



Simon Temple

AME Zion Church

A Guide To Church Membership PART II

“Look At God”

Rev. Brian R. Thompson, Pastor

A Message from the Pastor

Welcome to Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church. It is with much excitement that we welcome you to the House of God. I am your Pastor and I am here to serve as your spiritual leader as we experience the wonderful grace and mercy of Christ as he shapes and molds us into what he has called us to be. We are a church of believers who take the Word and apply it to our everyday lives. We have the belief that we are heirs and joint heirs “King’s Kids” so therefore we are the head and not the tail and have the authority to live a blessed life in Christ. In this church you will receive teaching and preaching from the Word of God and its own prayer that will adopt a kingdom mentality which means you will not stay discouraged, oppressed, depressed or develop a mind of negativity which we call “stinking thinking”.



But ye shall be healed, delivered and set free. It is our prayer that as you grow in Christ and become more familiar with your brothers and sisters in this church, you will launch out with your faith, transform the world and lead people to Christ as you invite others to worship at the Temple.

I welcome you on behalf of my wife and myself along with the Simon Temple Church Family. Know now that you were chosen and highly favored in Christ. Get ready! Get ready! Get ready for an experience that will change your life and bless your socks off!

Yours in the Service of Christ,

Rev. Brian R. Thompson

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Class I

Section I--Understanding Your Position

Welcome to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Every new member is a probationary member, meaning from the time you join Simon Temple to the 6 month mark you have time to familiarize yourself with your new church. After the 6 month period you are automatically moved into full membership.

During the probationary period of membership, you will receive instruction in the basic rules and beliefs of our denomination. The material in this study guide is designed to equip you with the knowledge necessary to become a member in full connection.

When you were received as a probationary member of the A.M.E. Zion Church, you participated in a ritual and responded to a series of questions. Let's take a moment to review those questions and your responses.

Dearly Beloved:

You have by the grace of God made your decision to follow Christ and to serve him. This decision, we trust, is not based upon any worthiness in yourself, but solely on the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, and on his death and intercession for us. So that the church may know your purpose, you will answer the questions I am now to ask you.

Question: Have you an earnest desire to be saved from your sins?

Answer: I have.

Question: Will you guard yourself against all things contrary to the teaching of God's Word and endeavor to lead a Holy life, following the commandments of God?

Answer: I will endeavor to do so.

Question: Are you purposed to give reverent attendance upon the appointed means of grace in the ministry of the Word and the private and public worship of God?

Answer: I am so determined, with the help of God.

For the next four sessions, it is the church's responsibility to train you in the doctrines and laws of our church so that you may make an informed decision to unite in full membership. During this period, the Pastor and your Leader will observe you in order to determine the sincerity and depth of the motives which prompted you to seek church membership.

Section II--Salvation and Our Christian Beliefs

1. Man is a **Sinner** _____.

“For we all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” - Romans 3:23

Man cannot **Save** _____ himself.

“As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one.” - Romans 3:10

Death _____ is the penalty for sin.

“For the wages of sin is death” - Romans 6:23

2. **Heaven and Eternal _____ Life _____ are free gifts of God to all who receive them.**

“... but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
- Romans 6:23.

3. **God is Merciful _____ and therefore doesn't want to punish us.**

“Yes, I have loved thee with an everlasting love.” - Jeremiah 31:3

God is Just _____ and therefore must punish sin.

“... the soul that sinneth, it shall die.” - Ezekiel 18:4

Sin is man's Problem _____, but God solved man's problem in Jesus the Christ.

“For God so love the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,” - John 3:16

4. **Jesus Christ, who is He?**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” - John 1:1

Jesus Christ, what did He do?

“... while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” - Romans 5:8

5. **How do I receive the free gift of God?**

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead.” - Romans 10:9; Ephesians 2:8

6. **What is saving faith?**

Faith is the key that opens the door to heaven. Many people have only Intellectual _____ faith and mere Temporal _____ faith, but these are not saving faith.

Saving faith is Trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. It means resting upon Christ alone and what He had done rather than upon what you or I have done to get into heaven.

