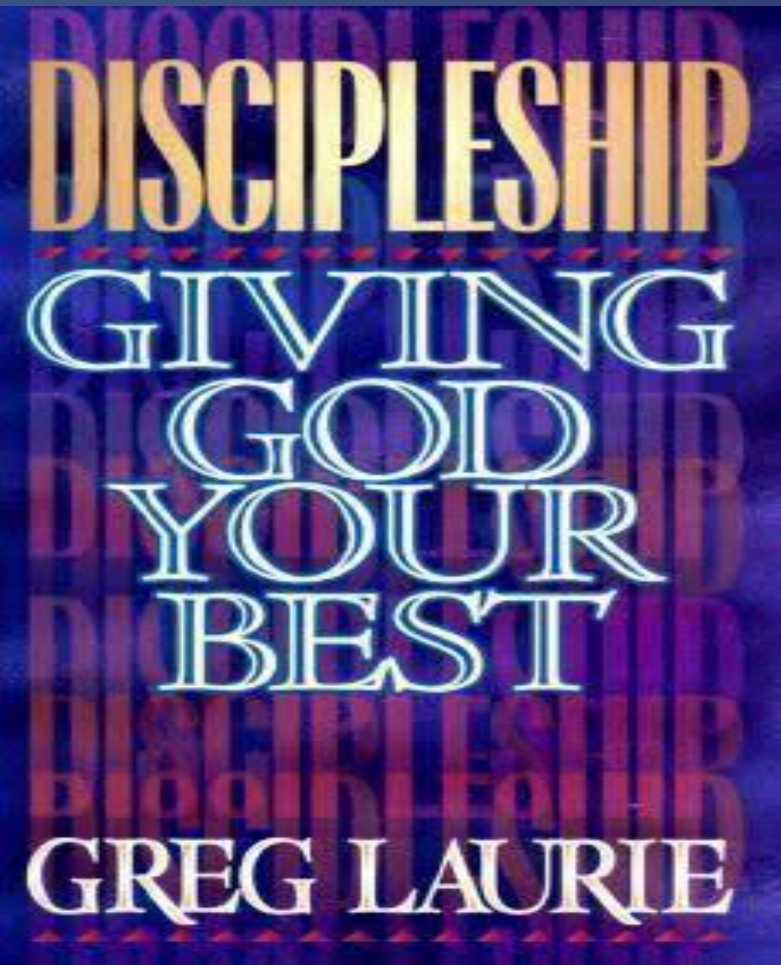
- All disciples are believers, but not all believers are disciples
- Anything short of discipleship is settling for less than what God desires



