



2018

FOURTH EPSICOPAL DISTRICT
Of the
African Methodist Episcopal Church

CHRISTIAN
DEBUTANTE MASTER
DEDICATION COMMISSION

PARTICIPANT CURRICULUM

CHRISTIAN DEBUTANTE MASTER DEDICATION COMMISSION
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Religious Requirements

Study Material for Dedication Participants

Requirements are as follows:

For A.M.E. Juniors

1. Motto of the A.M.E. Church
2. Apostle's Creed
3. Number of Books in the Bible
4. The Lord's Prayer

For Sub debutantes and Sub masters

1. Motto of the A.M.E. Church
2. The Ten Commandments
3. The Beatitudes
4. The 23rd Psalms
5. Names and Numbers of Books in the Bible
(Old and New Testaments)

For Debutantes and Masters

1. History of the A.M.E. Church
2. Motto and Beliefs of the A.M.E. Church
3. Decalogue in original form
4. An essay no less than 5000 words on "What it means to Daily Magnify Christ"
5. Discussion on the Relevancy of the Christian Debutante-Master Dedication

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Motto of the A.M.E. Church

“God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer,
the Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family.”

The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day he arose from the dead, he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Number of Books of the Bible - 66

Old Testament – 39

New Testament – 27

The Lord’s Prayer

“Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

PLEDGE FOR A.M.E. JUNIORS

We salute the Class of 2017; you are the future voices of Christianity.

Young Men and Women of God, your work has just begun.

There are paths still to be taken and many songs yet to be sung.

Your good works have been duly noted by God above, you have shown your youthful strength, you have labored with love.

We, the A.M.E. Juniors of the DMC, salute the Debutantes and Masters of 2017.

THE BEATITUDES

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.

THE TWENTY THIRD PSALM

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He

leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul;

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; Thy

rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

Books of the Bible

Old Testament:

Genesis	Ecclesiastes
Exodus	Song of Solomon
Leviticus	Isaiah
Numbers	Jeremiah
Deuteronomy	Lamentations
Joshua	Ezekiel
Judges	Daniel
Ruth	Hosea
1 Samuel	Joel
2 Samuel	Amos
1 Kings	Obadiah
2 Kings	Jonah
1 Chronicles	Micah
2 Chronicles	Nahum
Ezra	Habakkuk
Nehemiah	Zephaniah
Esther	Haggai
Job	Zechariah
Psalms	Malachi
Proverbs	

New Testament:

Matthew	1 Timothy
Mark	2 Timothy
Luke	Titus
John	Philemon
Acts	Hebrews
Romans	James
1 Corinthians	1 Peter
2 Corinthians	2 Peter
Galatians	1 John
Ephesians	2 John
Philippians	3 John
Colossians	Jude
1 Thessalonians	Revelation
2 Thessalonians	



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (Exodus 20:3-17)

1. Thou shalt have no other Gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the Father upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all the work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; for six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day, and hallowed it.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy

neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox,
nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbors.

PLEDGE FOR SUB-DEBUTANTES AND SUB-MASTERS

We the Subdebs and Submasters,

Are filled with sheer delight.

To greet the Debs and Masters

Whom we honor tonight.

May your years be filled with gladness, As

on through life, you go, Performing

Christian Service

With the deep "inner glow"

Sometimes the rain will fall

Sometimes it will be dark.

Sometimes it will seem useless to pursue; But, on

the Master call; unto his guidance hark, And He

through faith, will see you safely through. So God's

speed. Good Luck, Best Wishes,

We hail you as we part; Keep

Jesus as your leader, Keep His

Word, in your heart.

THE BIRTH OF THE A.M.E. CHURCH

The African Methodist Episcopal Church is an offspring of the Methodist church, which was founded by John Wesley in England and America in the eighteenth century. Found in 1787, by a group of northern free blacks led by founder Richard Allen who purchased his freedom along with that of his brother. The A.M.E. church grew out of a racial dispute that disrupted the congregation of St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. The disturbance occurred when black members of the congregation were forced out of their seats and sent to sit in the gallery (balcony), as a result of the church's segregation. The incident led to the members of St. George's Church pulling "Africans" (as they were called) off of their knees when praying.

History records that it was Richard Allen who responded to this treatment by saying, "Allow us to finish this prayer, and we will trouble you no more." At the completion of that prayer, the then, Mr. Allen along with Mr. Absalom Jones (of the Episcopal Church) led the Black congregation from St. George's Church. This incident marked the closure to a sub-servant social relations where Black parishioners were not accepted w/equal status with their white counterparts, while God through His Word taught that He is no respecter of persons. Thus, the decision was not on a theological or doctrinal basis but upon an unjust social system that permeated the spiritual walls of our religious practices, prompting permanent separation even to this very hour.

When Allen and his followers withdrew from St. George's they focused their energies on the self-help organization called the Free African Society. The Society was the forerunner for what was to be called the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Ultimately Allen, who wanted to organized a black Methodist Episcopal Church, led the Free African Society. His departure reflected his belief that Methodism with its emphasis upon the plain and simple gospel, which the unlearned could understand, and its orderly system of rules and regulations which the under developed needed. He felt that Methodism had what the "African's" needed to encourage him to make progress and to worship freely.