“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” - Acts 16:31.

7. Receiving Jesus Christ today will change your destiny forever.

Now let us pray a prayer of salvation: Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. Forgive me of my sins and help me to turn from them and follow you. I have been trusting in my own good works, and myself, but now I place my trust in you. I want you to come in and take over my life right now. I confess that you are Lord and I receive you as Master of my life. I believe you died for me and that God raised you from the dead. I now accept you as my own personal Savior and your free gift of Eternal life. I am not worthy of it, but I thank you for it. Amen.

My name is _____

My birth date is _____

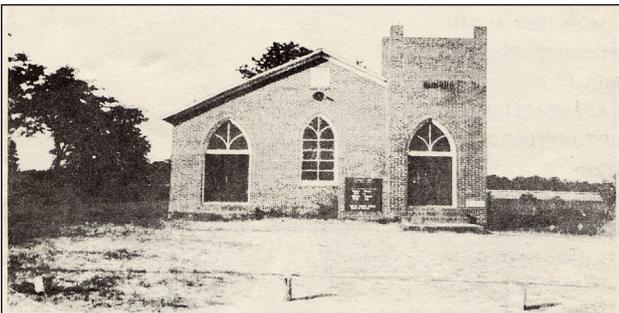
My birth place is _____

The date of my new Spiritual Birth is _____

The place of my new Birth in Christ Jesus _____

CLASS II Section III – Church History

Beaver Creek A.M.E. Zion Church –1974



Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church – 2005



AFRICAN

1. Question: What class of people organized the Zion Church?

Answer: Colored members of the first Methodist Episcopal Church in New York.

2. Question: Why did they withdraw from that church?

Answer: That they might better enjoy Religion and do more to save their fellowmen from sin.

3. Question: Why then is the word “African” attached to the rest of the title of the church?

Answer: The church is controlled by Descendants of Africans in the interest of humanity, regardless of race, color, sex or condition.

Note: The word African was used to denote that the descendants of Africans would lead the church. This is not intended to suggest exclusiveness. The church seeks to promote racial harmony and does not discriminate. All people regardless of race or ethnicity are welcomed.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL

1. Question: What is a Methodist Episcopal Church?

Answer: It is a Methodist church that believes in the Episcopal form of church.

2. Question: What is peculiar to that form?

Answer: The election and consecration of Elders to perform certain duties.

ZION

1. Question: What is the name of the church to which you belong?

Answer: The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in America.

2. Question: What is the name by which the first church belonging to the connection was called?

Answer: Zion Church.

3. **Question: Why did the Founders call their first church Zion?**

Answer: To distinguish it from all other Chuches or societies organized for religious worship.

HISTORY OF THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

1. **Question: When was the first A.M.E. Zion Church organized?**

Answer: The church was organized in the year 1796.

2. **Question: Who were the Founders?**

Answer: James Varick, Abraham Thompson, June Scott, Francis Jacobs, Peter Williams, William Miller and William Hamilton.

3. **Question: Who was the first Bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church?**

Answer: James Varick.

The A.M.E. Zion Church encompasses all of the United States, Canada, Caribbean Islands, England, Africa, India and South America under the supervision of twelve (12) elected Bishops. The Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District of which we are a part includes the Central North Carolina, Cape Fear, North Carolina and Albemarle Conferences, the Virgin Islands and South Africa. Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church is a member of the Fayetteville District, Central North Carolina Conference.

Through the years the A.M.E. Zion Church has provided educational opportunities for young people by establishing schools on a secondary as well as college level. Full-time educational programs continue to be offered by Livingstone College and Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, NC; Clinton Junior College in Rock Hill, SC; Lomax-Hannon Junior College in Greenville, AL; and the A.M.E. Zion Community College, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa.

Church History

Explanation of the A.M.E. Zion Symbol



Our church now has a logo that speaks of God and the heritage of the Christian faith, laced with the Black Church's salient history and doctrine of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

The Triangle representing the God head: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, called the Holy Trinity, form the equilateral triangle.

