



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

2018 Special Pastoral Edition

Greetings CBCGM! This is a special pastoral letter written to you regarding our participation in and relationship with MILWAUKEE ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY (AIM). I think I have been remiss in explaining this relationship and encouraging your participation because there has been some confusion over the years, which I hope that with this letter we can initiate a new understanding. I'll start at the beginning.

In the fall of 2010 pastor Don D. Butler of Tabernacle Community Baptist Church and I decided to initiate a "Theological Roundtable" where pastors in the city could meet, have coffee and discuss theological, biblical and pastoral concerns. We invited several pastors in the city to join us at the Sherman Perk Coffee House one Tuesday afternoon (from 3pm-5pm) to initiate this endeavor. Only three pastors agreed to participate, but this was still a good start. The five pastors present decided that we would spend our time discussing and assisting one another with our Sunday sermons, with each pastor having 30 minutes to present his scripture and topic, and to receive feedback. Although one pastor dropped from the group after a few sessions, the remaining pastors - Butler, Williams, McVicker and Patterson - met faithfully from the fall of 2010 until the same time the following year of 2011. It was during these weekly sessions that I personally realized that my preaching confidence, preparation and presentation had been greatly improved as a result of these meetings. What was once a constant struggle - the art of preaching - became more easily managed and executed. Even more, we all realized that we had common concerns as pastors.

We collectively realized that we all were facing the same challenges in our churches - leadership development in every aspect of Christian/church ministry. Whether it was deacon training, associate clergy development, missions or Christian education, we were all in the same boat, and we were all trying to address these issues single-handedly. Then at one particular meeting we had a novel idea; we decided to hold a joint Christian Education Conference in January of 2012 here at CBCGM. There were over 280 attendees for the conference and the evaluations were phenomenal. With the success of this venture, we decided to host in March 2012 an Associate Clergy Consultation with the same positive evaluations as the Christian Education Conference. Believing that we had tapped into an effective model of leadership training, we planned and executed a week-long Conference on Ministry June of the same year, and it had even better results - over 350 attendees each night of the five-day conference. From these early successful ventures a new realization was birthed within the group - ***"We can accomplish more for our churches together than we can individually."*** This single idea birthed the *legal incorporation* of Milwaukee Associates in Ministry (AIM) in the fall of 2012 and our subsequent Commissioning Service. Milwaukee AIM has been actively engaged in Christian leadership development ever since, and two more churches have joined our ranks.

Having said all of the above, here is the crux of my letter. MKE AIM is important to me for achieving the pastoral goals of CBCGM. Why? ***First, the reason MKE AIM is of ministerial importance to me is that I had an active role in MKE AIM's creation and continue to have influence in the direction it takes.*** It is not just some organization that we joined with a set leadership and structure in place. My input is made at our bi-monthly meetings (which for the first 4 years was weekly!) and at our annual Pastor's Retreat where we plan as a group for the coming year. Second, in planning our leadership initiatives collectively we can benefit by sharing best practices, resources (to afford the best presenters) and grow our fellowship through mutual encouragement. For this reason, finally, ***since I have active influence and participation in MKE AIM, the participation of all CBCGM ministries, ministry leaders and lay members is important because MKE AIM's vision and goals helps to fulfill CBCGM's vision and goals.***

This can be seen in MKE AIM's vision/mission statement:

Milwaukee Associates in Ministry (AIM) is a multi-congregation fellowship formed *to equip leaders and empower laypeople for the work of Christian ministry.* Born out of a mutual commitment to support the ministries of each congregation, Milwaukee AIM is organized for collaborative sharing and the advancement of common interest in ministry. The associates seek to cultivate effective leadership in congregations; sustain vibrant ministries for impactful service; and encourage the participation of lay members in the common work of the church. Milwaukee AIM strives to be a progressive network of churches that thinks critically about the faith we profess, and our representation of that faith, in the communities we serve.

The focus areas of MKE AIM's collaborative efforts that are scheduled yearly are:

Missions:

We embrace the Great Commission of our Lord, by being witnesses of Him in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the world (Acts 1:8). Through our missional efforts, we witness for the Lord Jesus Christ through our words and deeds. *Whether locally, regionally, nationally or internationally,* we feel obligated to respond compassionately to the cries for help from our brothers and sisters around the globe. We have and will continue to aid those who are victims of war, disease, natural disasters, as well as environmental & social crisis.

