Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Program
An Investment Model Based on the Great Commission
for the FOURTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE CHRISTIAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Training modules for the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church Fourth Episcopal District pastors and laity that will have a continuing education unit (ceu's) component to apply to the completion of its program.

Clinical/Pastoral education will allow clergy and laity to focus attention on developing competencies in the provision of pastoral care. A minimum of 400 hours, of which 100 hours will be structured learning and 300 hours of direct contact are the basis for this program.

The program will emphasize the following primary pastoral care practices:

- Critical Theological Reflection (Verbatim/Case Study)
- Organizational Structure, Group Processes and Family Dynamics (Interpersonal & Systemic Group Theory and Process)
- Critical Self-Reflection

The clinical/pastoral components will be a total of six units:

1. **Critical Theological Reflection- Verbatim/Case Study** (1 unit)
   
   This course introduces and explores the issue of critical thinking as it applies to theological reflection, and it also examines the foundational principles of theological reflection methodology.

2. **Organizational Structures, Group Process & Family Dynamics – Systems Theory** (1 unit)
   
   To explore the interplay between systems theory, religion and theology, and the symbolic expressions and philosophical foundations of these academic disciplines in organizational structures, group processes and family dynamics.

3. **Critical Self-Reflection – Pastoral Care & Counseling Theory** (1 unit)
   
   Basic principles of pastoral counseling and their application to pastoral situations including informal, crisis, grief, referral, marriage/family, ethical and spiritual issues

4. **Pastoral Care Service Project – Theology of Service** (1 unit)
   
   To experience-based learning that occurs through engagement with real-life situations of need and affords students opportunities to:
   Enact biblical and theological instruction received integrating course instructions with learning that occurs during service in the community making a difference in the community while being impacted by the very lives served.

5. **Introduction to Pastoral Clinical Certification, Application & Interview Preparation** (1 unit)
   
   To introduce various pastoral clinical organizations, certification requirements, process of certification, applications and interview preparation.
6. **The Chaplaincy Certification Process** (1 unit)
   To continue certification process, application and interview process for credentialing in various pastoral clinical organizations.

At the conclusion of the program, participants should show concrete development in the following skills:

- Articulation of the central themes of scripture and the theological understanding that informs their pastoral care.
- Articulate an understanding of the pastoral role that is congruent with their values, assumptions and personhood.
- Able to identify and discuss major life events, relationships and cultural contexts that influence personal identity as expressed in pastoral functioning, with reference to personal strengths and weaknesses.
- The ability to initiate evaluative consultation and able to receive feedback about pastor care practice, and able to offer appropriate feedback to others engaged in pastoral care practice.
- Recognition of relational dynamics within group contexts and organizational structures.
- Demonstrate integration of conceptual understandings presented in the pastoral/clinical program into pastoral care practice.
- Initiate helping relationships within and across diverse populations, taking into consideration social conditions, cultural, gender, age, sexual orientation, class difference, systems and justice issues.
- Demonstrate a range of pastoral skills, including active listening/attending, empathic reflection, spiritual needs assessment, conflict/conflict resolution, crisis ministry, and appropriate use of religious/spiritual resources.
- Demonstrate competent use of self in ministry which includes: emotional availability, cultural humility, appropriate self-disclosure, positive use of power and authority, a non-anxious presence, and clear and responsible boundaries.
- Establish collaboration and dialogue with peers, authorities and other professionals.