The Triangle Ecclesiastical Color – Sign of the mood of the church festival. Within recent years the interpretation of black has change to encompass a texture of the whole life – all colors blended, melted together – joy, sadness, struggle, faith, hope and finally life eternal.

“V” – symbol of Victory. The “V” can be seen and represents a church born victoriously under the leadership of James Varick, our First Bishop 1750-1827, “V” also for Varick.

The Latin Cross – one of the most accepted symbols for Christianity the world over. The plain cross is empty for He is not here, He is risen victoriously.

The Red Cross – used with power, love, glory, and honor is associated with our Lord’s Passion, suffering and the Christian’s zeal.

A – African - refers to our African background in black suggesting the cradle of civilization from whence came all races, colors and creeds.

M – Methodist – refers to the doctrine about God and Christ to which we adhere. It is in green, the universal color of growth, progress, and hope.

E – Episcopal – means that we are a church overseen by Church Fathers called Bishops. Purple denotes kingly authority in Godly judgment, the union of love and pain in humility.

Z – Zion – God’s Holy Hill stands for our branch of Methodism which is a separate entity from our sister churches like African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.), Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.), and Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Churches. True to God “True Blue” is symbolic of heaven and sincerity.

Liturgical Colors and What They Symbolize

White – The symbol of light, faith, purity, innocence, virginity, divinity and of angels. Used during the festivals of our Lord and their seasons such as Christmas, Easter, and the celebration of Holy Communion.

Red – The symbol of fire, blood, zeal, love, youth, fervor, and of sin and its atonement. Used during festivals of the church, such as Pentecost and Thanksgiving.

Green – The symbol of fidelity, hope, immortality, growth, life, and nature. Used during times when no other special color is ordered.

Violet – The symbol of penitence, humility, suffering, renewal, and our Lord’s passion. Used during Lent.

Purple – The symbol of royalty and our Lord’s advent. Used during Advent.

Black – The symbol of mourning and death. Used for Good Friday and days of humiliation and prayer. Violet is often substituted for Black.

Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church History

According to a deed dated November 18, 1873, a piece of land was sold by Henry McDonald, signed by Isaac McDonald, Isaac Baker, Thomas McKoy, and Robert Kelly, to Beaver Creek Chapel which became a part of the A.M.E. Zion Church, which was established in 1796 in New York. .

In 1887, under the leadership of Rev. M. N. Levy, the antique church bell, which is part of our courtyard today, was purchased.

Rev. E. Johnson was the Pastor in October 1923, when the church building was remodeled with a new top, enlarged altar, new doors, and windows.

In 1937, under Rev. J. Z. Siler, a building fund drive was launched and a brick church was built. The instability of the structure prompted a new fund drive under the leadership of Rev. J. S. Maynor in the 1950's and continued under Rev. E. H. Beebe with the construction of the first wing of the Education Building. The second wing was built under the administration of Rev. DeWitt Womack, during the period 1968-1973.

During the period 1973-1986 under the leadership of Rev. Cajus B. Howell, a new brick sanctuary was built in conjunction with the wing of the Educational Building. The church's name was changed from Beaver Creek to Simon Temple on November 9, 1976, in recognition of the Black African, Simon Cyrene, who helped to carry the cross of Jesus up to Calvary when Christ became physically exhausted.

From 1986-1988, Rev. George Miller served as Pastor and a church sign was placed in front of the church. Reverend James Sloan was appointed to Simon Temple in 1987. The installation of the cross, vestments for the pulpit, and the acolytes were organized under his leadership.

Reverend Franklin L. Rush was appointed to Simon Temple in November 1990. In May 1991, the church mortgage was liquidated. When we celebrate our Annual Homecoming, we are following a tradition he initiated in 1991. The Education Building was completely renovated, a new dining hall erected, and the parking lot was paved. A piano, organ and house were purchased. Approximately 175 members joined under Rev. Rush's leadership. For the first time in the history of the church, Simon Temple hosted the Annual Conference in the fall of 1994.

