

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church



Report to the General Connectional Board

August 22, 2019

To: Bishop James B. Walker, Chair of the CIT Connectional Department; Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr., Vice Chair; the College of Bishops; the CIT Advisory Committee; the CIT Standing Committee, the General Officers, and the General Connectional Board.

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ!

On behalf of the Communication and Information Technology (CIT) Connectional Department, the following report provides an update on the strategic planning efforts and projects over the past year.

The mission of the Communication and Information Technology Connectional Department is to assist the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in using communication and information technology tools and resources; and to connect, unite, and share information within and beyond the walls of our Connectional Church. In all that we do, it is always the goal of the CIT Connectional Department to serve well the College of Bishops, General Officers, Connectional Officers, and the clergy and lay of our great Zion!

Over the past year, the CIT Connectional Department held meetings to plan communication and technology initiatives for our Zion. During the past year, I met with the College of Bishops and the General Officers to identify and discuss their communication and technology needs, provide our vision and committed technology projects, and to seek ways to collaborate on future projects.

The following are updates on current and important technology initiatives underway from the Communication and Information Technology (CIT) Connectional Department. Thank you for the opportunity to share this information!

COMPLETED PROJECTS

[Revamped CME Web Site: Completed](#)

A revamp of the official CME Web site, www.thecmechurch.org, was completed in April 2019. The new Website uses WordPress, an integrated and fully functional content management system. The site provides a new sleek look that is streamlined and user-friendly for all devices. Special thanks to Rev. Andrew Archer for providing the new graphic designs!

Since the revamp of the Web site in April 2019, **the CME Church has had 2.5M hits!**

[Increased Digital Communications with the Stay Connected Initiative](#)

The Stay Connected Initiative is designed to help our connectional members stay connected with through communication and social media outlets. On the main page of our official CME Web site is the Stay Connected initiatives. Our members can help their Episcopal District reach it's Stay Connected Goal! A contest is underway and we're calling for all CMEs to participate.

The Episcopal District with the most new email and text messaging subscribers in 2019 will receive a new iPad in January 2020!

- All leaders and members in the CME Church are encouraged to sign up for CME Communications for email and the CMEText messaging service.
- Members can sign up at the CME Web site and view the number of new e-mail subscribers for each Episcopal District in real time. And one can always unsubscribe from services.

CMEChurch App

The CME Church app now has 8,000 subscribers and a new look!

[Online Discipline](#)

In collaboration with Dr. Roderick Lewis and the General Department of Publication Services, the 2018 Discipline of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is online and in e-Periodical format!

[CME Google Drive](#)

Through a partnership with Google, the CME Church now has its own Google Drive space! Google Drive or GSuite will allow the leadership to save files and work collaboratively, productively and efficiently! This is a great way to establish secure space for the College of Bishops, General Officers and connectional departments to save files online / in the Cloud.

Through GSuite, we can

- Protect our documents;
- Archive our memorabilia in collaboration with Dr. Raymond Sommerville and his initiative, CME Church History Matters;
- Store highly secure documents and periodicals (i.e., the CME Discipline);
- Publish e-documents for connectional events and meetings;
- Deploy the standardized secure email accounts for the College of Bishops and the General Officers, and other Connectional leaders; and much more.

[Registration Technology](#)

Continuing the use of technology at our meetings since General Conference is a must to help the CME Church accomplish its sustainability initiatives. CIT is providing consultation and some resources towards this endeavor.

Using i-Attend and a QR code which is printed on all badges was a recommendation to the CME Unity Summit. As a result, i-Attend is being used to check in and track our registrants from the time registration materials are picked up and throughout the CME Unity Summit and General Connectional Board meeting!

Unity Summit staff had the capability to check attendees in to all sessions using their mobile device and kiosk stations set up! Members checked in themselves as well as used the i-Attend mobile app.

Evaluations were distributed to our attendees while they were in their sessions and featured on the CMEChurch app and the official CME Web site.

Online Registration

Online Registration using Jotform has been set up for all connectional events saving the CME Church close to \$5 per registration!

As requested by Bishop Walker on behalf of the College of Bishops, a homegrown registration system was built to reduce costs and effectively manage some connectional and Episcopal District events. Of

course, PayPal charges fees to process credit/debit cards at 2.2% + .30 for non-profits. A typical \$100.00 registration will incur a \$2.50 fee.

This homegrown CME system is used for registration and event management for the CME Unity Summit, CYYAC20 (Connectional Youth and Young Adult Conference) Connectional Young Adult Ministry (CYAM) RESET Retreats, the 6th Episcopal District Georgia North Annual Conference, and the 9th Episcopal District Leadership Training Schools and Quadrennial Annual Conferences.

If you need an online registration portal set up for your Episcopal District events, CIT is happy to assist with the task! Please submit your request to cit@thecmechurch.org and our new Contract Manager, Mrs. Sharon Doss, will be in contact with you.

Let me take this opportunity to thank our Chair Bishop James B. Walker for his leadership, wise counsel, and for being an advocate for technology and the CIT Connectional Department. Thanks to Vice Chair Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr. for being tech savvy and his desire for our Zion utilizing technology. Thanks for our officers and members for their diligent work in serving nationally and within their Episcopal Districts.

It has been a pleasure to serve the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and work with the Advisory Committee members and committed colleagues during the past year. Thank you for this opportunity to report on the CIT Connectional Department as we strive to continue to provide *essential* communication and information technology services to the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Humbly Submitted,

Dr. Theresa Duhart, President
CIT Advisory Committee

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