Discipleship: Giving God Your Best



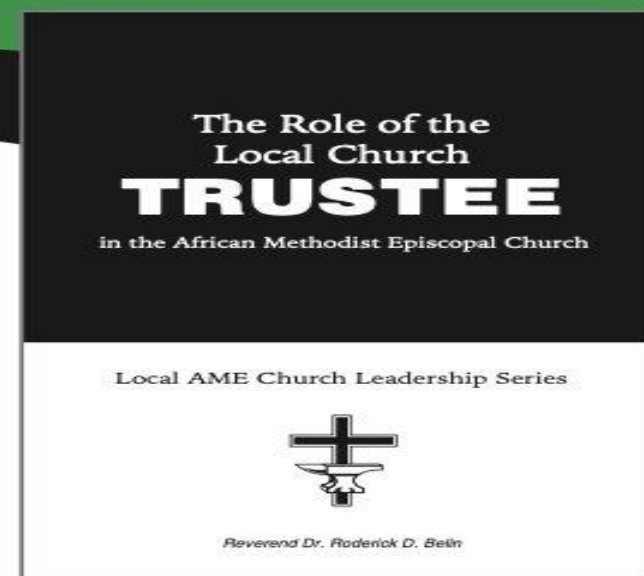
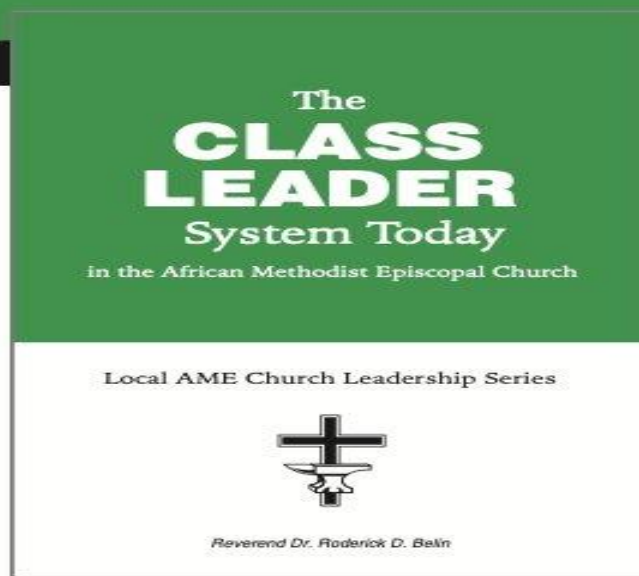
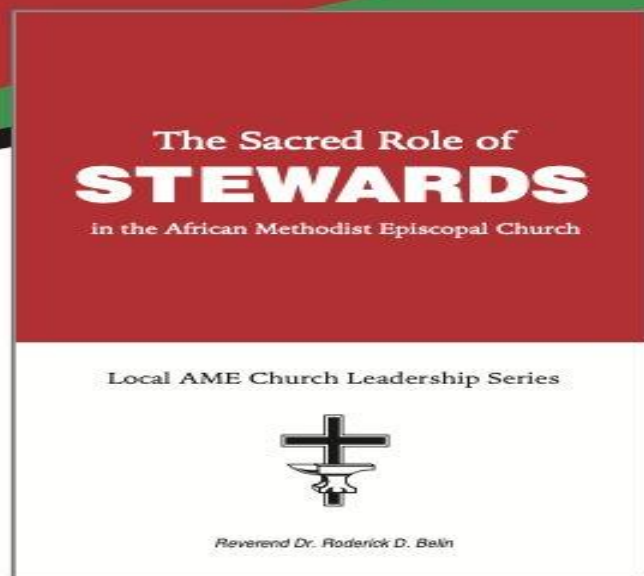
- Process: Curious,
Convinced, & Committed



Local AME Church Leadership Series Workshops

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The
**CLASS
LEADER**
System Today

in the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Local AME Church Leadership Series



Reverend Dr. Roderick D. Belin

“Introduction”



The aim of this manual is to provide you with a comprehensive guide to fulfilling your crucial role as a Class Leader and Disciple Maker. It is designed to clarify your responsibilities, enhance your leadership skills, and deepen your understanding of this historic and essential position within our denomination.

“Mission Statement”



The mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, and environmental needs of all people by spreading Christ’s liberating gospel through word and deed.

“General Rules of the United Societies” Explanation



The Methodist General Rules of Band Societies, established by John Wesley on December 25, 1738, represent a foundational framework for spiritual growth and accountability within the Methodist movement. These rules were designed to foster deep Christian fellowship, promote personal holiness, and encourage mutual support among believers.

“Band Societies”



- 2, 3, or 4 true believers who have confidence in each other
- Bands must be all men or all women and all married or all unmarried
- Obey the command of God in James 5:16- “confess your faults to one another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed”.
- Meet once a week at least
- To come punctually at the hour appointed
- Begin exactly at the hour with singing or prayer
- To speak, each of us in order, freely and plainly the true state of our souls, with the faults we have committed in tempers, words, or actions, and temptations since last meeting.

“Chapter 1”

Introduction to the Role of a Class Leader



- The role of a class leader mirrors the biblical concept of shepherding, as described in [1 Peter 5:2-3](#), where spiritual leaders are called to care for God's flock.
- The accountability fostered in class meetings reflects the exhortation in [Galatians 6:1-2](#) for believers to support and correct one another in love.
- The small group format of class meetings echoes the practices of the early church, as seen in [Acts 2:46-47](#), where believers met in homes for fellowship and teaching.