The landscaping was completed and an additional house was purchased in the fall of 1995. Two church vans were purchased. In 1999, our Children Development Center was officially christened. The Center's mission is to provide quality childcare while helping children grow intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

Our "Meals on Wheels" program was organized and remains an outstanding success. The hot meals are delivered five days a week to homebound persons and those that are less fortunate.

During the fall of 2001, Bishop George E. Battle, Jr. placed the leadership responsibility of Simon Temple in the capable hands of Reverend Brian R. Thompson, He found a firm foundation here and continues to build pride and joy while seeking His face, grace and favor. Over 1,000 souls have been led to the Lord and more than 3,500 have joined the church under his leadership.

Many physical improvements have been made to the facilities including paving the portion of the parking lot to the left of the new sanctuary, additional computers and a technologically advanced sound system.

In September 2002, Simon Temple held its first women's conference. The first men's conference was held in June 2003.

The purchase of a 47-passenger bus has enabled us to travel to accompany our Pastor and First Lady to their many out-of-town engagements. Due to the explosive growth of the church from 2002 to 2006, we had to add 300 seats to our sanctuary to accommodate seating 750 persons. We added an office suite for the Pastor and his office staff. In addition, we included a bookstore, steward/trustee room and an office for the First Lady of our church. This was a million dollar construction project.

After our expansion this really opened the floodgates and within two years we had to transition from two to three services. These services took place at 7:30am, 9:15 am, and 11:00 am to accommodate the enormous growth. Additionally, to accommodate the demands of our members, many ministers were birthed. Our First Lady, Reverend Felica R Thompson, developed the 'Women's Ministry' that was an essential part of our growth. Also during this time, the debut of our 'Wings of Eagles Ministry' television broadcast was launched. We are on cable and network television three times per week and we broadcast our 11:00 am service weekly on 1600 AM WIDU Radio.

We progressed by the grace of God and brought back the vision that God gave Pastor Thompson, which he had shared with the congregation in November 2001. Pastor Thompson stated that there would be a mega-church on this property to accommodate all the members that would flock to the church. Pastor also shared with us that we would own the ten-unit strip mall beside the church, the vacant seven acres adjacent to the church, as well as the homes that surrounded the church. Today, God has allowed this vision to come to pass and we own all that was shared in the vision.

Preparation for our new sanctuary began in April 2009 and ended in April 2014. This journey included the removal of homes, clearing of the landscape, and the groundbreaking ceremony.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 11, 2010. Bishop Richard K. Thompson's message was "When there is an "I" moment in your life!"

The construction of the sanctuary began on March 6, 2013 and the dedication service was held on May 4, 2014. Reverend James M. Sloan and Reverend Franklin L. Rush were in attendance and participated in the dedication service. "The Church under Construction" was an inspirational sermon preached by Bishop Kenneth Monroe. One could reflect on the day's events by thinking about Psalm 22:1. 'I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.'

Through many setbacks, disappointments, trials, and much prayer, on the Easter Sunday morning of 2014 we worshipped in our new 30,000 square foot, 1,500-seat sanctuary. **Look at God!**

CLASS III
Section IV – Baptism and the Baptismal Covenant
Section V – The Apostles’ Creed
Section VI – The Articles of Religion



Baptism and the Baptismal Covenant

Question: Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the examples set by Christ.

“...that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized of John in Jordan (river)” – Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ Commanded it.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.” – Matthew 28:19

3. It demonstrates that I really am a Believer.

“... and all his household believed in the Lord and were baptized.” – Acts 18:8

Question: What is the meaning of Baptism?

1. It illustrates Christ’s Burial and resurrection.

“Christ died for our sins...He was buried... and that He rose again...”
- I Corinthians 15:3-4

2. It illustrates my New Life as a Christian.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. - II Corinthians 5:17

Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you already believe.

Baptism does not “save” you; only your faith in Christ gives you salvation.

Baptism is like a wedding ring; it is the outward symbol of the commitment that you made in your heart. “For by grace you are saved through faith.”

– Ephesians 2:8

Question: What are the modes of Baptism?

We baptize by **Sprinkling**, **Pouring** and **Immersion**.

