



WHO WILL SPEAK FOR THEM?



*PURPOSE:

To let the young adult members, ages eighteen (18) through thirty-five (35) be engaged in the experience of learning, worship, fellowship, and service that will equip them to be involved in the mission and unity of the Christian Church in Christ Jesus.

*Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Council

By the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Revised MMIII



The young adult department was named after

Phyllis Hart Bedford



The fourth president of the
Women's Missionary Council

J. Oscar Lee in 1950 stated in this article entitled, “The Religious Life and Needs of Negro Youth,”

“To meet the religious needs of Negro youth a change in the content of preaching is needed as well as more participation by youth in the planning and execution of the program. Educational methods and more effective leadership are required. The church itself must give up its practice of segregation.”

Journal of Negro Education vol. 19, pp. 298-309.

- Black youth and young adults are leaving the church of their family origin at a high rate, and many of the churches in the Black communities fail to meet the needs of these youth and young adults.

- Youth and young adults are disenchanted with the church.

- The church needs to do more to keep the attention of the youth and young adults by employing more resources outside of the church to reach them.**



YOUNG ADULTS WISH TO BE NURTURED NOT PATRONIZED:



- They wish to be respected and heard by adults in their local churches.
- Young adults need to be represented.
- Young adults are a set of members with different needs and ideas.



•Local Churches must provide outreach and ministry opportunities. Ask young adults what they think and what they want. Listen to their answers and be prepared to address some of their concerns.



•Traditional ways of worship may not always appeal to young adults. Separate services is not the answer. Include young adults in the worship planning team. Value their opinion.



•The church must embrace and create paths for young adults to be true disciples of Christ.

•Young adults have specific needs and ways of approaching faith that the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and WMC must meet, or we will find in a few years a generation of people disillusioned by faith and disconnected from church communities:

S O L U T I O N

No gimmicks or making drastic changes.

•The church must say to young adults that they matter to the life of the church, and we are going to make the Gospel relevant to their life and culture. The church creating ministries addressing the varied and changing realities of young adults. It's showing the young adults' that their gifts and graces are important to the life of the church.

DEVELOPING PROGRAMS:

- Bible Studies relevant to young adults
- Leadership Workshops
- Prayer Breakfast
- 1-2 Day Retreats
- MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS
- Panels or Symposiums
- College Day
- Community Involvement
- Empowerment Programs
- Young Adult Newsletters



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

- What is a mentor? A wise and trusted teacher, guide and friend, or an advisor.
- PHB need mentors. Missionary Women who will “guide” them.
- In return, PHBs can guide those who will follow them.



