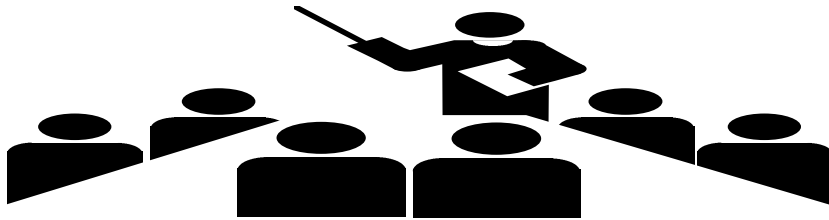


PASTORS' SEMINAR



Facilitator
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Director, Bureau of Evangelism
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Charlotte, North Carolina



Topic
“Preaching in the Wesleyan Heritage”

PASTORS' SEMINAR

Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Presenter

Preaching in the Wesleyan Heritage

I. The Preacher's Call (*Does he or she have gifts?*)

- A. The *internal call* consists of those gifts and graces requisite to the proper and faithful discharge of the duties of the Christian Ministry. We expect those who profess to be moved upon by the Holy Spirit to preach to do the following:
1. To evince an unmistakable conception of salvation by faith
 2. To possess a sound mind
 3. To have a clear understanding of the Scriptures
 4. To have a right judgment in the things of God
 5. To have a good degree of utterance as a preacher
- B. The *external call* is designed to confer upon the preacher who is found to possess the inward call, official authority to exercise in the name of God and in the name of the Church, the functions of the Christian Ministry.

II. The Preacher's Conduct

A. Rules Pertaining to Graces (*Does he or she have graces?*)

- Rule #2: **Be serious.** Let his motto be "Holiness unto the Lord." Avoid all lightness, jesting and foolish talking.
- Rule #3: **Be circumspect,** and conduct oneself prudently with the opposite sex.
- Rule #4: **Believe evil of no one without good evidence:** unless he sees it done, he must take heed how he credits it. Put the best construction on everything.
- Rule #5: **Speak evil of no one,** because his word, especially, would eat as a canker. Let him keep his thoughts within his own breast till he comes to the person concerned.
- Rule #8: **Be ashamed of nothing but sin.**

B. Rules Pertaining to Usefulness (*Is he or she useful?*)

- Rule #1: **Be diligent.** Never be unemployed. Never be trifling employed.
- Rule #6: As a Methodist Minister he must **mind every point, great and small, in the Methodist Discipline.** He will need to exercise all the sense and grace he has.
- Rule #7: **Avoid all affectation.** A Preacher of the Gospel is a servant of all.
- Rule #9: **Be punctual.** Do everything exactly at the time. Not to mend our laws, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience's sake.
- Rule #10: He should **act in all things,** not according to his own will, but **as a son of the Gospel.** As such it is his duty to employ his time in the manner which his brethren direct in preaching and visiting from house to house; in reading, meditation, and prayer. Above all, if he labors with his brethren in the vineyard of the Lord, it is needful he should do the part of the work that they desire at those times and places with they judge most for the glory of God.

III. The Preacher's Pulpit Etiquette

- A. Be sure never to disappoint a congregation.
- B. Begin at the time appointed.
- C. Let his whole deportment be serious, weighty, and solemn.
- D. Avoid anything awkward or affected either in gestures, phrases, or pronunciations.
- E. Should not usually pray extempore about eight to ten minutes (at most) without intermissions.

IV. The Preacher's Sermon Preparation

- A. Always suit the subject to the audience.
- B. Choose the plainest text.
- C. Take care not to ramble, but keep to the text or subject, and make out what is taken in hand.
- D. Frequently read and enlarge upon a portion of Scripture; and let young Preachers often exhort without taking a text.
- E. Let the Preacher always avail himself of the great festivals by preaching on those occasions.

V. The Preacher's Manner and Method of Preaching

- A. The Best Method of Preaching is to do the following in some manner in every sermon:
 - 1. To convince
 - 2. To offer Christ
 - 3. To invite
 - 4. To build up
- B. The Most Effectual Way of Preaching is always balanced:
 - 1. To preach Christ in all His offices
 - 2. To declare His law as well as His Gospel, both to believers and unbelievers
 - 3. To strongly and forcibly insist upon inward and outward holiness