

SED RESPONSE PLAN

COVID-19
Coronavirus

MINISTERING TO THE WOUNDED HEALERS

Second Episcopal District Plan for Spiritual and Strategic Support to Pastoral Leadership in the midst of Coronavirus

James L. Davis, Servant Bishop



I greet you with a heart of thanksgiving! I, too, am a wounded healer. I feel your pain. **WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!**

Perhaps you are wondering why I have chosen to use the title, “Ministering to Wounded Healers.” I’m glad you asked. You asked the right somebody. Henry Nouwen in his book, **The Wounded Healer**, laments that “most Christian leaders are not prepared to be spiritual leaders for hurting people.” Nouwen continues, “Our service will not be perceived

as authentic unless it come from a heart wounded by the suffering about which we speak. Thus nothing can be written about ministry without a deeper understanding of the ways in which ministers can make their own wounds available as a source of healing.” Wounded healers offer their hurts to help others receive comfort and encouragement. They share in the sufferings of Christ and they share with other people the comfort of Christ (2 Corinthians 1:4). Why am I sharing this? Because. . .

The Pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) has produced high levels of anxiety, confusion, havoc, and panic in many voices, faces and body language of people to the extent that we have never witnessed before. We know you are already employing measures as a church to safeguard and assist your congregations. We are concerned about both pastoral care and congregational care and we want to support you in what you are doing. As a concerned Episcopal District, we want to partner with you in providing spiritual, psychological and economic assistance to pastors and congregations with the dilemma that we are facing. A partner is one who works with others towards a common goal. As partners, our goal is to keep our pastors and congregations as safe as humanly possible, from the fall out of COVID-19. We need God’s protective arm around pulpit and pew, lay and clergy.

In addition to the assistance that you are offering, and in collaboration with the district leadership, the Episcopal District Office is in a position to offer supplementary support and assistance to pastors and congregations.

How will we do this?

What is the SED Plan?

What are the strategies we will employ?

And He said to me, **2 CORINTHIANS 12:9**
“My grace is sufficient for you,
for My strength is **MADE PERFECT** in weakness.”
Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities,
that the **POWER OF CHRIST** may rest upon me.

FEATURES:

- The SED Plan Consists of nine (9) related Components
- Each component is designed to provide support based on present needs and will be modified as daily needs occur and necessitate in the COVID19 environment.
- The components are:
 - 1) SERVICE ASSEMBLY
 - 2) A CALL TO PRAYER
 - 3) PASTORAL CARE/PSYCHOLOGY
 - 4) THEOLOGICAL GROUNDING
 - 5) TECHNOLOGICAL
 - 6) ECONOMIC
 - 7) SED EPISCOPAL RESPONSE POSSIBILITIES
 - 8) MEETING SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS
 - 9) AME FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS



COMPONENT NO: 1 - WORSHIP SERVICE ASSEMBLY

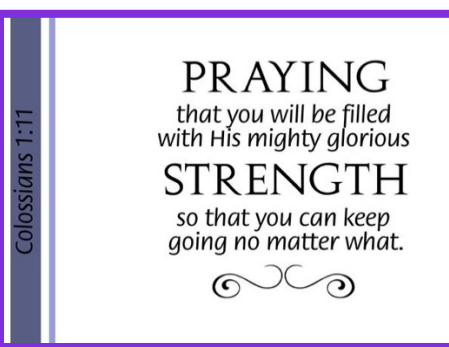
"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must be faithful." (1st Corinthians 4:2)

We are shepherds and our first concern is for our people. We are cognizant and sensitive to each pastor's and church's need for open respectful and candid communication regarding assembling and essential/compulsory/crucial adjustments. The pastor's focus, as always, is on protecting the congregation's health, welfare, and safety. Decisions to adjust our worship assembly are determined based on first-hand data obtained through reputable and reliable sources, such as advice of health and medical professionals, directives of local, state and national governmental agencies, (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO) to provide information and daily updates in all decision making.

COMPONENT NO: 2 - CALL TO PRAYER

It is imperative and our first priority to get all wounded healers on one accord by reaching outward and upward to God. This is the way His passion comes down to us. We must bathe everything in prayer. *"Call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."* (Jeremiah 29:12-13).

Asking **all CLERGY** in the **SED!** – to join me on a Zoom teleconference for **7 days of prayer @ 7:00 pm**, beginning **March 30, 2020**, and ending **April 5, 2020**. **Call-in information to be shared via email.**



COMPONENT NO: 3 - THEOLOGICAL GROUNDING

There is much discussion around plagues in the Bible. In this information-intensive world, information is power. Pastors will be able to engage in a lively, critical and challenging **Presentation** posted on the **Second Episcopal District website** that explains the **Theological and Biblical Understanding of Virus Plagues** as recorded in the books of Genesis through Revelation.

COMPONENT NO: 4 - PASTORAL CARE/PSYCHOLOGY

Critical tools for empowering pastors to offer Pastoral Care and make informed decisions to the congregation in the midst of this viral crisis (COVID19), will be identified by professional counselors. They will share their knowledge and expertise to address both psychological and spiritual feelings that pastors are experiencing around this Pandemic. Counselors will be competent in both the Scriptures and the field of counseling. They will provide advice as well as emotional support for the pastor. They will strictly maintain high levels of professional integrity and consistent compliance with HIPPA rules of confidentiality and ethics. We also encourage our clergy and clergy families to use our Clergy Assistance (EAP), which can be found on the SED website (www.ame2.com).





