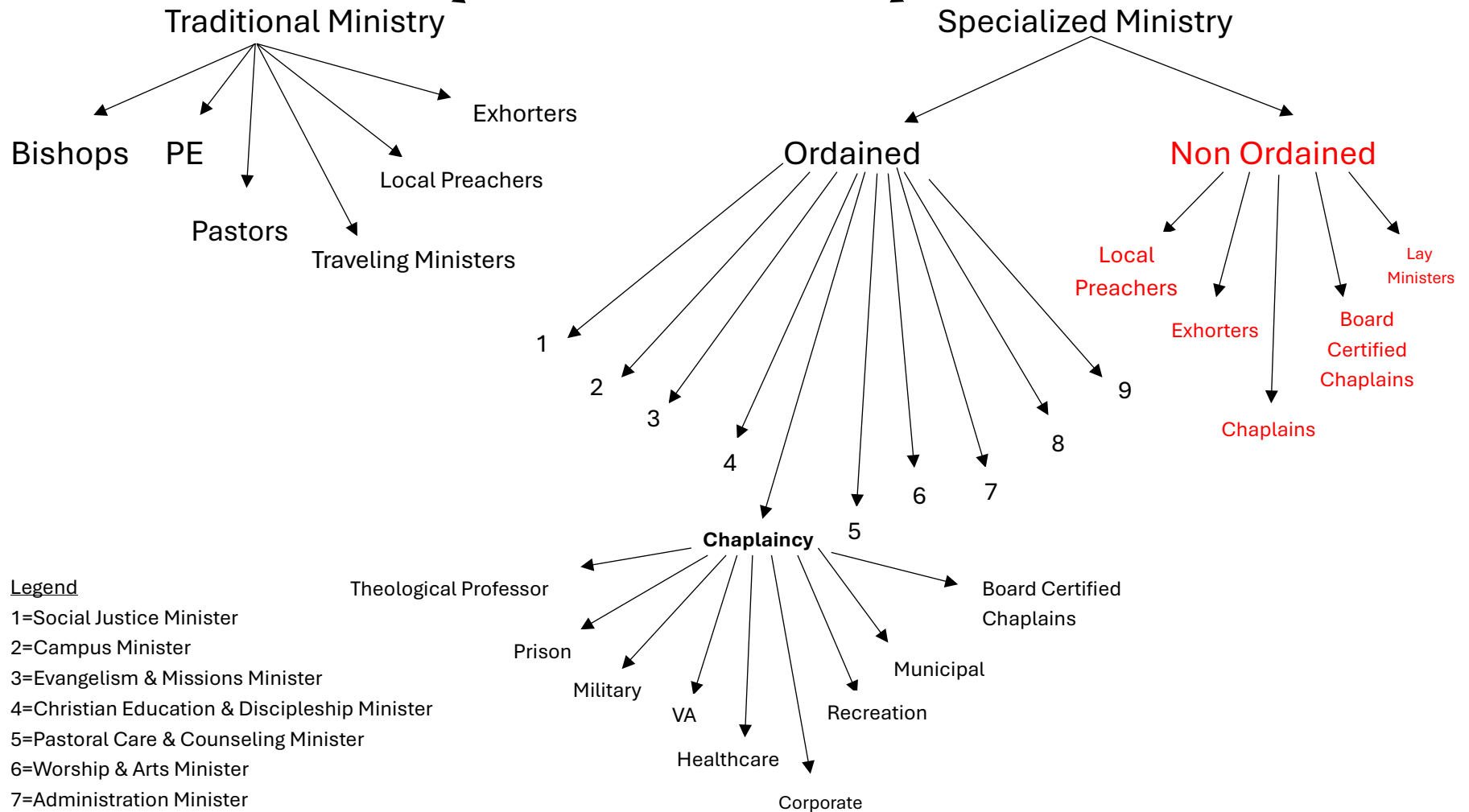


Ministry in the A.M.E. Zion Church



Legend

- 1=Social Justice Minister
- 2=Campus Minister
- 3=Evangelism & Missions Minister
- 4=Christian Education & Discipleship Minister
- 5=Pastoral Care & Counseling Minister
- 6=Worship & Arts Minister
- 7=Administration Minister
- 8=Health & Wellness Minister
- 9= Traveling Minister on loan to ANOTHER denomination

