

ame church discipline 2016

ame church discipline 2016 represents a significant moment in the ongoing development of the African Methodist Episcopal Church's approach to maintaining church order and spiritual accountability. This article delves into the key aspects of the discipline as outlined in the 2016 edition, highlighting its structure, purpose, and application within the AME Church. Understanding the 2016 discipline is essential for clergy, laity, and scholars interested in ecclesiastical governance, church law, and the historical context of the AME Church's polity. The discipline encapsulates doctrinal standards, administrative procedures, and disciplinary protocols that guide the church's mission and communal life. This comprehensive overview will explore the historical background, core principles, governance structure, and disciplinary measures as presented in the 2016 edition. Additionally, it will discuss how the discipline reflects the AME Church's commitment to holiness, justice, and unity. The following sections provide a detailed breakdown of the key elements of ame church discipline 2016.

- Historical Background of AME Church Discipline
- Core Principles and Doctrinal Standards
- Governance Structure and Church Organization
- Disciplinary Procedures and Accountability
- Impact and Significance of the 2016 Edition

Historical Background of AME Church Discipline

The African Methodist Episcopal Church has a rich history of formal discipline that dates back to its founding in the late 18th century. The discipline serves as both a legal and spiritual guide, ensuring that the church maintains its doctrinal integrity and moral standards. The 2016 edition continues this tradition by updating procedures and clarifying church laws to address contemporary challenges faced by the denomination. It reflects the AME Church's response to evolving social, theological, and organizational needs.

Origins of the Discipline

The original discipline was developed to establish order and unity within the fledgling AME Church, differentiating it from other Methodist bodies while emphasizing African American autonomy and leadership. Over time, successive editions have incorporated changes that reflect the church's growth and the shifting cultural landscape.

Evolution Leading to the 2016 Edition

The 2016 ame church discipline represents a culmination of revisions aimed at reinforcing the church's commitment to justice, holiness, and effective governance. It incorporates modern language and updated procedural norms that facilitate clearer understanding and application by church leaders and members.

Core Principles and Doctrinal Standards

The ame church discipline 2016 codifies the essential beliefs and ethical standards that define the AME Church's identity. These core principles serve as the foundation for all church activities and disciplinary actions, ensuring that members uphold the spiritual and moral expectations of the denomination.

Statement of Faith and Doctrine

The discipline articulates the church's theological foundations, including the belief in the Trinity, the authority of Scripture, salvation through Jesus Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit. These doctrinal affirmations guide worship, teaching, and community life within the AME Church.

Behavioral Expectations and Ethical Guidelines

In addition to theological affirmations, the 2016 discipline outlines specific behavioral codes for clergy and laity. This includes standards related to personal holiness, social conduct, and responsibilities within the church community. Members are called to live lives that reflect Christian virtues such as integrity, humility, and love.

Governance Structure and Church Organization

The governance framework detailed in the ame church discipline 2016 ensures orderly administration and accountability across all levels of the AME Church. It defines the roles, responsibilities, and relationships among bishops, pastors, elders, deacons, and laity, fostering effective leadership and unity.

Hierarchy and Leadership Roles

The discipline specifies the authority and duties of church officers, emphasizing episcopal oversight while promoting shared responsibility. Bishops hold primary authority in spiritual and administrative matters, supported by presiding elders, pastors, and elected committees.

Church Conferences and Decision-Making Bodies

The AME Church operates through various conference levels, including the General Conference, Annual Conference, and District Conference. The 2016 discipline outlines their functions, meeting procedures, and powers to enact policies, approve budgets, and address disciplinary cases.

Disciplinary Procedures and Accountability

Central to AME church discipline 2016 is the system of accountability designed to address violations of doctrine, ethics, and church order. The discipline provides a clear process for investigating allegations, conducting trials, and imposing sanctions when necessary.

Types of Offenses and Infractions

The discipline categorizes offenses ranging from doctrinal error and immoral conduct to neglect of duties and insubordination. This classification ensures that disciplinary responses correspond appropriately to the nature and severity of the infraction.

Process of Adjudication

The 2016 edition establishes procedural safeguards including notification, opportunity for defense, and appeals. Disciplinary hearings are convened by designated church authorities, and decisions aim to restore both individual members and the church community.

