

The SHIFT Leadership Network
A Mentoring and Professional Development Program of the
Sixth Episcopal District

The purpose of the SHIFT Leadership Network is to provide specialized training, guidance and support to pastors who are within the first five years of parish ministry in rural congregations and students who are seeking ordination under the Board of Examiners. SHIFT is an acronym that represents the goal of the program, to provide: Supportive, Holistic Innovations for Thriving in Ministry.

After acceptance, each pastor will complete an assessment of leadership skills as part of their application process and propose an individualized learning contract that will address the primary theme for the year. It is expected that pastors/ministers will participate in the Network for three years. The program will begin in September 2021, and is of **no cost** to the participant. **The deadline for applications and letters of endorsement is: June 15, 2021.**

The SHIFT Leadership Network is a program of the Sixth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, supported by the Lilly Endowment Thriving in Ministry Grant 2020.

Application for Participation

Please answer the following questions. All answers will be kept confidential and used for program purposes.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____ Phone (O) _____ (H) _____

Demographics

Annual Conference: _____

Presiding Elder's District: _____

Gender Female Male

Age: 30 and under 31- 40 years 41 -50 years 51- 60 years

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced

Do you have minors? (children under 18) Yes No

Which classification best describes your current experience in ministry?

Pastor w/ 1 to 5 years of pastoral experience

Student under the Board of Examiners

3. Share a time when you were unsuccessful in congregational leadership. How did you get stuck? What would you do today in that situation?

4. What questions or concerns would you like to have addressed in the program? What do you seek to learn in the program?

In addition to completing this application form, **please provide a letter of endorsement** from 1) the Dean of your Conference Board of Examiners (BOE), if you are a student under the BOE or 2) the Presiding Elder of your Presiding Elder's District, if you are a pastor.

Letters of Endorsement should be sent by email to Dr. Cynthia Parnell McDonald, SHIFT Executive Director at: sedthrive@gmail.com.