As an individual believer, you determine which mode of baptism you will choose.

Question: When should you be baptized?

As soon as you have **Believed in Christ**.

“Then they that gladly received His Word were baptized...the same day...”

– Acts 2:41.

When an individual who has previously been baptized as an infant or has been baptized in another evangelical church, unites with our church it is not necessary that she or she be baptized again. However, it is important that one understands and agrees to the promise contained in the **Baptism **Covenant**.**

Section V--The Apostles' Creed

1. I believe...

We start believing when we come to an **Intelligent** conclusion that something is true.

2. in God...

When we walk about belief in God, we are not just saying we believe that He **Exist**. – Hebrews 11:6

3. the Father...

In the Old Testament, the idea of God as Father is related to His identity as **Creator**. – Malachi 2:10

4. Almighty...

God's majesty [almightiness] is evident in creation, Providence, and grace. – Psalm 91:1-2

5. Maker of heaven and earth...

Contrary to the theory of evolution, we believe that God made Everything. – Genesis 1:1

6. and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord...

Belief in God means nothing if you do not believe that Jesus is His Son and that you make Him your Lord. – John 5:17-23.

7. who was conceived by the Holy Ghost...

We believe in the Immaculate [free from sin] Conception
- Luke 1:31-35.

8. born of the Virgin Mary...

We believe that the Virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus.
- Matthew 1:18-25

9. suffered under Pontius Pilate...

It was Pilate who sentenced Jesus to be Crucified.
- Mark 15: 6-15

10. was crucified, dead, and buried.

Roman soldiers crucified Jesus. – Matthew 27:27-31.

He died Willingly. – Matthew 27:27-50.

His body was placed in a Tomb. – Matthew 27:57-60.

11. The third day He arose from the dead.

Jesus Arose from the dead just as He said that He would.
- Luke 24:46.

12. He ascended into heaven...

Jesus was seen rising up into the Clouds. – Acts 1:9

13. and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty...

Jesus is on the right of God because it is a position of Authority. – Mark 16:19

14. from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead...

Jesus will return to judge the Living and Dead - II Timothy 4:1

15. I believe in the Holy Ghost...

The Holy Ghost is a Helper. I John 1:9

16. the Holy Catholic Church...

Catholic means Universal all believers everywhere, **the church universal, God's church**. – Galatians 3:26-28.

17. the communion of saints...

Communion means Fellowship. – Acts 2:44

18. the forgiveness of sins...

If we Confess our sins, God will forgive us. I John 1:9

19. the resurrection of the body...

The body and the soul will be resurrected for Judgement. – I Corinthians 15:13-42.

20. and the life everlasting.

Believe and Have everlasting life. – John 3:16

Section VI--The Articles of Religion **A Historic Declaration of What We Believe**

1. Of Faith in the Holy Trinity

There is **One** _____ God in **Three** _____ persons.
– Jeremiah 10:10-12; I John 5:7

2. Of the Word, or Son, who was made Very Man

Jesus was **Human** _____ and **Divine** _____. – John 1:1-14

3. Of the Resurrection of Christ

Jesus **Arose** _____ from the dead. – Romans 8:34

4. Of the Holy Ghost

The Holy Ghost is **God** _____. – I Corinthians 2:11, 3:16

5. The Sufficiency of the Holy Scripture for Salvation

The **Holy** _____ **Bible** _____ contains all that is necessary for eternal life. – II Timothy 3:16-17.

6. Of the Old Testament

The Old Testament contains **Ceremonial** _____, **Civil** _____, and **Moral** _____ Laws. – Leviticus 1:1-13; Deuteronomy 24:10-11; Exodus 20:17

7. Of Original or Birth Sin

Man is born **Sinful** _____. – Romans 5:12-14

8. Of Free Will

Man **Cannot** _____ choose God for himself. – John 6:44

9. Of the Justification of Man

Man is considered just only by **Faith** _____ in Jesus Christ. – Galatians 2:16.