Possible Disciplinary Actions

- Admonition or Reprimand
- Suspension from Office or Membership
- Removal from Ministry or Church Membership
- Excommunication in Severe Cases
- Mandated Restitution or Counseling

Impact and Significance of the 2016 Edition

The AME church discipline 2016 plays a crucial role in shaping the identity and mission of the AME Church in the 21st century. It balances tradition with necessary reforms to

address contemporary realities, enhancing the church's capacity to foster spiritual growth and social justice.

Strengthening Church Unity and Order

By providing clear guidelines and consistent enforcement mechanisms, the 2016 discipline helps maintain harmony within the diverse AME community. It supports leaders in managing conflicts effectively while upholding the church's core values.

Supporting Clergy and Laity in Ministry

The updated discipline offers practical resources and definitions that empower clergy and laypersons to fulfill their roles responsibly. It encourages accountability and continuous spiritual development among church leaders and members alike.

Responding to Contemporary Challenges

The 2016 discipline reflects the AME Church's proactive stance on issues such as social justice, ethical leadership, and community engagement. It integrates provisions that address modern-day concerns while remaining faithful to the church's historic mission.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the AME Church discipline 2016?

The AME Church Discipline 2016 is the official handbook that outlines the laws, doctrines, and organizational structure governing the African Methodist Episcopal Church as of the year 2016.

How often is the AME Church Discipline updated?

The AME Church Discipline is typically updated every four years during the General Conference to reflect changes in church law, policy, and administration.

What major changes were introduced in the AME Church Discipline 2016?

The 2016 edition included updates on church governance, clarified roles of clergy and laity, and addressed contemporary issues such as church membership and disciplinary procedures.

Where can I access the AME Church Discipline 2016?

The AME Church Discipline 2016 can be accessed through the official AME Church website, denominational offices, or purchased in print from authorized distributors.

How does the AME Church Discipline 2016 address church discipline?

It provides a detailed framework for handling disputes, misconduct, and corrective measures within the church, ensuring due process and adherence to biblical principles.

Who is responsible for enforcing the AME Church Discipline 2016?

Enforcement is primarily the responsibility of church bishops, pastors, and appointed church courts who oversee adherence to church laws and discipline.

Can local AME churches modify the guidelines in the 2016 Discipline?

Local churches must adhere to the Discipline as the authoritative rulebook; however, they may implement additional guidelines as long as they do not conflict with the Discipline.

Why is the AME Church Discipline important for members?

It ensures order, unity, and doctrinal consistency within the church, guiding members and leaders in their spiritual and administrative responsibilities.

Additional Resources

1. AME Church Discipline: Principles and Practices (2016 Edition)

This book offers a comprehensive overview of the disciplinary procedures within the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church as updated in 2016. It outlines the biblical foundations of church discipline, emphasizing restoration and reconciliation. The text serves as a practical guide for pastors, church leaders, and members to navigate disciplinary cases with fairness and compassion.

2. Restoring the Breach: Church Discipline in the AME Tradition

Focusing on the 2016 disciplinary code, this book explores the theological and historical context of discipline in the AME Church. It provides case studies and interpretations to help leaders understand how to implement discipline effectively while maintaining unity. The author stresses the importance of grace and accountability in the process.

3. Discipline and Order: A 2016 AME Church Guide

This guidebook breaks down the 2016 AME Church Discipline Book into accessible sections for easy reference. It includes explanations of key terms, procedures, and roles

within the disciplinary system. Ideal for church officers and members, it encourages a culture of transparency and mutual respect.

4. The AME Church Discipline Manual: 2016 Updates and Applications

Detailing the latest revisions made in 2016, this manual is designed for clergy and lay leaders charged with administering discipline. It highlights changes in protocols, appeals processes, and pastoral responsibilities. The book also offers practical advice on conflict resolution and maintaining spiritual health in the congregation.

5. Accountability and Grace: Navigating AME Church Discipline (2016)

This publication delves into the balance between accountability and grace within the 2016 AME disciplinary framework. It discusses how discipline serves both corrective and restorative purposes, aligning with the church's mission. Readers gain insight into fostering a supportive environment for repentance and growth.

