



On 2nd THOUGHT

SECOND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2018

SECOND EPISCOPAL
DISTRICT CHURCHES
POSITIONING
FOR ASTOUNDING
GROWTH



*Pastors embrace mirroring
process: Lay members lead
congregational dialogues*

James Levert Davis and Arelis Beevers Davis, Servant Leaders
The Second Episcopal District
of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
www.ame2.com

SECOND DISTRICT CHURCHES

POSITIONING FOR ASTOUNDING GROWTH

Pastors embrace mirroring process
Lay members lead congregational dialogues



Something revolutionary occurred in the Second Episcopal District. Churches from Maryland to the District of Columbia, to Virginia to North Carolina decided to move from mediocre to good, from good to great, and from great to awesome. Their paths forward required them to engage in the mirroring process. Mirroring represents an opportunity for congregations to reflect inwardly. It assesses where the church has been, where it is now, and where it will

be in the future. Through dialogue representative churches gain information. Starting from positives and drilling down to areas needing improvement these discussions reveal what the church does well and areas where it church could do better.

Mirroring began last year with the initial data collection. The Lay Organization Presidents of each Annual Conference coordinated collection of demographic information. This county and city data (available upon request) provides a detailed description of each church's community. For congregations desiring more specifics zip code demography they can go to: <https://www.census.gov/en.html> or <http://www.city-data.com>.

frequently asked questions

What's the benefit of mirroring?

It's a powerful assessment tool that sets a course for future growth and success

Why engage in mirroring?

Just as performance evaluations help corporations improve the bottom line and annual physicals promote maximal health—mirroring will help churches flourish.

Who participates in the dialogue?

Everybody—all voices are equally important

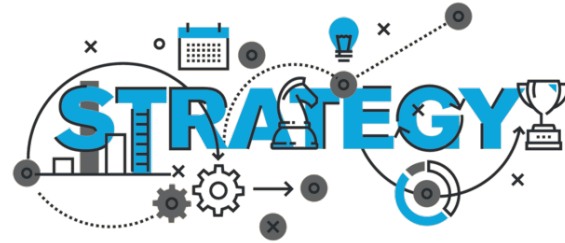
- Lifelong members provide historical look
- New members share fresh perspective
- Children tell their stories
- Youths are heard
- Young adults give their view

When does the local church process start?

Now

When does the local church process end?

All reports are due September 2018



What happens after we complete and submit our reports?

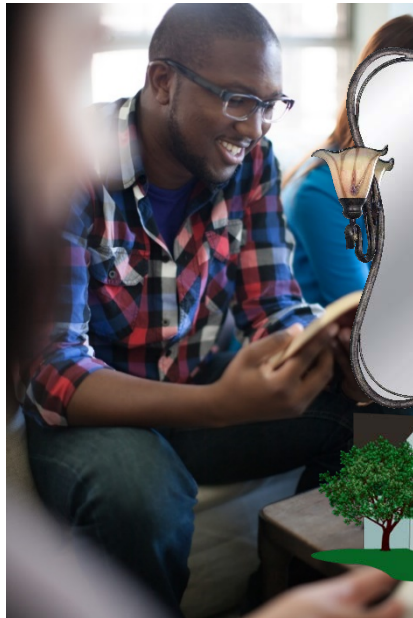
The local church should develop a path forward. This should include strategies for growth in each area:

The Second District Committee will read them and combine them into one report for each Annual Conference. This committee will provide a list of best practices and recommendations at the Winter Gathering in February 2019.

Where can I get help with implementation?

Feel free to ask your Annual Conference Lay President or send an email to:

MIRRORING SKIT:



Sister Need to Know: What exactly is this mirroring project?

Brother Skeptical: I heard the mirroring project is a way to close churches

Sister Bottom Line: Why are we doing the mirror project what are the benefits? Is this just another waste of time meeting?

Brother It's a Lot of Work: What is the Pastor's role, what do the officers have to do? How about the members what do they? Will our children be included? What about our young adults—that is the few we have left?

Brother Got-it: Wait a minute, let's see if I can answer some of your questions. First, let me say that everyone needs to be involved. (Holding up a book) – Have you read this book *Autopsy of a Dead Church*. This book was introduced to us at last year's Summer Summit. We say fewer people come to church, our pews are empty, it's hard to attract young people, the building needs attention, and offerings are stagnant. Do we want to be like some of the churches in this book that stood by and did nothing? Or do you think we should come up with a plan, so our church will thrive? This is not about the Pastor, it's about our church's future.



Sister Onboard: (Holds up a mirror) What do you see . . . look again . . . we are the church . . . The Mirroring Ministry asks us, the church, to look at how ministry happens and how we assess the effectiveness of what we do. For example: The church bazaar and auction served well as a fellowship event and fundraiser in past decades. But you know for yourself how discouraging it was last time. Very few people came, and we did not raise the funds anticipated. Now

the bazaar has turned into more work and it's no longer fun. Why do we keep doing it—do we have any expectation at all? Did we increase membership, raise much needed funds? Did we have any goals, or do we have it because we have always held an annual bazaar?

Brother Skeptical: Oh, I see. The Mirroring Project allows us to look at ourselves and to evaluate what we see. Mirroring allows us to assess what our church is doing, whether it makes a difference and what we can do to make our church better. It will probably help us learn from our past, so we can have a better future.

Sister Bottom Line: Hand me that mirror. We have got to get started. I work too hard to be at another church outreach event and nobody is there but us.

MIRRORING QUICK START UP GUIDE

READY: PRAY, watch the video, read the materials, review the questions

SET: Pastor select a team, **GET EXCITED** about the assessment—look around the church, the community, the congregation—**THINK** about the best way to involve as many members as possible

GO: PARTICPATE in the discussion—speak the truth **IN LOVE**



COMPILING YOUR MIRRORING REPORT

Below is a suggested method to capture thoughts and opinions from the dialogues:

- Read the responses
- Give an objective rating based upon the dialogues (use table at end of question section)

Name of Assessment Area e.g. Evangelism	5-Excellent	4- Good	3-Adequate	2-Critical	1-Life Support

- Provide written summary to support the ratings
- Share findings with the congregation
- Devise strategies for each area (evangelism, accessions, spiritual growth, financial, past – present – future)



NEXT STEPS— SHARING, CELEBRATING, TRANSFORMING

A full mirroring report designed to paint a picture of the status of churches in the Second District will be shared at **WINTER GATHERING 2019**. This report will be disseminated in various formats. Types of copies include:

- Written full report
- Sub-reports (local church, geographic area, or Presiding Elder District)
- Posters
- Newsletter
- Website download
- Marketing materials

We will identify and share the best practices and ways to implement recommendations. As we move forward we will see Acts 16:5 become a reality in the Second District: “So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.”



Mirroring Process Flow Chart