COMPONENT NO: 5 - TECHNOLOGY

Introduce ways to maintain continuous **Financial Support** during these strained times through a variety of ways by offering multiple, simple and online giving options and traditional ways for members who do not utilize computers. Additionally, Annual Conference/Presiding Elder District Instructional Technical (IT) Support Coordinators have been identified and will be available to provide one-on-one support where needed.

COMPONENT NO: 6 - ECONOMIC

Provide monetary resources to congregants for as long as funds are available through the designated time period utilizing specified accountable measures. They will be similar to those developed and utilized in the 2017 & 2018 Disaster Relief Plan for Hurricanes Florence, Harvey and Michael.

As with the Hurricane Disaster Relief process, individuals will make an application through their pastor. The pastor will send requests to the Presiding Elder for submission to the Second Episcopal District Office. Funds will be sent to the pastor for recipient distribution. Support may include grocery purchases, assistance with mortgage payments, assistance for laid-off/furloughed workers (*Amounts based upon availability of funds*).



COMPONENT NO: 7 - SED EPISCOPAL RESPONSE POSSIBILITIES

- Local Church congregation stipend support based on the local church. Additionally, we are communicating daily with local and state government officials requesting financial waivers of interest on loans for churches and other tax breaks that will allow churches to bounce back from this temporary setback. We are making it unequivocally clear that foreclosures on loans would have a dire effect on communities. The church is one of the best social service delivery systems since it is closer to the needs of the people, has facilities for outreach programs as well as providing a moral & spiritual framework for social change in communities.
- Establish District-wide Strategy Planning Committee to offer concrete suggestions to be considered by every Annual Conference Committee on Mission, Circuits & Stations and the Conference Board of trustees reducing the number of churches for more effective service.
- Motir Proposal - Sanitizing Church Buildings

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COMPONENT NO: 8 - MEETING SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS

- Annual Conference
- Legacy Celebration
- General Conference
- Presiding Elders District Assembly



COMPONENT NO: 9 - AME FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

- Annual Conference
- General Budget
- General Conference

This is the wounded healer's opportunity to lead others to the light at the end of the tunnel. We know and serve a God of HOPE. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT LOSE HOPE. We look to the ultimate wounded healer, JESUS OUR SAVIOR. The Prophet Isaiah gives a reason for hope in Isaiah 53:5

"But he was pierced [wounded] for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds, we are healed".

Jesus is the way!

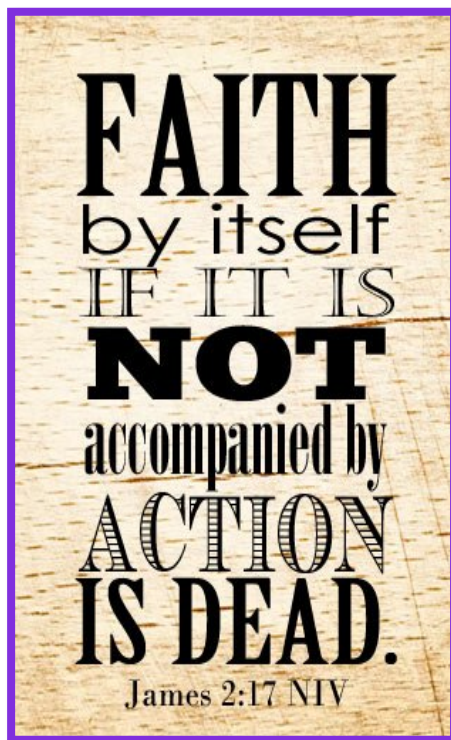
We urge you to follow precautions in preventing the spread of the COVID-19. Utilize the collective knowledge, abilities, and strengths of our health and medical professionals, governmental agencies, and other reputable groups to educate on specific and strategic steps that can be taken to inform on best ways to, not only take care of ourselves; but also how our actions can affect others in our homes, churches, and communities. We want to use authenticated information to inform decisions. The landscape changes daily.

Please know that we are here for you. We are praying for you daily. We shall continue to walk with you. And we will overcome this temporary setback and rise stronger and more determined to win the world for Christ. Let's use this God-ordained time wisely for studying, meditating, refreshing and renewing our minds for local and global Kingdom building.

We are in awe as God's divine hand MOVES across His entire world. Let's listen as He speaks through the Holy Spirit. *"For we walk by faith, not by sight"* (2 Cor. 5:7).


We can never lose hope and faith in the knowledge that we serve a God who is Almighty. He still guides, protects and governs an orderly universe in preparation for His Second coming to claim His Kingdom. We praise, glorify, honor and give thanks for His unlimited blessings.

"Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without works" (James 2:26). Let's walk in faith; do the work that has been placed before us for times like these. And in doing so, God will give us the victory in changing our world.



STAY TUNED FOR DATES AND TIMES FOR EACH COMPONENT!

In the Spirit of Ministering to the Wounded Healer, I remain,


James Levert Davis
Servant Bishop

Stay Connected!

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