6. Implementing Discipline: Case Studies from the 2016 AME Church Code

Through real and hypothetical scenarios, this book illustrates how the 2016 AME Church Discipline can be applied in various situations. It emphasizes ethical decision-making and pastoral sensitivity. The case studies help readers anticipate challenges and develop effective strategies for resolution.

7. Faithful Leadership and Discipline in the AME Church (2016)

Targeted at church leaders, this volume underscores the critical role of leadership in maintaining discipline according to the 2016 standards. It offers guidance on communication, legal considerations, and spiritual oversight. The book stresses the leader's responsibility to uphold justice and mercy within the community.

8. Restorative Justice in the AME Church: Discipline Practices Post-2016

This text examines how restorative justice principles have been integrated into the AME Church's disciplinary policies since the 2016 revision. It advocates for healing-focused approaches that repair relationships and build stronger congregations. The author provides tools for mediation and reconciliation tailored to the AME context.

9. Understanding the AME Church Discipline Book: 2016 Comprehensive Review

An in-depth analysis of the 2016 AME Church Discipline Book, this work breaks down each chapter and section for clarity. It is designed to educate members about their rights and responsibilities within the disciplinary process. The book also addresses common misconceptions and encourages informed participation in church governance.

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Episcopal Church with Appendix African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2016

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ame church discipline 2016: Rebaptism Calmly Considered Sharon J. Grant, 2019-09-10 This book describes the sociocultural context that shaped Christian initiation for many early Jamaican congregants within the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. Christian initiation in early-twentieth-century Jamaican AME churches included the practice of two water rituals for children within most of its congregations—first, the christening or sprinkling of water on infants, and second, immersion when the child reached the age of consent and made a public confession of faith. The ambiguity of John Wesley's doctrine and practice of the sacrament of baptism are provided with the cultural milieu of nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century Jamaica to allow the reader to calmly consider the spectrum of evidence—and consider how the use of two water rituals became normative for many disciples of Christ to become full members within the early AME Church in Jamaica.

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ame church discipline 2016: When the Church Woke William B. Lawrence, 2022-10-21 The most divisive and damaging aspect of the church in America is the combination of racism and white supremacy that has been woven into the fabric of the church to the degree that one cannot discuss the church in America apart from this sin. Nowhere is this clearer than in American Methodism, including The United Methodist Church. That denomination, which has been divided for decades over issues regarding human sexuality and homosexuality, is a product of a long history of racism and white supremacy. While initiatives have been taken to address these matters, there has not been any effort to help the church focus on being anti-racist in its practices or public witness at every level, including local church levels. This is a book that identifies this sin and offers an innovative look at the mission of the church, based on biblical witnesses to new life with the resurrection. It offers proposals for reparations and renewal that will come when the church woke.

ame church discipline 2016: And He Did Have Something to Say Ellen Arneatha Verdia

Young Fizer, 2020-09-01 *And He Did Have Something To Say* is a tribute to our father (and mother) and highlights some of the special moments in our lives. It tells the story of a man's journey from the farmland in Dermott, Arkansas; his call to the ministry at a very early age; and his relentless commitment to the civil rights movement, social justice and equality for all people, especially those of color. As a husband, father of five, pastor, religious leader, civil rights activist, and humanitarian, the life of Rufus King Young, Sr. left an indelible impact on his children and the community he served. A truly honest man who had the knack for speaking his truth, pure and simple. This story will touch your heart and hope will make you remember the best times in your life and the man or special someone who helped to shape those memories.

