



*Walk in God's Anointing; Live in God's Authority;  
Serve in God's Assignment*

*Nehemiah 4:6; Acts 6:2-8; Ephesians 4:11-16*

PASSION + PURPOSE = PERFORMANCE

HISTORIC TANNER CHAPEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2017 | 2018

**ANNUAL PROGRAM**



*A Season to*  
**THRIVE**  
From Surviving to Thriving

**GREETINGS CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS!**

As Historic Tanner Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church prepares to embark on a new conference year, I want to share with you God's vision for us and the direction he would have us to go.

Our Church Theme is:

***A SEASON TO THRIVE: From Surviving to Thriving***

With the directive to:

**WALK IN GOD'S ANOINTING; LIVE IN GOD'S AUTHORITY; SERVE IN GOD'S ASSIGNMENT**

Anchored in the Scripture references from:

***Nehemiah 4:6; Acts 6:2-8; Ephesians 4:11-16***

**The Fifth District Theme is: *The Season of Epiphany*.** In this season, it is our time to restore the temple order. It is a time to clarify and define the roles of priest and prophet, pastors and people.

It is a time to reinforce regard for the Holy Spirit. It is a time for gift discovery and celebration.

In this season, we must ask ourselves not, how we see ourselves now, but rather, where do we see ourselves 5 years from now? How do we maintain our historic legacy without becoming history? What legacy will we leave for future generations, yet unborn? **It has been said that if you aim at nothing you will hit it every time.**

If we are going to attract people to Christ and to His Church, we must become attractive. We must examine every area of our church life from ministries to music, and pew to pulpit. Love for Christ and love for each other. Our church must be relevant and on the cutting edge of what it means to be a **Healthy Church** and a child of God.

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church, states that the **key to church growth is church health**. A **Healthy Church** find ways to move people from where they are to where God wants them to be in their spiritual journey. Every week we must remember that we are ministering to the souls of people at every level. Understanding where people are and meeting them there, is vital to having a balanced discipleship process.

Rick Warren also states that there are five dimensions of a **Healthy Church**:

1. Churches *grow* **warmer** through **fellowship**
2. Churches *grow* **deeper** through **Bible Study and Discipleship**
3. Churches *grow* **stronger** through **Worship and Prayer**
4. Churches *grow* **broader** through **ministry**
5. Churches *grow* **larger** through **evangelism**

You and I are a work in progress. God wants us to thrive.

## ***Passion + Purpose = Performance***

Let us work together in unity to become a **Healthy Church**.

However, before we can move to the next level – moving from surviving to thriving – we are going to have to delete some of the stuff we have been carrying around in our lives. Our hearts, souls and minds do not have unlimited capacity to store stuff. If we keep all of those old hurts, all of those old insecurities, all that old guilt, all of that old jealousy, then there will be no room for God to bring forth something new. To move us from surviving to thriving. To move us to becoming a **Healthy THRIVING Church**.

- There is *not enough room* for both old jealousy and new joys.
- There is *not enough room* for both old feuds and fresh faith.
- There is *not enough room* for both old attitudes and new anointing.
- There is *not enough room* for both old rivalries and fresh revelation.
- There is *not enough room* for both old guilt and new growth.
- There is *not enough room* for both old pain and new possibilities.
- There is *not enough room* for both old vengeance and new vision.

Together, let's move to the next level. God wants us to grow, glow and go for Him.

### **A Season to Thrive! Passion + Purpose = Performance.**

Our Scripture references:

- **Nehemiah 4:6 (NKJV) – *Work Together in Unity***  
*<sup>6</sup> So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.*
- **Acts 6:2-8 (ESV) – *Serve and Worship Together in Unity***  
*<sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.*

- **Ephesians 4:1-16 (KJV) – Walk Together in Unity**
  - **A Healthy Church is characterized by unity (vs1-6)**
  - **A Healthy Church is characterized by diversity (vs7-11)**