Specialized Ministry Assignment- “***Uniquely chosen to serve all!***” ***Matthew 25:40***

- Examine the need for pastors to nurture and develop local preachers, exhorters, class leaders, deaconesses and officers who engage in specialized ministry and provide ministry to the general membership
- Review the Book of Discipline to identify the different categories of specialized ministry.
- Create a curriculum and establish a culture for Specialized Ministry
- Broaden the notion of Specialized Ministry beyond ordained clergy to include lay ministers
- Create a framework for Specialized Ministry that includes both ordained and lay ministers

Specialized Ministry (Defined)

- The 2021 AME Zion Book of Discipline says (pg. 490), under the glossary of commonly used terms in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, specialized ministry is defined as “The ministry of an ordained Minister in full connection, active in the Annual Conference, and appointed by the Presiding Bishop on Special Assignment”, in and outside of the A.M.E. Zion Church.
- Additionally, the 2021 AME Zion Book of Discipline says (pg.98 para 2) “A minister on special assignment serving in a ministry setting outside of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church expand its inclusions of and specifications for Clergy in Specialized Ministry. Clergy in Specialized Ministry are ordained Deacons and Elders who are active Members in Full Connection of an Annual Conference and approved by the bishop for a special assignment.”

- Also, the 2021 AME Zion Book of Discipline says (pg. 98 para 3a) “....special assignment outside of the A.M.E. Zion setting...”. It also speaks of (pg. 99 para 3b) “In A.M.E. Zion settings.....”. Therefore, specialized ministries apply to both inside and outside of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Specialized Ministry Curriculum for Consideration

- Track 1 (Performing duties requiring an ordination)
- *{AS SO OUTLINED IN THE DISCIPLINE}*
 - Local Church
 - Examination by the pastor
 - Preach trial discourse
 - Recommended to the Quarterly Conference for exhorter’s license
 - A report of the candidate’s labors is to be submitted at each presiding elder’s quarterly conference
 - Pastoral Guidance (1 Year) - Exhorter
 - New Minister’s Class
 - Overview of Specialized Ministry
 - Overview of the A.M.E. Zion Church
 - Overview of The Bible
 - Qualifications and Rules for a Preacher (AMEZ Discipline)
 - Preaching
 - Worship and Liturgy
 - Preach Trial Sermon (Must have at minimum, a high school diploma)

- Recommend to the quarterly conference to be referred to the District Conference for licensing as a local preacher
 - A report of the candidate's labors is to be submitted annually at the district conference
- District Conference Studies (Years 1 & 2) – Local Preacher
 - Worship and Liturgy and Spiritual Formation, Parts 1 & 2
 - Methodist History and Doctrine, Parts 1 & 2
- Recommended by the District Conference to the Annual Conference Board of Admissions
 - A report of the candidate's labors is to be submitted annually at the annual conference
- Recommendation by the Board of Admissions to Conference Studies (Years 1-4)
 - Deacon Requisites (Years 1-2)
 - Worship and Liturgy (Year 1)
 - Methodist History and Doctrine (Year 1)
 - Church Administration and Leadership (Year 1)
 - Church History (Year 2)
 - Preaching 1 (Year 2)
 - Biblical Studies (Year 2)
- Recommendation by the Conference Studies committee to the Committee on Holy Orders for Deacon's Orders
 - Elder Requisites (Years 3-4)
 - Christian Education (Year 3)
 - Preaching 2 (Year 3)

