



CLASS LEADERS

LEADING DURING THE PANDEMIC

OBJECTIVES

- Define and identify terms associated with the Class Leader System
- Demonstrate an understanding of Class Leaders qualifications, duties, and responsibilities

TERMS TO KNOW

- Class System
- Class
- Class leader
- Class dues

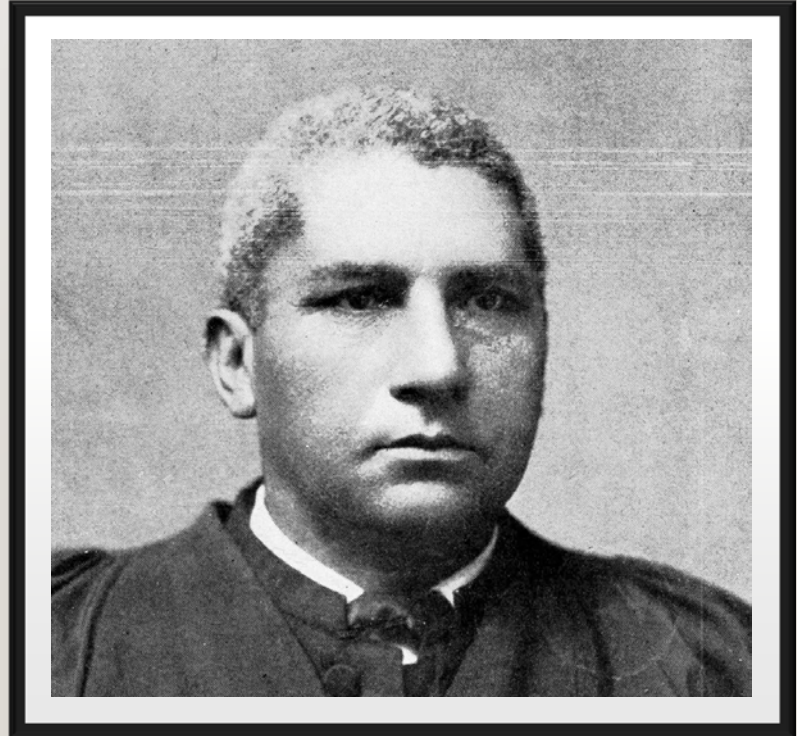


CLASS LEADER SYSTEM

- Basic organizational unit of the AME Church connecting each member to the local church
- Since the beginning of the A.M.E. Church, the Class System has played a vital role.
- Richard Allen, at the first A.M.E. General Conference, adopted the Methodist doctrine, including the “Class System.”

CLASS LEADER SYSTEM

- Bishop Henry McNeal Turner is given credit for promoting the sensitivity and importance of the system.
- He described the class leaders **“as proxy-pastors who assist the pastor to minister to each member of the congregation.”**
- In his Methodist Polity, Bishop Turner in 1885 and reprinted in 1986, referred to the “class system” in the church as: **“Next to the Word of God.”**



A CLASS LEADER IS...

Assigned to a class


Appointed annually by the minister.

Shall serve for one (1) year and may be appointed as long as their conduct is satisfactory.

Shall be examined quarterly by the minister and the presiding elder




THE DUTIES OF THE CLASS LEADER

- ❖ Meet with the members once a week to inquire how each soul prospers, to visit members from time to time, receive what they are willing to contribute for the support of the gospel.
 - ❖ Read the rules of the Band Societies to those who meet with the class for the first time
 - ❖ Visit other classes frequently
- 



THE DUTIES OF THE CLASS LEADER?

- ❖ Converse with their pastors frequently and freely
 - ❖ Admit non-members to their class meeting no more than three times, with none of them to be consecutive
 - ❖ To **exclude**, suspend, and expel members from the class meeting.
 - ❖ To watch over NEW MEMBERS with SPECIAL CARE and recommend those who are eligible at the end of the ninety (90) days for full membership, upon their profession of saving faith in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- 



CLASS LEADER DUTIES


❖ To report to the Official Board:

a. Those who are sick.

b. Those who work disorderly and will not be approved.

c. The amount of money collected for the support of the gospel, pay the same to the stewards.

❖ To serve as leaders for children's classes. Such leaders shall perform the duties as outlined above and, and in addition, give instruction in the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.





HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOU AS A CLASS LEADER?

POLL

LET'S TALK!!!

- During the last 10 months, the Pandemic has caused separation of members.
- My question to you today is, what has been the role of the class leader?
- In what manner has the class leader engaged with their member?



The pandemic modifications may be God's gracious tool to allow churches to minister more effectively to everyone



THE BOTTOM LINE

- A class leader by any other name is still a leader who leads a class or group of people
- They are watchmen!!
- Caring for members with love, and compassion.
- Ascertaining their needs; spiritually, financially, emotionally, and even physically.
- In other words, make sure that their needs are taken care of so that they may be productive members of the body of Christ.





Effective leaders will not cave to crisis.

They will stand firm in spite of...

They will lead!!

SOURCES

- The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016
- The Church Class Leader System Bettye J.Allen, Ed.D 10th Revised Edition
- Internet Searches