*<sup>11</sup> And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

- **A Healthy Church is characterized by ministry (vs12-14)**

*<sup>12</sup> For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

*<sup>13</sup> Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:*

*<sup>14</sup> That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

- **A Healthy Church is characterized by maturity (vs15-16)**

*<sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

*<sup>16</sup> From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

***Becoming a Healthy Church and having a Healthy Church Attitude will help to guide us through this 2017 | 2018 annual conference year.***

Our Theme: **A Season to Thrive: *From Surviving to Thriving.***

**To survive means** *to continue to live or exist, especially in spite of danger or hardship.*

**To thrive means** *to grow or develop well or vigorously.*

Every believer is gifted to serve within the Church, for the edifying of the body and glory of God. We must be united and work together to fulfill the work.

Yes, as we will discover, each member is individually gifted with abilities who have identified their gifts, and committed to using their gifts to complement the gifts of others. Coming together in unity and actively using our gifts is essential to the prosperity and growth of the church.

Let's examine the aspects of a **Healthy Church**:

**I. THE PROVISION GRANTED (vs11-12)**

Paul spoke of the gracious provision of our Lord in equipping the Church and providing for its spiritual health and prosperity.

**Consider:**

- A. *The Position (v11)*** – *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

He provided leaders with various gifts to meet the variety of needs the Church would face.

- B. *The Expectations (v12)*** – *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

God uses various spiritual gifts within the leadership to prepare and equip the believers to serve within the church.

Men and women of God are called to prepare those within the church to be used of God. We are called to make disciples who make disciples.

**Work of the Ministry** – Those in leadership are expected to prepare believers to carry out the work of the ministry. The responsibility of laboring in the harvest is to be shared by all who make up the body of Christ.

**Edifying of the Body of Christ** – The Church is expected to encourage and support those within the body. Church, we are responsible for her continued growth and prosperity.

Granted, the Lord will provide the resources and the abilities we need, but we are expected to engage in the work of building up the Church and pursuing continued growth!

## II. THE PURPOSE REVEALED (vs13-15)

As the Church is equipped, fulfilling her ministry, it affects the body as a whole. **Notice:**

- A. ***Our Sanctification (v13)*** – *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man [woman], unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:*

The Church cannot rest until we all stand united in the faith, possessing an intimate knowledge of Christ, being mature in Him, and abiding in the fullness of His grace.

We are currently making progress, but this is a never ending process. There is always room for continued spiritual growth, and the need to disciple others in the faith.

- B. ***Our Stability (v14)*** – *That we henceforth be no more children,*



*tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

Paul was well aware of the relentless attacks upon the Church and the dangers they presented. **The believer is responsible** to become settled in the faith – knowing what they believe and why they believe it. **The Church is responsible** to equip and train its members in sound doctrine.

**C. *Our Sincerity (v15)*** – *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

Paul urged the Ephesian Church to remain committed to the Gospel, willing to proclaim the truth in Love, and stand on the word in every area of their lives.

We must remain sincere in the faith and committed to the truth. As we share the truth in a world that does not embrace genuine truth, we must do so with love and grace. An arrogant, condescending attitude will not reach anyone; however, consistent truth, spoken in love can!

### **III. THE PERFORMANCE DESIRED (v16)**

*From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

Finally, Paul speaks of the necessity and benefit of unity among the Church.

**United We Can Prosper; Divided We Will Fall.**

## Consider:

- A. ***The Need for Unity*** – *from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, fitly joined according to God’s divine plan.*

Each part supplies or contributes to the work of ministry. **Every member is present, IN their** place, and contributing the individual gifts they have received. There is nothing lacking with the body.

Every area of service has those who are gifted in that particular ministry, and they **contribute** the gifts and abilities they possess.

The body is complete, and each member of the body helps ensure the health and prosperity of the body as a whole. **God** has gifted the body to fulfill **our** calling. If each member will share their gifts for the good of the body, and work of the ministry, we can be successful in completing our mission.

- B. ***The Nature of Unity*** – *from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part.*

Paul revealed our unity and individual contributions were dependent upon the working of the Lord through us. Just as the hand does not work independently from the arm, we cannot prosper in ministry apart from the working of the Spirit within us.

