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### **In Memory**

In loving memory of my parents Rev. Arthur L. Cunningham and Mrs. Lee A. Cunningham. They taught me the way of Christianity and both were living examples of true children of God. Observing the gift of music that God had given me, they yielded to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, which led to the purchase of my first piano, before even knowing how to play! I will always carry your love and spirits in my heart.

### **Dedications**

To my husband, Willie V. Cofield. Thank you for being my friend, prayer partner and encourager. Thank you for your understanding, patience and support when I am traveling, attending and organizing choir rehearsals, preaching God’s word and conducting workshops. God has brought us together and I thank him for sending a kind, compassionate Christian man. I love you so much honey!

To all of my family members, thank you all for being supportive of my ministry through the years. I love each and every one of you!

To Jimmie L. Jackson. Thank you for your prayers, The Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook

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and for being a mother to me after my biological mother went to be with the Lord. I Love you!

### **Acknowledgments**

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Thank you to Bishop McKinley Young and Dr. Dorothy Jackson Young for allowing me the opportunity to serve as the Music and Christian Arts Ministry (MCAM) Director of the Third Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. I am truly humbled and will be forever grateful to you, the Third Episcopal District, and the St. Paul AME Church family.

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### **Introduction**

Members of a church music ministry, may often need guidance and resources for the church's music department. This book has been composed to assist with the purpose, seriousness, and importance of a church music ministry.

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Every church has different needs and different worship styles, with the understanding that Christians worship and serve the same God. Biblically based, this book addresses the areas of defining music ministry, the role of the music director/chief musician, the choir member, choir decorum, the praise team and the function of choir administrators and officers. It also addresses vocal analysis, singing tips that are necessary for choral voice placement and vocal maintenance, as well as other topics.

I trust this book will be beneficial to those who have been led to read its pages; so let us explore the Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook.

## The Music Ministry

Music affects us externally as well as internally. Have you ever had the experience of music being played in a room, and how it changes the atmosphere completely, or how it will create a certain setting? How many times have you known music to set a mood, invoke The Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook a certain emotion, thought process, or even helped in making an important decision?

Science all but confirms that humans are hard-wired to respond to music. Studies suggest that someday music may even help patients heal from various diseases. Music is The Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook powerful. When music is played in our churches, and when songs are done on one accord, the power of the music and lyrics will inspire, heal, comfort and deliver people who are dealing with life's challenges. Someone gave me a plaque that says, "music The Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook expresses what words The Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook cannot".

I remember during one of our worship services as the choir was singing, two young men came into the church. When the time came to welcome the visitors, these two young men stood up and said, "The beat of the drum drew us into this The Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook church." Music has the power to call us to worship. Along with exhorting of the Word of God, music can be used as a vehicle to witness in our churches, evangelize, call us to worship and disciple.

- Music is an **evangelist** tool. Music in the church should lift up the name of Jesus and present the gospel message in a clear and concise way. Music that presents Christ as alive can promote an atmosphere of celebration! We are called to reach out to friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and the world. One of the last instructions Jesus gave us was to go out and make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:19) What better way to do this than with music? Promoting the gospel with song lyrics and music is an effective way to introduce someone to our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.
- Music is a **worship** experience. Appropriate music not only prepares individuals for worship, but it also can be a worship experience in itself. For example, good church music has the power to help us focus our attention on the Living God.
- Music is a tool for **discipleship** Scripture, theology, and Christian principles can be taught through sacred music. That is why the message in song is so important.

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Sacred music also prepares the heart of the worshiper as well as the worship leaders. In order to be effective when ministering in music, one must be sincere, dedicated, and committed to the music ministry. Church ministries should edify the body of Christ. Many people come to church carrying problems and dealing with the issues of life, so as you operate in the music ministry, remember it is not about us, The Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook but IT'S ALL ABOUT GOD and having/showing love for one another.

As believers who are part of a music ministry, we need to exercise our faith by using the Word of God as a guide for instruction and to validate and activate our faith in Him who is absolutely awesome and totally worthy of our praise! Playing instruments, singing songs or even dancing before the Lord:

- Worship God – (Colossians 3:16)
- Praise God – (Psalm 150:3-6)
- Lift the emotions of the heart – (James 5:13)
- Enable us to learn scripture and spiritual truths – (Psalm 32:7-8)
- Encourages others with Biblical truth – (Ephesians 5:18-19)
- Instruct and Convict – (Isaiah 55:11)
- Help to introduce others to Christ Jesus – (Psalm 40:3)

The fulfillment of a music ministry is dependent upon an earnest commitment from each member of a music department to God, its church and community, to the standards of the choir, as well as the procedures set forth by a music committee, administrators and/or officers of the choir(s). Additionally, we must know, respect, and remember that the pastor of the church is the overseer of the music department.

### **The Objective of the Music Ministry**

Many people come to a worship service carrying burdens, coping with problems, facing the issues of life, and battling the adversary, Satan. Sincere ministering in word and song with the anointing of the Holy The Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook Spirit can radically change the mind and heart of a person who may have come to church possibly contemplating suicide, leaving a marriage, battling depression, etc. Effective ministry in music gives hope. It can positively help The Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook people deal with life and the challenges set before them.

Healing, deliverance, joy, and peace will be the result when worshipers witness the choir ministering in song; soloists singing from the depths of their souls; directors leading the choir guided by The Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook Spirit of the Lord; musicians and all the components of a music department operating in the flow by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It can give those seeking a spiritual release, the will to “keep on keeping on”. The objective of The Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook a music ministry is to glorify Christ Jesus by allowing Him to use a church's music ministry as a tool by which to work through the lives of each individual member to:

- be effective in the ministry to the congregational family through worshipful singing and leading of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs;
- prepare the hearts of the congregation to receive and apply the Word of God;

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- foster a healthy and vibrant ministry within the music ministry family;
  - be an example to the other members of the body of the local church and in the community, by the testimony of individual lives;
  - be fully committed and faithful in attending **rehearsals, services, and engagements**;
  - provide an avenue of service to the body of the local church, that the gospel through music can heal, deliver and edify the church body; and
  - strive for excellence in all corporate and individual endeavors relating to the music ministry.

### **The “I” Factor (The Spirit of Lucifer)**

Let me be real. People can tell when a music performance is exalting Christ. People can also recognize when the music is carnal and just for “show” or “entertainment” by exalting oneself. When the Word of God is in the heart, mind, and soul of a believer, the life “style”, ministering “style”, and worship “style” is Christ evident, and it carries over into the music. When the focus of the music is about “self-edification”, the focus is only on that The Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook person. The music may “sound good”, but there is an emptiness and a void. I call this the spirit of Lucifer.

A church music director should be able to spiritually discern the musical needs of a congregation. I have been told of church musicians, music directors, and even choir members who are very talented, The Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook but they have what I call the “Lucifer” spirit. In other words, it’s all about them and how talented they are. Some musicians have the attitude that they are--for a lack of better words--“all that”. Yes, a musician or singer may be very gifted, talented, knowledgeable, well trained, and educated; The Music Ministry Discipline and Handbook however, with all of those attributes one must remember who he or she is serving. Your gift or talent may get you there, but your character is what keeps you where you are.

## **The Music Ministry Discipline And Handbook**

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