

A Closer Look at OUR Lay Organizations



Update or Upgrade?



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Reflecting...

.As we begin a new conference year, let us take a look at where we were, where we are and where we need to go as it relates to our lay organizations? Promoting the lay organization within our churches is just as important as is, promoting the lay organization on the Districts of Annual Conferences, Conference and Episcopal level. A strong lay organization represents a strong pew and a strong pew makes a “healthy-viable church.”

Objective of this lesson:

To determine ways to better promote our lay organization in an effort to increase membership and attendance at all levels.



Questions to Ponder:

Where were we this time last year?

Where are we at this present time?

Where do we want to go?

Our Mission Statement: The Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is commissioned to teach, train and empower its members for lay ministry, global leadership and service following the tenets of Jesus Christ.

Our purpose: The purpose of this organization shall be to organize and train the laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Church so that lay persons may maximally utilize their God given abilities and skills to improve and extend the kingdom to

Let's look at our current situations...

On the local Level

How many new members have joined this conference year?

On the Districts of the Annual Conference

How many churches are without organized lay organization on your district

On the Conference Level

Have we seen an increase in the number of organized lay organizations in _____ your conference?



*A look at the two computer terms that might help determine whether it is time for an **UPDATE** or **UPGRADE***

***An update** makes changes or modifications to an existing product without actually replacing it.*

***An upgrade** is the act of replacing your product with a newer, and often more superior version or similar product.*

Looking at the current status of your lay organization– do you think it is time for an update in some areas? _____ Why or why not _____

Could it be time for an upgrade? _____ Why or why not? _____

What affect, if any, could or would the following words have on whether it was time to update or upgrade.

- 1. Virus**
- 2. Firewall**

Where do we really want to TAKE our Lay Organizations?

We can't continue to do the same thing and expect different results.

How would you answer these questions

1. Are we comfortable with the status quo? Have we become complacent?
2. Do the laity of the church really know our mission and purpose?
3. Have we created an inviting atmosphere?
4. If meeting attendance is low, have we assessed why? Are we open to switch up meeting times and places?
5. Is it possible to partner with other components to avoid conflicts?
6. Have we conducted a self-evaluation?

Before you push the update button...

Take a self-analysis of your organization

1. SWOT—Strengths , Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
2. SOAR—Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results

Noteworthy _____