10. Of Good Works

Good works cannot Save, but those who are saved will do good works. – James 2:17-18

11. Of Words of Supererogation

There is no such thing as Above and Beyond when working for God. – Luke 17:10.

12. Of Sin after Justification

Believers commit sin; but they do not Practice sin.
– Romans 7:23-25

13. Of the Church

The local church is a group of Believers who assemble for worship, fellowship, training and ministry. – Acts 2:42-47

14. Of Purgatory

There is no place where one goes and can be rescued after Death.
– Luke 16:22-23, 23:43

15. Of Speaking in the Congregation in such a Tongue as the People Understand

One should not Pray or administer the Sacraments in an unknown language without interpretation. – I Corinthians 14:27-28

16. Of the Sacraments

We observe only two Sacraments: Baptism and Lord's Supper in which Jesus participated. – Mark 1:9; Matthew 26:26-27

17. Of Baptism

All who are Converted should be baptized. – Matthew 28:19

18. Of the Lord's Supper

We believe the Bread and Wine are only symbols. – I Corinthians 11:24-26

19. Of Both Kinds

Ministers and Laity have a right to partake of both elements.
– I Corinthians 11:28

20. Of the One Obligation of Christ Finished Upon the Cross

Jesus' death Abolished the need for ritualistic sacrifice. – Hebrews 7:27.

21. Of the Marriage of Ministers

Ministers in the A.M.E. Zion Church are Free to marry. – I Corinthians 7:7-9

22. Of the Rites and Ceremonies of Churches

Diversity in observing rites and ceremonies is permitted; however, inappropriate behavior should be rebuked. – I Corinthians 14:26

23. Of the Rulers of the United States of America

We must be subject to Governing authorities. – Titus 3:11

24. Of the Christian Men's Goods

Each person has the right to own what he will; but should give to the Poor.
– I John 3:16-17

25. Of Christian Men's Oaths

We should not Swear, rather affirm. – James 5:12

CLASS IV
Section VII – Christian Fellowship
Section VIII – Christian Stewardship
Section IX – Spiritual Gifts
Section X – A Member in Full Connection



1. We are commanded to love one another as **Jesus** _____ loves us. – I John 15:12
2. Love shows the world that we are **Disciples** _____ of Christ. – John 13:35
3. We should **Encourage** _____ one another to love and to continue **Meeting** _____ together. – Hebrew 10:24-25
4. Christians are to be a part of a **Body** _____ of believers; using their **Gifts** _____ to serve others and receiving instruction from God's Word. – John 13:35
5. We are to express the same kind of love for each other that **God** _____ has for the Son, and the Son has for us. – John 15:9
6. Through fellowship we can help each other by sharing personal **Experiences** _____ and **Praying** _____ for one another. – II Timothy 3:10-11
7. Jesus put so much value on **Friendship** _____ that He said friends should be willing even to give their lives for another, if necessary. – John 15:13
8. Friends care enough to **Comfort** _____ one another in love, if necessary. – John 13:35

9. Friends love one another regardless of the Situations they face. - Proverbs 17:17
10. Friends do not Gossip or make hurtful remarks about one another. - James 4:11
11. The first church placed emphasis on teaching, worship, and Fellowship. - Acts 2:42
12. Fellowship was seen in the manner in which they Shared their resources. - Acts 2:44-45
13. The members of the first church also fellowshiped by visiting each other's Homes. - Acts 2:46

Section VIII--Christian Stewardship

1. Giving to God reminds us who He is, who we are, and what our relationship should be to the things He has allowed us to Manage in His name. - Deuteronomy 16:16-17
2. Giving should be an outward material expression of a deep Spiritual commitment. - II Chronicles 31:4-5; Nehemiah 10:37-39
3. Giving should be done with a Grateful heart and an attitude of joy. - II Corinthians 9:7
4. Giving should not be done for the expressed purpose of Receiving something in exchange. - Acts 8:18-20
5. Giving should never be done to Impress others. - Matthew 6:3
6. The value of the gift is not determined by the Amount but by the spirit in which the gift is given. - Mark 12:41-44
7. The tithe, which literally means "Tenth", was first mentioned with regards to Abraham. - Genesis 14:20
8. In addition to the tithe, there are other Offerings mentioned in the Old Testament. - Deuteronomy 14:22-29
9. The Church at Macedonia actually Begged for the opportunity to give. - II Corinthians 8:1-4

10. Failure to tithe is equated with stealing from God_____.

- Malachi 3:8

Remember it is our duty to give based on the Biblical doctrines of giving. However, we at Simon Temple will not judge, we teach principles of giving. If you choose not to give you are accountable to God.