ame church discipline 2016: *The Wanderer in African American Literature* Gena E. Chandler-Smith, 2024-01-12 *The Wanderer in African American Literature* highlights an enduring feature of African American letters: "From the slave narrative to Afrofuturism, the literature is populated, driven, and emboldened by wanderers who know no bounds." Gena E. Chandler argues that wanderers and the theme of wandering push the limits of narrative forms and challenge assumptions about the African American experience. The slave narratives of Olaudah Equiano and Harriet Jacobs echo eighteenth- and nineteenth-century literary traditions and chronicle journeys toward freedom and faith. Equiano traces his changing identity, integrating his native African culture with his adopted European one. Jacobs addresses the gender restrictions she faces as a slave and then a free woman whose progress in life remains uncertain and ongoing. Langston Hughes and Nella Larsen chronicle real and imagined journeys during the Harlem Renaissance and the Great Migration. Hughes's autobiography *I Wonder as I Wander* (1956) traces his global travels in the 1930s, highlighting his unique identity as a black American. Larsen's novel *Quicksand* (1928) follows its biracial heroine as she travels throughout the United States and to Denmark while navigating matters of race and gender. The protagonist of Richard Wright's *The Outsider* (1953) seeks individual freedom and a new identity but is "constrained within the boundaries of an American nation and a Western ideal that continuously views the black subject as outside and distinct from the modern project of advancement and freedom." In James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room* (1956), the white protagonist flees America for France yet cannot escape difficult questions about sexuality and race. Finally, John Edgar Wideman's *The Cattle Killing* (1996) tells the story of two wanderers—an itinerant preacher spreading God's word during the Great Awakening and a twentieth-century writer on a journey of self-discovery about his identity and vocation. The former experiences a crisis of his Christian faith, and the latter endures a crisis of faith in his literary abilities. Tying these diverse threads together, Chandler demonstrates the power of the black narrative to assimilate and redeploy the literary trope of wanderlust, exchanging its premise of rootless drifting for something altogether more mobilizing.

ame church discipline 2016: *The Supernatural and the Circuit Riders* Rimi Xhemajli, 2021-06-22 In *The Supernatural and the Circuit Riders*, Rimi Xhemajli shows how a small but passionate movement grew and shook the religious world through astonishing signs and wonders. Beginning in the late eighteenth century, early American Methodist preachers, known as circuit riders, were appointed to evangelize the American frontier by presenting an experiential gospel: one that featured extraordinary phenomena that originated from God's Spirit. In employing this evangelistic strategy of the gospel message fueled by supernatural displays, Methodism rapidly expanded. Despite beginning with only ten official circuit riders in the early 1770s, by the early 1830s, circuit riders had multiplied and caused Methodism to become the largest American denomination of its day. In investigating the significance of the supernatural in the circuit rider ministry, Xhemajli provides a new historical perspective through his eye-opening demonstration of the correlation between the supernatural and the explosive membership growth of early American Methodism, which fueled the Second Great Awakening. In doing so, he also prompts the consideration of the relevance and reproduction of such acts in the American church today.

ame church discipline 2016: *The Contemporary Black Church* Jason E. Shelton, 2024-08-13 Charts the changing dynamics of religion and spirituality among African Americans

Recent decades have ushered in a profound transformation within the American religious landscape, characterized by an explosion of religious diversification and individualism as well as a rising number of “nones.” The Contemporary Black Church makes the case that the story of this changing religious landscape needs to be told incorporating more data as it applies specifically to African Americans. Jason E. Shelton draws from survey data as well as interviews with individuals from a wide variety of religious backgrounds to argue that social reforms and the resulting freedoms have paved the way for a pronounced diversification among African Americans in matters of faith. Many African Americans have switched denominational affiliations within the Black Church, others now adhere to historically White traditions, and a record number of African Americans have left organized religion altogether in recent decades. These changing demographics and affiliations are having a real and measurable effect on American politics, particularly as members of the historic Black Church are much more likely than those of other faiths to vote and to strongly support government policies aimed at bridging the racial divide. Though not the first work to note that African Americans are not monolithic in their religious affiliation, or to argue that there is a trend toward secularism in Black America, this book is the first to substantiate these claims with extensive empirical data, charting these changing dynamics and their ramifications for American society and politics.

ame church discipline 2016: *New Life in the Risen Christ* Jonathan A. Powers, 2023-05-26
Baptism is a foundational rite and sacrament of the church. Over the centuries, the significance of baptism for Christian life and faith has been confirmed by the church, but baptism remains a highly controversial topic. Numerous disagreements exist between denominations and faith traditions—including the various descendants of the original Methodist movement—over the doctrine and practice of baptism. Who can be baptized? Why is baptism done? What does the rite mean? *New Life in the Risen Christ: A Wesleyan Theology of Baptism* seeks to address confusion over baptism and offer a coherent treatment of the sacrament from a Wesleyan theological perspective. Distinguished scholars from around the world are brought together in this volume to examine the writings of John Wesley and offer scholarly reflections on topics related to the sacrament of baptism. Their work is an invitation to remember and be thankful for baptism as the sign of divine grace that initiates Christians into a new reality: life in the risen Christ.