Soon after, Allen purchased a locksmith shop to hold services in. Allen preached, using an anvil as his lectern. This soon became apart of the A.M.E. symbol. Under the leadership of Richard Allen, Bethel A.M.E. church was organized in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In time, other "African" Churches were started (A.M.E. Zion, C.M.E., B.M.E., etc.) and in 1816, Allen met with representatives from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Baltimore, Maryland; Wilmington, Delaware; Atteboro, Pennsylvania; and Salem, New Jersey to organize the A.M.E. Church. Richard Allen was consecrated as the first Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Time Line of the Organization of Black Churches

AME † 1787 (1816)

C.M.E. † 1870

A.M.E. Zion † 1820

B.M.E. † 1856 (united with the A.M.E. church in 1884)

OUR NAME

- AFRICAN** This term refers to people of African descent and heritage. A group of dark-skinned Americans of African descent constituted the first and founding members of our church.
- METHODIST:** Our church is a member of the family of Methodist Churches. Methodism emphasizes the plain and simple gospel, which can easily be understood. Methodist simply applies to a method of doing things, and at first was used to ridicule a small group of Christ Church students at Oxford University.
- EPISCOPAL:** The work “Episcopal” refers to the form of government under which our church operates. The chief executive and administrative officers of our denomination are our Bishops.
- CHURCH:** The Christian Church is a community of people who believe in God and who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior. The A.M.E. denomination and the local church represent an organized group of Christian believers who are studying, learning, growing, serving, and further developing themselves into effective Christian servants.

Motto of the A.M.E. Church

“God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer,
The Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family”

THE DEBUTANTE-MASTER STORY (article)

The General Conference Keeps Alive A Tradition Established in 1952

1952-May, 1972

What is now a popular activity, the introduction of young people to society under church auspices, and their dedication to continued Christian service, was inaugurated as a Christian Rite of Passage by the A.M.E. Church in 1952, and is denoted by the phrase, the Christian Debutante-Master Dedication. Originated by Julma B. Crawford under the Division of Christian Education, it was begun at the 34th General Conference of African Methodism, May 18, 1952 in Chicago's Coliseum. This dedication has been a feature of every General Conference since. The ceremony has been conducted as part of a number of annual conferences and Episcopal districts. It has also been emulated and adapted by many other Christian denominations.

By elected legislation enacted at the 39th Session of the A.M.E. General Conference held in June, 1972 at Dallas, Texas, the DMC became an official A.M.E. Commission. On July 1, 1972, Mrs. Crawford was elected by acclamation as Administrator of this commission with the rank of General Officer, without salary. In 1976, Mrs. Crawford became a Connectional Officer as the Administrator of the newly legislated Debutante-Master Commission.

ADULT COMMISSION

The DMC is a commission of adults comprising a new supportive and supplemental service to the youth group of the Division of Christian Education at each level of the A.M.E. Church.

It is a volunteer adult activity where the members generously give of their time, talent and resources to benefit others, especially youth. No financial compensation is given from the General Church. The program activities are self-sustaining. Monies for the entire program are raised primarily through volunteer membership donation. Members of the DMC are dedicated to the responsibility of helping young people in their pursuit of education and cultural enrichment.

ONE PURPOSE OF THE CHRISTIAN DEBUTANTE-MASTER COMMISSION (DMC)

One purpose of the Christian Debutante Commission is to provide guidance and information as to relevant study and field work activities, program suggestions, liturgical requirements and all other basic details and supplies needed in the preparation for, and presentation of, unified and coordinated Christian Debutante-Master Dedication on the following levels: Connectional, Episcopal District, Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District, Local Church, Ecumenical and Community.

GENERAL CONFERENCE PERPETUATION

The Christian-Debutante-Master Dedication is an officially programmed activity scheduled for ninety minutes on the first Sunday afternoon of every regular General Conference of the A.M.E. Church.

DEBUTANTE-MASTERS PLEDGE OF DEDICATION

Believing that God's Power is my strength, because of my faith in Jesus Christ, I join with other youth in a unified effort to demonstrate the effectiveness and the oneness of the Christian fellowship. For me, there is a desire to make Christ the focal point of my existence, to render unselfish service to my fellow man and to diligently seek the will of God for my life. I sincerely believe, and will govern myself, as far as I am able, by the twenty-five Articles of Religion as set down in the Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Lord being my helper. "God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family", the motto of the A.M.E. Church as emancipated by our founder Richard Allen, will become my testimony. Help me God to keep this pledge. Take my life and let it be dedicated, Lord to Thee.

SONG.....Take My Life and Let it Be

(After four measures of the introduction, the Honorees sing two verses)

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord to Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own.
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne!

(While humming softly, the honorees march quietly down the front of the altar, each turns on a light on the cross and kneels at the altar. "Spirit of the Living God" is played through one time. The Honorees sing "Spirit of the Living God", while still kneeling. Reverently bowing their heads in the attitude of prayer, they receive the blessing of the church. The Honorees singing "Spirit of the Living God". The Honorees all remain Standing at the altar until the benediction has been announced.

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.