As the spirit works within us, developing our specific gifts, we share our gifts along with others, and the body functions as it should.

**C. *The Nurturing through Unity (v16)*** – *As we labor together, each contributing for the good of the entire body, the body as well increases and is strengthened.*

The health of the body rests primarily in the contribution of its members.

I know that ultimately, we are dependent upon the Lord for the grace and strength we need, but the **health** of this local Church body depends primarily upon the commitment of its members. Our contributions, or lack thereof have a direct impact on the body.

When we function as we should, the entire body benefits. We have the ability, through the working of the Spirit, to encourage and strengthen this local Church body.

I want to contribute all I can to nurture and strengthen the congregation. I am called to serve. It takes all of us working together, but we can grow together for our good and God's glory!

It has been said that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

The Church is only as strong spiritually as those who make it up. We must be close to Christ and standing together in unity to be effective in ministry.

## **We are encouraging every member to: Walk in God's Anointing; Live in God's Authority; and Serve in God's Assignment**

### **WALK IN GOD'S ANOINTING**

To be anointed means consecrated, or set apart for service.

To walk in the greatness of your anointing you must have intimacy with God. You must be a person of prayer. In Luke 18:1 Jesus commands us to pray and never faint. Through prayer we invite God's divine intervention into our lives and situation.

To walk in the greatness of your anointing you must study God's Word. ***Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ~ Psalm 119:105***

### **LIVE IN GOD'S AUTHORITY**

Authority is defined as permission, authorization, licensed or sanctioned power. It is also delegated power that belongs to someone else that is given to you. **Our authority comes from God.**

*Truly I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he/she do, because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ~ John 14:12-14.*

### **SERVE IN GOD'S ASSIGNMENT**

*It is God himself who made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago He planned that we should spend these lives in helping others. ~ Ephesians 2:10*

- **You were created to serve God.**

*God has created us for a life of good deeds, which He has already prepared for us to do.*

*~ Ephesians 2:10.*

These **good deeds** are your service to the world. Whenever you serve others in any way, you are actually serving God and fulfilling one of your purposes.

- **You were saved to serve God.**

Have you ever wondered why God doesn't just immediately take us to heaven the moment we accept His grace? Once you are saved, God intends to use you for His goals. God has a **ministry** for you in His church and a **mission** for you in the world.

- **You are called to serve God.**

The Bible says, *"All of you together are Christ's body, and each one of you is a separate and **necessary** part of it."* ~ 1 Corinthians 12:27.

Each of us has a role to play, and every role is important.

- **You are commanded to serve God.**

The mature follower of Jesus stops asking, *"Who's going to meet my needs?"* and starts asking, *"Whose needs can I meet?"* Do you ever ask that question? One day God will compare how much time and energy we spent on ourselves compared with what we invested in serving others.

**Service is not optional!**

## LETTER FROM JESUS TO THE CHURCH

*Dear Church:*

*This is My Commission to you - in fact, you might even call it a Great Commission. You are to go to all people everywhere and call them to become my Disciples. You are to baptize them and teach them to obey all that I have commanded you. Don't forget, I will be with you always to help you, even to the end of the world. I will never leave you nor forsake you, because I love you. Please don't forsake Me.*