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ame church discipline 2016: *Assessing Cultural Influences in Worship* Dr. Timothy D. Price III, 2020-10-08 There are emerging cultures and generations at war between traditional and contemporary styles of worship. Cultural change is present in society, but the circumstances of change differ from generation to generation. In 2020, COVID 19, a world pandemic shut down places of worship. However, pre-pandemic, many churches had been struggling trying to find their DNA in an evolving society with culture changes. COVID-19 has infected and exposed areas of failure in the church. Some may have found their way, yet others have been left behind and are on life support. Leadership of the church must find innovative ways so that the needs of multi generations will be met upon reentry in worship. Dr. Timothy D. Price, III provides the answer for the tension, anxiety, conflict, and concern that many Christian churches face today. This book provides an in depth project journey that offers life-changing applications to help a local church find their individual path in worship. This project is the culmination of his Doctoral work that will take all who read through a transformational journey in the life of a church and her community. It provides life-giving jewels for leaders who need help reviving their church that is on life support.

ame church discipline 2016: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* 2016-12-21 The church is a community of all true believers under the Lordship of Christ. It is the redeemed and redeeming fellowship in which the Word of God is preached by persons divinely called, and the sacraments are duly administered according to Christ's own appointment. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit the church seeks to provide for the maintenance of worship, the education of believers, and the redemption of the world. - From the

Preamble to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church The product of over 200 years of General Conferences of the denominations that form The United Methodist Church, the Discipline is the current statement of how United Methodists agree to live together. It acknowledges the past and addresses the future. Updated through the actions of the 2016 General Conference, the new Discipline includes a complete listing of bishops from Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury through the 2016 episcopal elections as well as a revised historical statement, an expanded index, and six parts: The Constitution General Book of Discipline Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task The Ministry of All Christians Social Principles Organization and Administration

ame church discipline 2016: We've Come This Far by Faith Hondon B. Hargrove, 2024-10-29 *We've Come This Far by Faith: The History of Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church* chronicles the journey from the founding of a global denomination (African Methodist Episcopal) in 1816 by Richard Allen, a former enslaved blacksmith, to the history and growth of a local congregation (Trinity AME Church) in Lansing, Michigan. God's providential grace, guidance, and steadfast mercy led this journey and continues today. Trinity AME Church, Lansing is an historical church, the oldest predominantly Black church in the city, and the third oldest of all churches in the city. God's blessings on the clergy and laity involved in the journey are evident. There are interesting characters and obstacles that were overcome in the growth process. To God be the glory!

ame church discipline 2016: *Mother Emanuel* Kevin Sack, 2025-06-03 A sweeping history of one of the nation's most important African American churches and a profound story of courage and grace amid the fight for racial justice—from Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Kevin Sack "A masterpiece . . . a dense, rich, captivating narrative, featuring vivid prose . . . expansive, inspiring and hugely important."—The New York Times "Race, religion, and terror combine for an extraordinary story of America."—Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., bestselling author of *Begin Again* Few people beyond South Carolina's Lowcountry knew of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston—Mother Emanuel—before the night of June 17, 2015, when a twenty-one-year-old white supremacist walked into Bible study and slaughtered the church's charismatic pastor and eight other worshippers. Although the shooter had targeted Mother Emanuel—the first A.M.E. church in the South—to agitate racial strife, he did not anticipate the aftermath: an outpouring of forgiveness from the victims' families and a reckoning with the divisions of caste that have afflicted Charleston and the South since the earliest days of European settlement. *Mother Emanuel* explores the fascinating history that brought the church to that moment and the depth of the desecration committed in its fellowship hall. It reveals how African Methodism was cultivated from the harshest American soil, and how Black suffering shaped forgiveness into both a religious practice and a survival tool. Kevin Sack, who has written about race in his native South for more than four decades, uses the church to trace the long arc of Black life in the city where nearly half of enslaved Africans disembarked in North America and where the Civil War began. Through the microcosm of one congregation, he explores the development of a unique practice of Christianity, from its daring breakaway from white churches in 1817, through the traumas of Civil War and Reconstruction, to its critical role in the Civil Rights Movement and beyond. At its core, *Mother Emanuel* is an epic tale of perseverance, not just of a congregation but of a people who withstood enslavement, Jim Crow, and all manner of violence with an unbending faith.