Church Administration:

In this area of support, we share our individual best practices in an effort to insure that each congregation's administrative staff functions effectively and efficiently. The office is critical to the daily operation of administering the business of the church. Therefore, excellence is the goal of the staff who assist the pastor in his work of leading the people of God. The areas for which assistance is provided includes, but not limited to: Managing communications (both internally and externally) through latest technology software and social media platforms; up to date office equipment; processes and procedures that insure efficient use of time, energy and resources.

Church Finances:

This area of church administration warrants a high level of accountability as we are stewards of congregational resources. Internal controls related to check writing, managing deposits, credit card access, reconciliations of accounts, budget preparations, compliance with IRS reporting, giving records, etc. are but some of the areas of finance that we train and share best practices. We have a fiduciary responsibility to God and his people to be good stewards of the church's resources.

MKE AIM Youth Ministry:

Our youth ministry introduces, cultivates, and gives opportunities for all youth to know, live, & share Christ with others. Our youth ministry engages as well as trains them to become emerging leaders within our churches, neighborhoods & communities by giving them the occasion to lead and function as leaders.

MKE AIM Worship Arts Ministry:

The goal of our worship arts is to establish an atmosphere where musical expertise and knowledge of hymns, contemporary gospel, anthems, and traditional gospel music is shared (Psalm 150). The basic tenets of our beliefs are that our music is Christ centered, a professional expression of our doctrine, and a fundamental part of our Baptist tradition. In addition, the other worship arts are cultivated and clarified through effective and efficient instructors in liturgical dance and other expressive arts used in worship.

MKE AIM Christian Educators Institutes:

Having been given the command to “Go, make disciples...” (Matthew 28:18-20), and realizing that a disciple is a not only a “follower” but also a “learner”/“student” - the goals of our Christian Educators Institutes are to provide our teachers and religious educators with the best methods for learning and instruction in contemporary pedagogical practices for children, youth and adults, and also a collective forum to discuss best practices. Our ultimate pedagogical impetus is to see “Christ formed in [the believer]...” (Galatians 4:19)

MKE AIM Associate Clergy Consultations:

Recognizing that Associate Clergy can play a significant and vital role in assisting the pastor in the work of ministry (as Paul notes: “But Timothy’s worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.” Philippians 2:22), the MKE AIM Associate Clergy Consultations seek to: 1) educate the associate clergyperson of his/her duties and function in the church, 2) provide the best methods and techniques of sermon preparation and development, and the latest in homiletical theory, 3) foster a sense of camaraderie and positive working relations with other associate clergy, and 4) make space for either personal or group consultations with the pastor for discussing goals and vision. Our ultimate aim is to develop Christ-centered associate clergy whose passions are to become servant-leaders and cooperative partners with the pastor.

MKE AIM Deacons Retreat:

Recognizing that Deacons play a significant and vital role in assisting the pastor in the work of ministry (as noted in Acts 6: 2-4): “So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, ‘It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word’”; thus the MKE AIM Deacons Retreat seeks to 1) educate deacons of his/her duties and function in the church, 2) provide the best methods and techniques for the caring ministry of deacons, 3) foster a sense of camaraderie and positive working relations with other deacons, and 4) make space for either personal or group consultations with the pastor for discussing goals and vision. Our ultimate aim is to develop Christ-centered associate deacons whose passions are to become servant-leaders and cooperative partners with the pastor.

MKE Conference on Ministry:

This is the flagship event of MKE-AIM covering all aspects of the church’s ministries, evangelism, missions, outreach, Worship arts, etc. This conference brings in teachers, preachers, Christian educators and liturgists who are the best in their respective fields from home and around the country to assist the AIM churches and their diverse ministries in “making their calling and election sure” (2 Peter 1:10). It is designed to equip pastors, church leaders & the laity for effective and impactful ministries as they strive for excellence in all that they do.

MKE AIM Fellowship Services:

The MKE AIM Fellowship services are designed for the AIM churches to join in mutual worship that can incorporate our joint choirs, deacons, associate clergy and our lay members. It is also a time wherein we ordain deacons and associate clergy, or mutually celebrate important holidays in the life of the church (i.e., Holy Week or Good Friday services).