Brothers and Sister in Christ,

We, as the Pastor and members of Simon Temple, have always and will always be governed by the Word of God. We are willing and cheerful givers to the Kingdom of God as we serve as members of the body of Christ. We understand the Spiritual principal of giving not receiving, but to be obedient to the Word of God. Malachi 3:8-10 says: ***Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.***

Tithing has and will be a Spiritual principal we will follow as members of the Kingdom as well as the Body of Christ! As your Pastor I ask you to look closely at the scripture of Malachi 3, it says tithes and offerings. An offering is over and above a tithe and is included within the spiritual principal of giving; therefore I am asking each member to stand with me and sow in the kingdom through the following offerings:

a. Ministry of Kindness

This is an offering received by the church weekly to distribute to those who find themselves less fortunate, those in hardship situations, to the hungry, homeless and the sick. This is a spiritual mandate by God which we follow at the Temple. The Bible says in **1 John 3:17** - ***But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?***

b. Kingdom Support

In the past we received General Claims and Quarterly Conference funds. We will no longer receive General Claims or Quarterly Conference funds. You must understand that we are a part of a Connectional Church which means that even though we are one church "Simon Temple" in Fayetteville, NC, we stand with our Brothers and Sisters in AME Zion Churches all over the world which makes us a Kingdom Connection.

The Bible says, we are many parts, but **one** Body. In our Kingdom connection of churches we elect national leaders such as Director of Evangelism who represent and support the work of the whole AME Zion Church. We have a national publishing house which produces our Sunday School literature and our Connectional newspaper called The Star of Zion. We have many colleges and universities such as Livingston College, Salisbury, NC; Hood Theological, Salisbury, NC; Lomax-Hannon College, Greenville, AL; Clinton Junior College, Rock Hill, SC; AME Zion University in Monrovia, Liberia, Africa and many more that are owned and operated by the AME Zion Church. We also have mission churches and field mission workers deployed all over the world to include Africa, St Croix, and India, who do the work of the Lord. Each AME Zion church is asked to make a contribution to help support these efforts as well as many others that we might see God's will fulfilled on earth as it is in Heaven; therefore I ask every adult member to support by giving an offering of \$50.00 yearly, youth ages 13-18 \$15.00 yearly and (ages 18-25) if you are single and in college, that we might through our giving further the work of Christ. The Bible says in ***Romans 15:1*** - ***We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.***

Section IX--Spiritual Gifts



As a new member you will likely be asked to participate in one or more of the Church's ministries. It is important to understand that one can only be effective when working in a ministry for which he/she has been gifted and called by God to be involved. This lesson is designed to help you identify your gift(s) so that you may participate in an appropriate ministry.

1. A spiritual gift is a Skill or an Ability that enables each Christian to perform a function in the body of Christ with ease and effectiveness.
2. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to all Christians.
- I Corinthians 12:7-11
3. Spiritual gifts are listed in the following passages:
 - I Corinthians 12:8-10
 - I Corinthians 12:28-30
 - Romans 12:6-8
 - Ephesians 4:11
 - I Peter 4:11

You are eligible to work in the church on voluntary boards and clubs upon completion of your new member's class.

