

The CDC-AME Collaboration: A Model for New Progress through New Strategies

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The Historically African-American Church describes Denominations established by African-Americans to:

- Insure freedom of worship and self determination.
- Provide a vehicle for community stability, self help and improvement.
- Provide for independent, indigenous community leadership.

CONNECTIONAL CHURCHES:

- The African Methodist Episcopal Church
- The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
 - The Church of God in Christ

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES

- The National Missionary Baptist Convention of America
 - The Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
 - The National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.
 - The National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.

COLLABORATION REQUIRES:

- Learning and respecting the traditions and systems of governance of historically African-American Churches.
- Understanding the need for clergy approval and endorsement.
- Building genuine relationships and being for real.
- Working with and not “using” the church.
- Choosing a “point person” with cultural competence who is able to build a relationship of mutual trust.

COLLABORATION REQUIRES:

- Viewing the church as an equal partner.
- Involving the church in all steps of the decision making and program development process.
- Having the willingness to do things in new and unfamiliar ways.
- Avoiding using grant funding as “carrots.”
- Emphasizing substance and sustainability rather than “research.”

COLLABORATION REQUIRES:

- Being “for real.”
- Knowing when to back away and let the church lead.
- Not “over-reaching” or trying to “hijack” the initiative to achieve other agency goals.

THE AME-CDC COLLABORATION

- Began with the establishment of a trusting relationship with autonomous “point persons.”
- Continued with exploration of the need and of what both partners brought to the table to meet the need.
- Progressed without the urge to seek “instant” results.

THE AME-CDC COLLABORATION

- Allowed both partners to learn the “ins and outs” of and build comfort levels in their respective environments.
- Allowed communication to evolve in a way that was comfortable to both partners.
- Has been flexible enough to allow for “surprises!”
- Is moving forward to leave the church with a sustainable goal.

*“Don’t put new wine in old,
cracked bottles -use new,
strong clean bottles for your
fresh vintage wine.”*

THANK YOU!