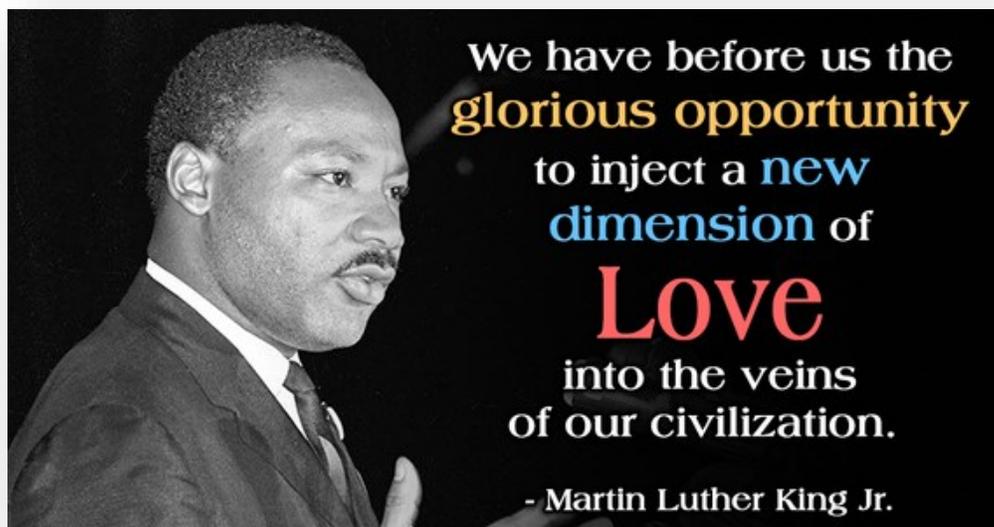
Important Upcoming MKE AIM Events for the First Quarter of 2018

February 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

9th (Friday) - MKE AIM *Celebrating the Power of God's Love Fundraiser Gala*, 7:00-10:00PM at Klemmer's Banquet Hall, 10401 W. Oklahoma Ave. - \$75 per ticket

14th (Wednesday) - MKE AIM Ash Wednesday Service, Tabernacle CBC, 6:30PM

23rd-24th (Friday - Saturday) - *The Beloved Community Weekend* (Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.), Christ the King Baptist Church



17th (Saturday) - Mission & Evangelism Conference, Community Baptist Church, time TBD

26th-29th (Monday - Thursday) - HOLY WEEK, Tabernacle CBC, 6:30PM nightly

30th - GOOD FRIDAY, Tabernacle CBC, Noon - 3:00PM

March 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



In closing, I have written these things to you briefly to explain and to clarify any misunderstandings about CBCGM and MKE AIM. Moreover, I have highlighted the AIM events (which are inclusive of our overall church calendar) in the first quarter of 2018 to encourage your participation and support and to emphasize that **AIM events are CBCGM events!**

Of special import in the first quarter is the *Celebrating the Power of God’s Love Fundraiser Gala*. While MKE AIM has scheduled a Christmas Fundraising Gala for the past two years, the Christmas season has proven to be too busy to pull it off successfully. **Thus, it was my suggestion to host the event during Valentine’s weekend!** So, I have a special sense of ownership of this event and its success. While some might say, “That’s expensive.” REMEMBER, IT IS A FUNDRAISER!! So that we can reach outside of the church into issues of community import! In order, therefore, to give you the best “bang for your buck”, the Gala includes good food, live musical entertainment and Milwaukee’s own home-grown comedian D-Rock! The purpose of the fundraiser is to support AIM’s *The Beloved Community Weekend (FEB) & Millennial WELL-ness Conference (MAY)*. Finally, please note that this year we have added to our fellowship services the *MKE AIM Ash Wednesday Service (Feb 14th)*.

It is my sincere hope and prayer that this brief letter will help you to understand why MKE AIM is important to me as your pastor and my pastoral vision to “*Prosper CBCGM Toward the Future*” in 2018 and beyond.

God Bless!

& As Always...

Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams, Pastor

**BE PRESENT.
BE PRAYERFUL.
BE POSITIVE.
BE IMPACTFUL.**



Reverend Dr. Demetrius K. Williams, Pastor
Deacon Co-Chairs
Barbara Johnson & James Powell

MISSION

To PREACH God's word,
TEACH God's people and
REACH the world with God's love.

VISION

To Build Community Transforming Ministries
Committed to Serving God & Others.

MOTTO

One Voice
One Vision
One Vocation

PILLARS

Leadership Development
Spiritual Growth
Church Unity



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