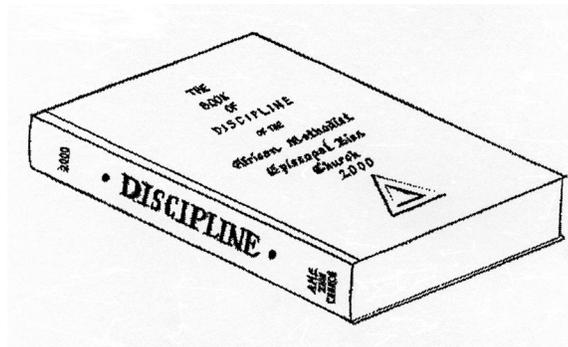
Listing of the Spiritual Gifts:

Teaching Helping
Prophecy Administration
Service Mercy Leadership
Encouragement Faith Giving
Evangelism

Match the gift with the appropriate description:

1. The gift of Administration; one who accepts the goals others have set and works to help the group reach those goals.
2. The gift of Encouragement; the ability to help (inspire, motivate by words or deeds) other Christians to live out their faith in practical ways.
3. The gift of Evangelism; the desire and ability to present the news about death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ to unbelievers so that God's spirit can move in their hearts, resulting in their acceptance of Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.
4. The gift of Faith; the ability to be certain that God is going to act (is acting) even when there is no concrete or visible evidence.
5. The gift of Giving; the special concern for the financial and material needs of others, especially Christians, which is expressed through generous and timely contributions.
6. The gift of Helping; the ability to support others with regular and willing assistance in the *little* often overlooked, but important things.
7. The gift of Leadership; the ability to lead members of the group with foresight and to care for their spiritual needs, as well as maintaining order in meetings and the accomplishment of tasks.
8. The gift of Mercy; the ability to sympathize with hurting people. People with this gift translate their sympathy into cheerful actions and expressions.
9. The gift of Service; the ability to sense the material and emotional needs of others and the willingness to meet those needs in the best interest of the people.
10. The gift of Teaching; the ability to explain knowledge, especially knowledge of the truth, to others so that they better understand what they believe concerning beliefs and actions.
11. The gift of Prophecy; the ability to speak the Word of God in application to individual situations, exposing evil and bringing words of hope and comfort.

Section X--A Member in Full Connection
of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church



Any member in full connection is not to move from one AME Zion Church to another without a certificate of transfer. If a member does not keep up the financial obligations his/her name shall be stricken from the roll placed on Probation and dropped after due process.

Each member must:

Attend unto the means of grace. (Attend church and give to the support of the church on a regular basis.)

Live the good life and not sow seeds of discord.

Keep the Church Law (follow the Discipline).

Uphold and live its Doctrines. (Our rules in accordance with the Bible.)

Do good to all people including self-body and soul.

Support the Church in every way including wills, bequeathments.

Be loyal to God and to your local church.

Beware of joining too many organizations. Join what you can reasonably support well.

Be an effective member, not a defective one.

Always try to better yourself with learning my attending the various leadership training schools and institutes.

When assigned a task, do it. Stick with it. This is your duty.

Congratulations! After you have completed your four (4) classes, your mission of service, and upon the recommendation of your Pastor and Class Leader, you will be given the opportunity to become a full member of our church. You not only become a member of the local church, you also become a member of the larger body of the church known as the A.M.E. Zion Connection. As a member in full connection, you will enjoy all the rights and privileges of such membership. In order to experience the full benefits of this great church, you are strongly encouraged to participate at all levels of the church – local, district, and conference, Episcopal and connectional.

Complete the following statements:

My Episcopal Area: Eastern North Carolina _____ _Episcopal District

My Bishop Kenneth Monroe _____ Right Reverend, Presiding Prelate

My Conference Central North Carolina _____ Annual Conference

My District Fayetteville _____ District

My Presiding Elder Joseph C. Brown Sr. _____ Presiding Elder

My Local Church Simon Temple _____ A.M.E. Zion Church

My Pastor Rev. Brian R. Thompson, Sr. _____ Pastor

My Class Number _____ Class #

My Class Leader _____ Class Leader's Name

Your Signature _____

Date _____

How to stay connected with us:



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www.twitter.com/brianandfelica



Instagram---RevFelicaT

Text Simon Temple (in the message box) to 90210 (sender box) to receive messages from Pastor.

Text FTBM (in the message box) to 90210 (sender box) to receive messages from First Lady.