*With all My love,*

*Jesus Christ*

## LETTER OF REPLY FROM THE CHURCH TO JESUS

*Dear Jesus Christ:*

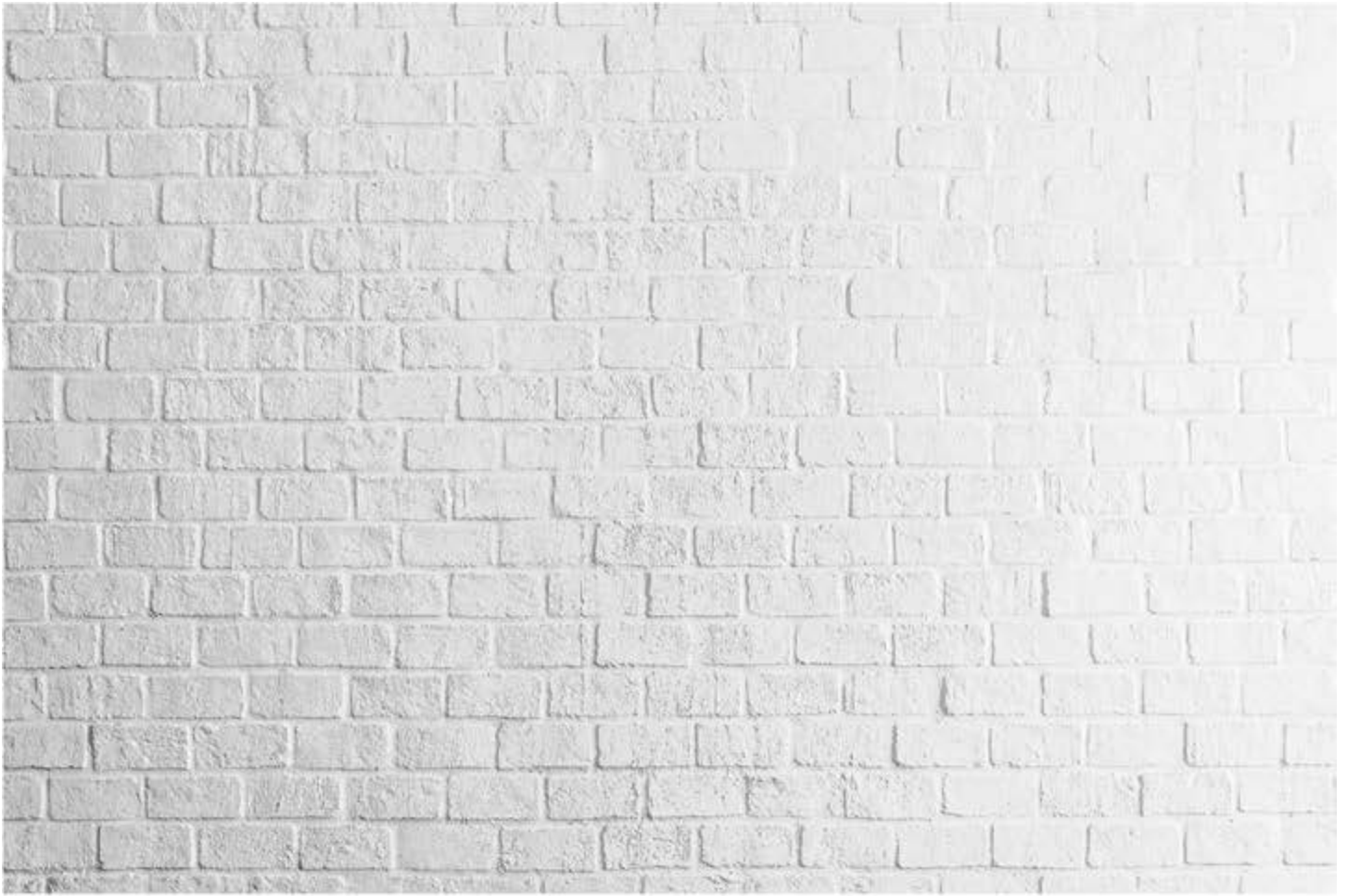
*We acknowledge the receipt of Your recent communication. Your proposal is both interesting and challenging; however, due to a shortage of personnel, as well as several other financial, personal and security considerations, we do not feel that we can give proper emphasis to Your challenge at this time. We hope you understand the place we live in and the timing of your Commission.*

*A committee has been appointed to study the feasibility of the plan. We should have a report to bring to our congregation sometime in the future. You may rest assured that we will give this our careful consideration, and our board will be praying for You and Your efforts to find additional disciples. We do appreciate Your offer to serve as a resource person, and should we decide to undertake this project at some point in the future, we will get back to You.*

*Cordially,*

*The Christians*

**THAT'S NOT OUR RESPONSE TO CHRIST! . . . Or is it?**



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