ame church discipline 2016: God, Help Us! R.J. Chandler Sr, 2017-05-16 *God, Help Us!* is an anthology of writings that explore the many challenges of the universal church as it wrestles with its relevancy in a fast-paced ever evolving and diverse culture. Has the church moved away from the tenets of Christ? Many Christians have redefined the Ten Commandments, holiness and true faith to suit their personal needs. Therefore, each chapter in its approach deals with some of the ills of the world that have infiltrated the ranks of the church, such as (but not limited to) mental illness, dishonesty, sin, church hurt, misguided leadership, narcissism, poor fiscal management, and sexual indecency. I'm afraid that each topic has led to the decline of church attendance, quieted its prophetic voice in the community, and drastically reduced the effectiveness of saving souls. This book provides recommendations for going back to our first love, which is Jesus and His mission,

purposeful living, balance, and wellness. It is my hope that this book transcends denominational affiliation and touches each generation to win the world for Christ one soul at a time.

ame church discipline 2016: My Journey; My Family, The Army, The Ministry, Life, & Education Dr. Roy P. Jones, Jr., 2016-04-22 My Journey, My Family, the Army, the Ministry, Life, & Education. Dr. Roy P. Jones, Jr. share his personal walk and experience from childhood to the man of God he has become. In it you'll witness first hand how God works divinely to align our lives to fulfill his purposes in our lives.

ame church discipline 2016: Apostle of Liberation Cheryl Janifer LaRoche, 2025-02-04 William Paul Quinn's untold story is a missing piece of American history. His deep but little-known involvement with the Underground Railroad is one of the most fascinating subplots of a remarkable life. More than any other prelate of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, or AME Church, Quinn (1788-1873) guided the faithful throughout the perilous pre-Civil War years, sanctioning escape from slavery while avoiding suspicion and, by all appearances, upholding the law. Quinn helped his followers navigate the hardships of slavery, as well as the demands of freedom in the post-Civil War world. *Apostle of Liberation* illuminates Quinn's significance, demonstrating why his life and courageous efforts deserve more attention—and more appreciation. It also explores, in depth and for the first time, the eight and a half years Quinn spent in New York City. It was during this time that Quinn experienced the major conflict of his life with AME founder Bishop Richard Allen over Quinn's independent activities in New York. Much to Bishop Allen's frustration, Quinn—one of the AME Church's "Four Horsemen" along with Allen—associated with ministers of other denominations, collaborated with the city's African American civic leaders, rescued freedom seekers, and operated beyond Allen's reach. Quinn later established a 150-member independent church in the city, earning Allen's wrath and a five-year exile from the church. This remarkable missionary's life embodies the struggles and challenges that shaped the lives of nineteenth-century Black leaders, and those who followed them. *Apostle of Liberation* explores the historical figure as well as the man of God—his spiritual gifts, his character and uniqueness, as well as his many strengths and failings. The book carefully lays out his trials and triumphs, and the magnitude of his accomplishments in the face of legally sanctioned national opposition, denominational fights and schisms, and devastating Supreme Court decisions. Combining AME Church history, the story of the Underground Railroad, the origins of African American educational efforts, and inspiring anecdotes of westward migration and community engagement, *Apostle of Liberation* offers an original and distinctive contribution to American religious history.

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Our History - AME Church When Bishop Henry M. Turner pushed African Methodism across the Atlantic into Liberia and Sierra Leone in 1891 and into South Africa in 1896, the AME now laid claim to adherents on

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