

CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL

**DEPARTMENT OF LAY MINISTRY
OF THE
CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

PROGRAM OF STUDY



SEPTEMBER 2007

**"YOUNG CHRISTIANS IN THE WORKPLACE
LEARNING HOW TO SUCCEED AND WIN!"**

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PREFACE

As we complete the "twelfth" and last lesson in the 2006-2007 Connectional Lay Council Program of Study *series*, allow me to thank those who have encouraged and assisted in their development. Appreciation is extended to Dr. Victor Taylor, General Secretary of the Department of Lay Ministry and Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt, our Chairman, for their positive faith and trust. To my wife, Mrs. Johnetta Harris and to Ms. Avis Hill, Local Lay Leader of Greater Cleaves Memorial CME Church in Oklahoma City, thank you for taking time to proof what we prepared. We further applaud the Episcopal District Vice Presidents and all others who took seriously the opportunity and commitment to share the lessons with others. To my Presiding Prelate, Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr., thank you for making members of the Ninth Episcopal District aware of the Programs of Study and for promotion of the same.

It is our desire and our prayer to continue these efforts, however, we will look to develop the lessons on a quarterly, rather than a monthly basis. Additionally, we will be calling on our Episcopal District Vice Presidents to make contributions to the 2007-2008 quarterly series.

As we continue the work that each of us has been called to do, let us keep the local church at the heart of *what we do!*

INTRODUCTION

The May 2007 Program of Study, entitled, "When I Need Direction or When My Spirit Needs Encouraging, Where Do I Turn?", was written for and dedicated to those who are young in age or young in their spiritual walk. I encouraged us to seek opportunities to share and discuss the lesson's content and use it as a source in counseling our youth and young adults.

Thus, this *twelfth* lesson in the *2006-2007 study series*, will again allow us to share with our youth and young adult population and assist them in succeeding and winning, particularly in the *workplace*. Hence, we must continue to be intentional in exhibiting a sharing, caring, teaching, non-judgmental attitude, - grounded in the Word of God.

PRAYER: God our Father, as we continue to follow your direction, please give us insight, appreciation, and understanding about the challenges of an ever changing workplace. Help us to assist our youth and young adults as they seek to sustain and advance themselves in today's work environment. In Jesus' name we pray and claim victory! Amen

"YOUNG CHRISTIANS IN THE WORKPLACE: LEARNING HOW TO SUCCEED AND WIN"

Always remember that prayer, faith, belief, commitment, and consistency of purpose can help to carry one deep into the lap of successful service in the workplace.

The Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee; fear not, neither be dismayed. - Deuteronomy 31: 8

Those who make up their minds [prior to accepting a position] to become:

- *Champions of learning*
- *Champions of good citizenship*
- *and Champions for overall excellence*

will tremendously increase their opportunity to succeed and win!

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsel. < Proverb 1: 5 -- Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. < Proverb 9: 9

Today's workplace and the workplace of the future will continue to be quite different from the past. Changes have taken place and will continue to take place; accordingly, young workers must know how to handle the changes. Young people all over the nation must be prepared for a new world and the changes taking place in what employees are expected to know and be able to do.

Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge. < Proverb 23: 12 - Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord *all the day long*. < Proverb 23: 17 - Buy the truth and sell it not: also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. < Proverb 23: 23

In the past, companies said to prospective employees, "If you work hard and do your job well, the company will take care of you." Today's companies and corporations say, "If you have the skills the company needs in a changing economy, you have an opportunity to succeed." The key word in the last statement is *skills*, and the operative word is *opportunity*. In addition, all young workers, regardless of gender, race, economic circumstances, or national origin, [in order to succeed], must learn to believe in others as well as themselves. You see, success in today's workplace calls for a *spirit of unity and teamwork*.

Do two men walk together unless they have made an agreement? < Amos 3: 3. Be of the same mind one toward another. < Romans 12: 16.

EIGHT TEACHING AND/OR CONVERSATIONAL POINTS THAT WILL PROPEL YOUNG WORKERS FORWARD AND PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO COMPETE, BE SUCCESSFUL, AND WIN IN THE WORKPLACE.

1) Don't be a resister of change in the work place. It's almost always a dead-end street. Organizations want people who adapt--fast--not those who *resist* or *psychologically* "unplug." Change can be painful, but being a quick change artist can build your reputation, while resisting change can ruin it.

2) Learn to be a high performance person. Speed is essential, because people have gotten use to instant everything. They have to do more --work faster and better--with less. This calls for highly committed people. In today's world, career success belongs to the committed, - to those who work from the heart...who invest themselves passionately in their jobs.

3) Behave like you're in business for yourself. Consider personally how you can help cut costs, serve the customer better, improve productivity, and how you can add directly to the financial health of the organization you work for.

(4) Make up your mind to be a lifelong learner! Today's world takes no pity on the person who gets lazy about learning. Either you take personal responsibility for continuing your education, or you end up without the knowledge you need to protect your career. Lifelong learning is the only way to remain competitive in the job market. Learn to invest in your own growth, development, and self-renewal. It doesn't matter anymore whether you are an automotive technician, teacher, rancher, attorney, or computer programmer, - you need specialized knowledge.

Develop transferable skills. Don't get locked into just one job, or even one employer. Give yourself *options*. The more you know how to do, and the better you do it, the more valuable you become. Never stop learning!

(5) Hold yourself accountable for outcomes.---In many organizations responsibility, power, and authority are being pushed down. For this to work, you have to stand accountable for results. ---You won't be able to get off the hook by rationalizing and saying: "I tried"; "I really worked hard"; "I did high quality work"; "I did my part."

(6) Make sure you contribute more than you cost. It's your contribution that counts, not the hours or years you put in or how busy you are. Add enough value so everyone can see that something very important would be missing if you left!

(7) Learn to manage your own morale. Assign yourself personal responsibility for attitude control. Don't "disempower" yourself and put someone else in charge of your morale. Don't wait around for management to heal your wounded spirit; you'll end up hurting longer than necessary. Don't allow yourself to wallow in negative emotions.

(8) Lastly, be a fixer, not a finger-pointer. Don't use precious energy criticizing and complaining. Problems are the natural offspring of change, so you'll see plenty of them in the years to come. Build a name for yourself as a problem-solver and you'll be a valuable person to have around.

In conclusion, - to win, one must learn "how not to lose".
Workers must realize that they are in a game of critical situations. Young Christians who want to become champions in the workplace must develop *spiritual* and mental toughness and lots of self-discipline. - To fail in accomplishing a *task* does not make one a failure. Remember, however, that prayer, faith, belief, commitment, and consistency of purpose are key determinates in how *deep* one goes into the *lap of successful service*.

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4: 9

References: The Full Gospel Bible and The Open Bible