

PRESENTATION OF THEME FOR EVANGELISTIC RETREAT

Connectional Lay Council's Evangelistic Retreat

October 5, 2018

PART II

“SUNDAY MORNING AT NEEDS CHAPEL AND DOUGLASS CHAPEL”

By Joyce Perry Edwards, Ph.D.

SETTING:

Use left right side of J.J. Moore Chapel.

MATERIALS:

Sign and Chart Stand: Needs Chapel

Sign and Chart Stand: Douglass Chapel

Bulletins

SESSION FACILITATOR explains that we will enact scenes at 2 churches during Sunday morning before the worship service. Scene 1. Needs Chapel AMEZ Church and Scene 2. Douglass Chapel AMEZ Church. Ask the participants who are in the side pews to participate in the skit as worshippers at Needs Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church or as worshippers at Douglass Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church. **Set up the sign for Needs Chapel.**

Tell the persons playing the Needs Chapel worshippers that they are in Scene 1. and can remain seated where they are. Explain to the persons who are playing the Douglass Chapel worshippers that they are in Scene 2 and then ask them to go to the back of the chapel to be seated. Tell that Frederick Douglass will introduce Scene 2 and when the **Pianist** begins the prelude, they are to start entering the sanctuary one or two at a time and sit behind the Douglass Chapel sign.

Say that Scene 1 at Needs Chapel will begin after Fredrick Douglass introduces the skit.

Ask if there are any questions before the skit begins.

DOUGLASS: Perhaps there are five areas in church life where we need to review our practices: in (1) worship, (2) outreach and benevolence, (3) education for discipleship, (4) evangelism, and (5) fellowship. Examining our practices in these five areas might help us to realize that in many areas we can improve our practices. First, let's look at a simple component of Sunday morning worship—coming into the sanctuary. We will look in on two churches on a Sunday morning, first Needs Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church.

SCENE 1. NEEDS CHAPEL

The **Pianist** begins playing a prelude. The pianist plays throughout this scene.

After one verse, the two ushers, **Mr. Grumpy** and **Ms. Appropriate** come in. Both scoop up some bulletins from the front pew.

Mr. Grumpy just stands at the side of the pews looking straight ahead and hugging the bulletins to his chest, not passing out any to the worshippers.

Ms. Appropriate goes to the seated worshippers and greets them, “**Good morning**” and hands each one a bulletin. When she is half way through, **Mr. Grumpy** begins giving out bulletins but doesn’t say anything to anybody. *Before everyone has a bulletin, the minister goes to the pulpit and starts the Call to Worship, asking the congregation to stand.*

(End of Scene 1.)

SCENE 2. DOUGLASS CHAPEL

SESSION FACILITATOR: *Set up the sign for Douglas Chapel.* Ask the ushers, Mrs. Welcome and Mr. Pleasant to take their places, one at the front pew and one on the other side of the pews.

DOUGLASS: Now let’s look in on Douglas Chapel. Perhaps we will see a different situation.

The **Pianist** begins playing the prelude.

Two ushers, Mrs. Welcome and Mr. Pleasant come in on the right, get the bulletins from the front pew, and stand at attention for a brief time while the pianist is playing the prelude. Then several worshippers enter, one or two at a time. They come in from different directions to get to the pews behind the sign that says Douglas Chapel. As they enter, the ushers greet them while giving them a bulletin.

Mrs. Welcome: *To a few she says very pleasantly: “Good morning. Welcome to Douglass Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church. To others, she calls by name and says something directly to them and hands them a bulletin. For example: “Good morning, James. It’s good to see you today.” “Hello, Miss Jannie, it’s nice to have you back today. I’m glad you’re feeling better.” Etc.*

Mr. Pleasant: *He welcomes each person or couple as they come to be seating by saying such things as “Good morning. It’s good to see you this morning. Welcome to Douglass Chapel. To others, he calls their name and says something directly to them. For example: “Good morning, Mr. McCullers. How’re you today?” “Good morning, ma’am. I hope you enjoy the service today, etc.*

Note: *Mr. Pleasant and Mrs. Welcome do not have to say what’s written here. These are just examples. They need to speak to each worshipper but can use their own words. The point is to be very, very pleasant, outgoing, and welcoming.*

MINISTER: (waits until all are seated) **Let us stand for the Call to Worship.** [Gives the Call to Worship.]

The Pianist leads the congregation in singing as a response: “**Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place.**” (*Pianist motions for the entire assembly to stand and join the singing*)

(End of Scene 2.)

DOUGLASS: Some practices are small and do not seem important, but everything we do in God’s name and especially in God’s house should reflect the character of God. This short skit shows us that we should reflect God’s character at all times. God is loving, welcoming. We should be the same.