- The A.M.E. Zion Book of Discipline (Year 3)
 - Theology and Evangelism (Year 4)
 - Practice of Ministry and Ethics (Year 4)
 - Pastoral Care and Counseling (Year 4)
- Recommendation by the Conference Studies committee to the Holy Orders for Elders's Orders
- Recommended by the Committee on Holy Orders to the Committee on Specialized Ministries
 - Will be interviewed and identified for their special assignment before being submitted to presiding bishop for appointment
 - Seek an endorsement from the A.M.E Zion Church, IF required, by contacting the General Secretary-Auditor of the A.M.E. Zion Church.
 - *** These will be all of the requirements for the church, howbeit, there will be additional training and certifications needed that will be administered by the organization serving.
- *{TRACK 2 IS What we Propose the process will look like for those not seeking ordination}*
- Track 2a (Performing Duties not requiring ordination but a local preacher's license)
 - Local Church
 - Examination by the pastor
 - Preach trial discourse
 - Recommended to the Quarterly Conference for exhorter's license
 - A report of the candidate's labors is to be submitted at each presiding elder's quarterly conference
 - Pastoral Guidance (1 Year) - Exhorter

- New Minister's Class
 - Overview of Specialized Ministry
 - Overview of the A.M.E. Zion Church
 - Overview of The Bible
 - Qualifications and Rules for a Preacher (AMEZ Discipline)
 - Preaching
 - Worship & Liturgy
- Preach Trial Sermon (Must have at minimum, a high school diploma)
- Recommendation from the Quarterly Conference to the District Conference for licensing as a local preacher
- Recommended by the Quarterly Conference to the District Conference
 - A report of the candidate's labors is to be submitted annually at the district conference
- District Conference Studies (Years 1 & 2) – Local Preacher
 - Worship and Liturgy and Spiritual Formation, Parts 1 & 2
 - Methodist History and Doctrine, Parts 1 & 2
- Recommended by the Presiding Elder to the Bishop for Specialized Ministry appointment
(Does this take place at the District Conference or the annual conference? The discipline just says pg. 99 para (b) "Upon recommendation of their presiding elder, clergy may be appointed by the presiding bishop to areas of specialized ministry and shall receive a certificate of appointment specifying their ministry setting".)
- Seek an endorsement from the A.M.E Zion Church, IF required, by contacting the General Secretary-Auditor of the A.M.E. Zion Church.
- *** These will be all of the requirements for the church, howbeit, there will be additional training and certifications needed that will be administered by the organization serving.

- Track 2b (Performing Duties not requiring ordination or a local preacher's license)
 - Local Church
 - Examination by the pastor
 - Pastoral Guidance (1 Year)
 - New Lay Minister's Class
 - Overview of Specialized Ministry
 - Overview of the A.M.E. Zion Church
 - Overview of The Bible
 - Worship & Liturgy
 - Trained by Stephen's Ministry to become a Stephen's Leader in the local church. Now able to train other lay persons in how to be a Stephen's Minister to provide care to the congregation in various care ministries
 - Recommended to the Quarterly Conference as a Lay Minister
 - A report of the candidate's labors is to be submitted at each presiding elder's quarterly conference
 - Recommended by the Quarterly Conference to the District Conference's Specialized Ministry Committee to receive a **Specialized Ministry License by the Presiding Elder or refer to the Bishop for Specialized Ministry appointment?**
 - *** These will be all the requirements for the church, howbeit, there will be additional training and certifications needed that will be administered by the organization serving.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Training in AME Zion Church about Specialized Ministries through a series of virtual and in-person didactics and workshops to gain a greater understanding of Specialized Ministries and the Discipline.
- Every Annual Conference to have a committee on Specialized Ministries.
- Said committees are to be trained and give a report at each Annual Conference.
- Each person in specialized ministries must fill out a standardized report annually to report the year's labor.
- All persons in Specialized ministries to receive appointments during the Annual Conferences.
- Specialized ministries included with the business of the Annual Conference with Holy Orders and Admissions to manage the business and recommendations of Specialized Ministries.
- Training spaces for those in Specialized Ministries during Winter Meetings, Leadership Institutes, etc.
- Add Specialized Ministries sections to Conference Studies for Specialized Ministries.
- The development of Specialized Ministries Grand Rounds- Monthly Training and CE (Continuing Education) Credits.
- Prepare a resolution to have the Lay Ministers added to Specialized Ministries.
- Build education platforms for lay and ordained ministers in Specialized Ministries.