

**Bishop's Address at the 2015 Annual Conferences
Fifth Episcopal District, Bishop Teresa Elaine Snorton**

"The Local Church: Reclaiming Its Legacy and Its Future"

Acts 2: 42-47

ANALYSIS – IS my church sick?

Signs of an unhealthy church, according to Thom Rainer, include:

1. Declining worship attendance
2. Decline in frequency of attendance of church members
3. Lack of joy and vibrancy in the worship service
4. Little evangelistic fruit
5. Low community impact
6. More meetings than ministry
7. Acrimonious business meetings
8. Very few guests in worship services
9. Worship wars over style of music, order of service or other details
10. Unrealistic expectation of pastoral care

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| 1 to 2 symptoms | Normal for most churches for a short period of time. |
| 3 to 4 symptoms | The church is sick and needs immediate attention. |
| 5 to 6 symptoms | The church is very sick and in danger of terminal illness. |
| 7 to 10 symptoms | The church is in danger of dying in the next 5-10 years. |

ACTION FOR THE LOCAL CONGREGATION (#1-5) and FOR LEADERSHIP (#6,7)

1. Study our CME HISTORY during the month of December (Founder's Day) of February (Black History Month). A great summary is at <http://www.thecmechurch.org/history.htm>.
2. Establish PRAYER as a priority. The Lay Ministry departments are asked to take leadership in praying during Sunday Worship Services. Each church is asked to have a weekly prayer service, or if that is not practical at least once a month. Each congregation is asked to designate a time and day of the week when all members will stop and pray.
3. Set goals for EVANGELISM. You should bring in one new member for every 20 active members each year.
4. Practice Love and Forgiveness. Try these first before contacting the Presiding Elder or Bishop.
5. Speak Positive about your church!!!! Send GOOD NEWS to Bishop Snorton by email at ilovemycmechurch@gmail.com.
6. Bishop Snorton will visit each Presiding Elder's District for training for the pastors/ministers and a fellowship lunch with the pastors and laity.
7. Bishop Snorton and the Presiding Elders will evaluate each pastor annually.