



THE METHODIST CHURCH GHANA NORTH AMERICA DIOCESE

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2024 Theme: Discipleship: Growing into Christian Maturity

Ephesians 4:15

North America Diocese
Methodist Church, Ghana
**Bishop's Message on the 1st Anniversary of the
Inauguration of the Diocese**

January 21st 2024

Beloved in the Lord,

On the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the Inauguration on Jan 15th 2023 of the North America Diocese of the Methodist Church Ghana it gives me great joy to salute you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Praise and Thanksgiving to God

God has truly been gracious towards us granting us to see His goodness and mercy throughout this year. In the face of church decline within the church universal, especially in the western world, it has pleased God to grant us to experience both growth and vibrancy within our church in this North America region. From Los Angeles, Chicago, Norfolk, through Sydney, Australia, all within our Diocese, new churches have been planted, small member “nursery” churches have been strengthened, ministers are being stationed in new church locations, and there is a sense of revival and expectancy throughout our Diocese which is exciting to witness. For all these signs we give God praise and thanks. The theme for the new church year which commenced in Oct 2023 is “Discipleship: Growing into Christian Maturity”. The growth is on. God is at work among us presenting us all, through the means of grace, with all that we need to grow and be strengthened numerically as well as spiritually.

A year of God's Blessing

We entered this year with a message of blessedness. **2024 is a year of God's blessing and favor.** God has commanded a blessing on the year. To experience the blessing of God we have recognized three conditions - the O A U of God's favor. O = **Obedience**. In Deut. 28: 2, God declares, “All these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.”

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A = Attitude. In Matt 5, Jesus announces the blessedness of humility, hunger for righteousness, mercifulness, peacemaking and purity of heart. Having the right attitude to life brings us blessing.

U = Unity. In Ps 133 God commands His blessing on spaces where “brethren dwell in unity”.

Our watchwords for this year are Obedience, Attitude and Unity. In all our societies and circuits, among all our organizations and members, let us be obedient to the word of the Lord which comes to us from the scriptures as well as through the leadership of the church. Let us grow in the “beatitudes” Jesus taught us. Above all let us be united as one body of “people called Methodist” to help each other live for the glory of God and the blessing of God’s people.

Infrastructural Development CAPITAL (IDC) Fund

Today we re-launch our Diocesan Development Fund with the new designation of “Infrastructural Development CAPITAL Fund”. Our target is \$1m.

We are raising \$1m so that as a diocese we can provide revolving soft loans to societies for capital expenditures such as the acquisition of church buildings, and manses; remodeling, and purchase of organ/piano/musical instruments .

We are raising \$1m for evangelism for the payment of rent for newly planted societies, stipends for ministers, missionaries, caretakers and evangelists, educational and promotional materials and all other expenses related to church planting.

We are raising \$1m to enable us to fulfill our Christian mandate of reaching out to the world.

Let us all give generously. Let us go outside the church and invite donors from all walks of life to give us funds to purchase church buildings, provide educational, social, and health facilities, and for youth empowerment and growth. Let us go out into the world and bring people to Christ and Christ to all people.

May the 2nd year of our existence as a Diocese see accelerated growth and strengthening of us all in faith. May our witness for Christ be impactful and enduring.

May God truly and richly bless us all this year and forever.



Rt. Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Y. Lartey
Bishop