

Building a Curriculum for the 21st Century Church School

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OBJECTIVES

- ❖ **Define what a curriculum is.**
- ❖ **Define what the 21st Century Church School is.**
- ❖ **What is the mission of the 21st Century Church School?**
- ❖ **Develop a Church School curriculum that is flexible enough to serve the present age.**

WHAT IS A CURRICULUM?

- 1. “A curriculum is a specifically planned sequence of instructions formulated to view the student’s learning experience in terms of the educator’s or school’s instructional goals. A curriculum is the totality of a students learning experiences that occur in the education process”. (Kerr, 2018)**
- 2. Kerr defines curriculum as, “all the learning which is planned and guided by the school, whether it is carried on in groups or individually, inside or outside of school”.**

WHAT IS A CURRICULUM?

The key wording is that a curriculum is planned and purposeful. How many local Superintendents hold church school planning meetings and at the very least go over the lesson with the teachers before reading/teaching it on Sunday morning? The focus being so the teachers will be on the same sheet of music, socio-political issues can be discussed and theological lessons can be brought up and debated.

WHAT IS A CURRICULUM?

A working definition for curriculum in this context can be: A *plan* of instruction *designed and implemented* by the *individuals or entities* empowered to guide the students learning experience *according to the Doctrines and Disciplines of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.*

WHAT IS A CURRICULUM?

A curriculum is a lesson plan, designed and implemented not on ones own accord but according to organizational or institutional criteria, i.e., the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

What is the 21st Century Church School?

The 21st Century Church School is a vibrant organism that leverages the technologies of today to reach across social, generational, and cultural lines with the purpose of spreading the liberating message of Christ to all peoples by transitioning traditional limitations in order to serve the present age.

What is the 21st Century Church School?

- 1. Vibrant...it is a living organism of people seeking a closer relationship with God**
- 2. Leverages technology...innovative and creative**
- 3. Reaches across...active in the community seeking needs to fuel ministry**
- 4. Purposeful...intentional, planned and implemented**
- 5. Transitioning limitations...has an unlimited “out of the box” vision**

The Mission of the 21st Century Church School

The mission of the Church School in the African Methodist Episcopal Church shall be to teach, train and nurture adults, young adults, college students, teenagers and children in God's Word, preparing them for Christian service by emphasizing Christian principles. The Church School shall employ methodologies for effective Christian growth and maximum participation inclusive of creative teaching pedagogies state-of-the-art learning technologies, and multimedia products, all of which may also assist with the recruitment of church officers.

Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (2016) pg. 95 (2)

Developing a Curriculum

From the text: Luke 14:16-24 (KJV)

¹⁶ Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: ¹⁷ And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. ¹⁸ And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. ¹⁹ And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. ²⁰ And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

Developing a Curriculum

²¹ So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. ²² And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. ²³ And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

Developing a Curriculum

THE PLAN: Understand the text

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. Who are the main characters?**
- 3. Where is the story located?**
- 4. When was it written and to whom?**
- 5. How did the story end and what is the intended lesson?**
- 6. How is it relevant for us/me today?**

Developing a Curriculum

This discussion and planning session should take place in Church School Teachers meeting; not the Church School Board meeting. Two different meetings with two different purposes. Your curriculum has to be true to the text. II Peter 1:20-21 says, “ Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”. The curriculum should say something about each of these questions.

Developing a Curriculum

Designed and implemented

- 1. What do you want to focus on in the text? While being true to the text.**
 - (a) Commitment**
 - (b) Lack of commitment**
 - (c) What does RSVP (*Repondez, s'il vous plait*) mean in the Spirit realm? Please respond to the invitation.**
- 2. How does it relate to current event or practices today?**

Developing a Curriculum

- 1. Open with prayer.**
- 2. Read over the scripture text and the lesson.**
- 3. Listen to the Holy Ghost.**
- 4. Take notes.**
- 5. Develop an outline of the scripture text and lesson.**

Develop Your Outline

- I. A certain man (person) threw a party...verse 16**
 - a. Could be anyone of us...God is not a respecter of persons**
- II. Called his invited guest...RSVP...verse 17**
 - a. Everything was ready**
- III. Made excuses why they couldn't come...verses 18-20**
 - a. Two bad**
 - b. One good...Deuteronomy 24:5**

Develop Your Outline

IV. The servant's report...verses 21 & 22

V. Angry host...verse 21

VI. New instructions...verse 21

VII. Unlikely guest...21-23

VIII. Result of not honoring the invitation...verse 24

References

- **Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. (2016).**
- **The Scofield Reference Bible (1909). King James Version**
- **Wikipedia. (2018) *Curriculum*. Retrieved from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curriculum>**