



"From Where I Sit ..."
"What Do We Do Now?"

You are probably reading this article in February but it has been written in November shortly after the November 8th Presidential election. Riots have continued in certain cities even though there is a definitive conclusion to the election. Although the media and the pundits agreed with a great many of us that Secretary Hillary Clinton would be handily elected, the electoral vote for Donald Trump appeared as a rolling flood as state after state reported their vote tallies. And in the wake of Mr. Trump's election as president some might ask, "What do we do now?"

The answer is simple! We do what we have always done. From my department's perspective, we continue to manage our existing programs of retirement and insurance for the benefit of the ministers and employees of the CME Church. Programs such as the Gift Fund Plan and the Active, Safe Harbor Retirement, and 403(b) accounts; the life insurance, short-term disability and accidental death and dismemberment plans; the Keyperson insurance plan; along with the CME Fire and Casualty Insurance Plan which offers property and liability insurance for our church owned properties and workers' compensation for our ministers and church employees. In addition to these existing plans, we also continue to seek new and more innovative approaches that will enhance the lives and ministries of those who serve our congregations across this nation. That's what we will do as a department because that is what we have been formed to do.

However, from a church perspective, we must continue to move forward understanding that our work as Christians is not dependent on the person who occupies the White House, but on the three-fold person who inspires the Church house. If, in fact, this new administration should prove to be a challenge and a burden for those who attend the Black Church, we should be reminded that it has never been easy for us. We are and have always been considered and treated as a minority in need of support. Our calling has always been to serve and minister to the needy and the less fortunate, to the widowed and the orphaned, to the sick, the shut-in, and the imprisoned. Our calling has always been to preach with a clarion voice the acceptable year of the Lord. And our calling has always been to be instant "in season ... and out of season."

If we are out of season in this present day, we must also consider that this election did not occur in a vacuum. As we all, from the top to the bottom, rushed toward that fateful Tuesday in November, what is quite apparent is that very few were listening or could hear, for their own pain, the economic pains and sufferings of an entire class of people within our country. Perhaps the past boundaries of color that have separated our peoples for far too long have also contributed to the deafening silence that was heard at the ballot box. All I know is that if we are to ever become "one nation under God," we must find a way to help heal each other regardless of race, color, creed ...

What are we to do as a Church? We are to do what we have always done! We are to do what we have been called to do! We are "to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with [our] God." (Micah 6:8) *Or at least that's the way it looks to me...*

"From Where I Sit"

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(Copies of earlier articles may be found on the

Personnel Services Webpage of the CME Website at www.thecmechurch.org)