

SPIRITUAL LIFE AND MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 2021 MESSENGER



Song: “God Will Take Care of You”

Prayer: *As the Holy Spirit leads*

Scripture: Romans 8:28, 12:6-8

Meditation
God's Plan

With the close of Annual Conferences across the Connection, many pastoral assignments resulted in some pastors being sent to new charges. Some were welcome, while others left members in a state of grief and despair. The unwelcome changes may have led some CMEs to contemplating leaving the Christian Methodist Church and joining another denomination. Listen to one such conversation.

Ruth: LaKisha, did you hear?

LaKisha: Hear what?

Ruth: Rev. Sheer got assigned to another church, and we're getting a pastor from another Region. It's not fair. Rev. Sheer has been doing so much to help us grow, and I've learned so much under his leadership. I'm tired of the Bishop always changing our pastors. In fact, I'm thinking about joining another church. I might go to Newton AME over on Vine Street. I can't believe Bishop Constant would do that to us.

LaKisha: Hold on Ruth. You know the Methodist church is an itinerate church, and pastors are assigned to a church one year at a time. The same is true for any AME and AMEZ church you go to. We have been blessed to have Rev. Sheer for the last ten years. God placed him as the shepherd of this flock because he had gifts our congregation needed, he used his gift to enhance our ministries, and now it's time for him to use those same gift with another congregation. You should thank God for placing Rev. Sheer at First CME, and allowing him to use his gifts to take our ministries to another level and helped us to grow spiritually.

Ruth: Yeah, I know all of that, but it still isn't right. Preachers should be allowed to stay as long as they want at a church. Can't we write to Bishop and ask her to change this rule? The congregation

should have a say in who they get for a pastor.

LaKisha: Bishop Constant can't make that change. The Book of Discipline calls for pastoral assignments to be made annually. I've got to go, but while you're thinking about leaving First CME, because Rev. Sheer is gone, answer this one question. “Who are you serving, the preacher or God?”

Should you encounter a Ruth on your life's journey, please consider such experiences occasions to teach. Remind each Ruth you meet of Paul's words in Romans 8:28 and Romans 12:6-8. Point out how Paul, Peter, Barnabus and the other apostles were charged to go out and win souls to Christ. They traveled from place to place spreading the Gospel and employing the gifts they received from the Holy Spirit. Just as the apostles traveled, Methodist preachers are sent to shepherd, equipped with their respective spiritual gifts. Additionally, remind any Ruth with whom you speak, she has a spiritual gift needed to carry on the ministry of her local church.

Word of Encouragement: God has a plan and a purpose for believers, and He has equipped each of us with the necessary tools to carry out His plan.

Polishing Your Communication Power

1. Quorum 2. Aqueous 3. Pretentious 4. Itinerant

- a. characterized by assumption of dignity or importance, especially when exaggerated or undeserved
- b. of, like or containing water
- c. traveling from place to place
- d. the minimum number of people who must be present to pass a law, make a judgment, or conduct business

Last Month's Answers

1-c 2-d 3-a 4-b