“Chapter 2”

Qualifications and Appointment of Class Leaders



Spiritual and Character Requirements

A strong and consistent prayer life; Regular Bible study and reflection; Active participation in church services and activities;

Knowledge of AME Doctrine & Discipline

The Articles of Religion; General Rules of United Societies; History and heritage of African Methodism

Appointment Process by the Minister (Pastor)

“Chapter 3”

Duties and Responsibilities of Class Leaders



- ✓ Weekly (regular) class meetings
- ✓ Inquiring about member's spiritual progress
- ✓ Visitation of class members
- ✓ Collection and reporting of contributions
- ✓ Reporting to the Official Board
- ✓ Oversight of new members doing 90 day nurturing period
- ✓ Recommendation of New Members for Full Membership

“Chapter 4”

Class Meeting Management



- As a class leader, your role is to create an environment where members feel safe, valued, and inspired to deepen their faith
- These gatherings are not merely administrative sessions, but vibrant spaces for spiritual growth, mutual support, and community building
- Encourage participation and open sharing is crucial to success of your class meeting; don't dominate the conversation but facilitate meaningful dialogue

“Chapter 5”

Pastoral Care and Support



- ❖ Identifying and addressing the spiritual needs of your members requires a combination of observation, active listening, and spiritual discernment
- ❖ When talking with members, always ground your advice in scripture and AME teachings; use open-ended questions
- ❖ Knowing when and how to refer issues to the pastor is a critical skill

“Chapter 6”

Discipleship and Spiritual Growth



- Encourage personal Bible study and Prayer
- Introduce your class to various Bible study tools and resources; explore online Bible study resources, concordances, or commentaries
- Promote participation in church activities and ministries
- Help members discover and use their spiritual gifts; use [spiritual gift assessment tools](#)

“Chapter 7”

Administrative Responsibilities



- Keep accurate records of attendance and contributions (simple spreadsheets or church management software)
- Prepare and submit reports to the Official Board
- Maintain an up-to-date list of class members
- Coordinate with other church leaders (Stewards, Trustees, Presidents, Ministry Coordinators)

“Chapter 8” Leadership Development



- Identify and nurture potential new Class Leaders
- Mentor and train assistant Class Leaders
- Stay committed to your own spiritual growth through regular Bible study, prayer, and reflection
- Attend Leadership Conferences and Seminars offered by your church and denomination

“Chapter 9”

Relationship with Church Leadership



- Working effectively with the pastor is foundational to your role as Class Leader
- Support your Pastor’s vision for the church and help implement it into your class
- Collaborate with Stewards and Trustees
- Participate in the Official Board meetings
- Cultivate strong relationships with other church leaders

“Chapter 10”

Special Considerations for Different Demographics



- ✓ Working with members of diverse ages and abilities bring unique considerations
- ✓ When leading youth classes, you'll need to tap into a well spring of energy and creativity
- ✓ Young adults and families are often juggling multiple responsibilities, balancing careers, relationships and parenting; Flexibility becomes crucial

“Chapter 11”

Ethical Considerations and Boundaries



- ❖ Maintaining appropriate relationships with class members is essential to leading a class effectively
- ❖ Avoid spending excessive one-on-one time with any individual member
- ❖ You are in a position of trust and influence
- ❖ You'll often be privy to sensitive personal information; Handling this information with the utmost care and maintaining confidentiality is a sacred trust

“Chapter 12”

Spiritual Self-Care for Class Leaders



- Maintain personal spiritual disciplines: Daily prayer, Scripture study, Worship, Retreats
- Avoid burnout and compassion fatigue: Set realistic expectations, learn to say no, take regular days off and honor your need for rest
- Seek Support and Mentorship
- Balance Church Responsibilities and Personal Life

“Chapter 13”

Technology and Communication



- Use Technology: Digital record-keeping; Online resource sharing (Dropbox); Virtual Meetings (Zoom); Mobile Apps (Realm Connect)
- Use effective communication methods: Group messaging; Individual check-ins; Newsletter; Online forums
- Social Media Best Practices: Maintain appropriate boundaries; Be consistent in your online persona; Handle conflicts offline

“Chapter 14”

Evaluation and Continuous Improvement



- Self-Assessment of Class Leader Effectiveness: Review your goals; reflect on spiritual growth; consider your own spiritual health
- Seek feedback from class members and church leaders: Class members surveys; Peer reviews; Pastoral feedback
- Set goals for personal and class growth
- Adapt to changing needs and Circumstances

“Appendices”



- Sample Class Meeting Formats: Traditional, Thematic, Prayer-Focused
- Caring for members Struggling with their Faith Journey (10 points)
- AME Church Resources
- Class Leader’s Monthly Report Format
- Pastoral Care Concerns: General Guidelines, Self Harm or Suicide, Abuse or Domestic Violence, Mental Health Issues