



Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
Greetings!

As you know, at the July 2016 General Conference, I was elected as the first Lay Editor of The Christian Recorder in the paper's 165-year history. One of the goals of the Connectional Lay Organization is to "promote the circulation of church periodicals." During his administration, President JL Williams launched a subscription drive to satisfy the Constitutional mandate to support church periodicals.

Currently, the paper has approximately 3800 paid subscriptions throughout the Connectional Church. While not the lowest number in the paper's history, it is low compared to the size of our denomination, as well as, our peers in the CME and AME Zion Church. We need at least 10,000 subscriptions for the paper to be in an economically healthy status. The cost per year for The Christian Recorder is affordable at \$36 dollars per year. We understand that some of the concerns have been: timeliness, layout, content, and misunderstanding of the emailed version and the subscription process. Over the last 6 months, the Publisher and I have done our best to address and correct these issues. We will launch a subscription drive shortly after the General Board in June for the full Connectional Church.

After discussing the situation with President Glover, we agreed to pilot a subscription drive with the Connectional Lay Organization for Districts 1-13 (14-20 will be forthcoming). Before presenting the subscription drive to the General Board, it is vital that I show some progress from the Connectional Lay Organization. I am pleased to say that the Connectional President and several of the Board members have their own personal paid subscriptions. All of the candidates for Connectional President and those for several officers have also recently taken out subscriptions to demonstrate support. I will be at the April Board Meeting for those of you who wish to purchase.

Even if you personally don't want another paper in your house, encourage your local church to buy another copy.

In this package, you will find:

- 1) Spreadsheet for use at the Annual Conference level
- 2) Individual Subscriber Spreadsheet
- 3) Frequently asked questions about The Christian Recorder

We are asking the Episcopal District Presidents to **1) distribute the forms through the Districts; 2) Collect the Subscription Data; 3) Have the Subscription forms filled out electronically; 4) Email the forms to the office (articles@thechristianrecorder.com) and send one check via physical mail for all subscriptions with a printed copy of the spreadsheet.** This process ensures that we can properly account for the number that the Lay Organization has generated when we report to the Biennial in August.

We thank you in advance for your support and are excited for the increase the Lord will give.

Blessings,
John Thomas III

THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER



"GOD OUR FATHER • CHRIST OUR REDEEMER • THE HOLY SPIRIT OUR COMFORTER • HUMANKIND OUR FAMILY"

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Date of Order: _____

Conference: _____

District: _____

Presiding Elder _____

Church: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact #: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Payment Type: Check _____ Money Order _____ Credit Card _____
(Please check one)

Credit Card Number: _____ Type: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CCV: _____

Please make checks/money order payable to:

THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER
512 8th Avenue South, Suite 102
Nashville, TN 37203-4119
(615)601-0450
www.thechristianrecorder.com



Frequently Asked Questions about *The Christian Recorder*

How old is *The Christian Recorder*?

The Christian Recorder began publication on July 1, 1852 and is the world's oldest continuously printed publication by Black people. It is produced twice a month at the AME Church Sunday School Union (Publishing House) in Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. John Thomas III is the Editor and the first layperson to hold that position in the history of the paper.

If I get the "News Digest" emails, I have a subscription?

No. The emails are offered as a public service to members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and our wider community. The "News Digests" only include a selection of news from the printed edition and time-sensitive bulletins.

What am I missing by not subscribing?

Each printed edition is 8-12 pages of feature stories, Connectional News, Ecumenical News, Columns, Opinion Pieces and Editorials.

How can I get the full paper?

Purchase a subscription for \$36 annually. Contact your Episcopal District Lay President for more information.

Can I buy a full electronic subscription?

At this time, no. The only way to get a full version of *The Christian Recorder* is in print. We are working on a way to make the full paper available for purchase online.

By the way, is the name of the paper *Christian Recorder*, *AME Christian Recorder* or *The Christian Recorder*?

The name of the paper originally and currently is *The Christian Recorder*. *The AME Christian Recorder* was used from 1960-1984. *Christian Recorder* was never a formal name for the publication.



512 8th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37203-4119

EPISCOPAL DISTRICT: _____

CONFERENCE: _____

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