

2025 FOUNDER'S DAY ESSAY, POSTER & MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION CONTEST



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Right Reverend Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., Presiding Bishop

The Rev. Lashonna Smith, Chairperson † The Rev. Jay B. Broadnax, Executive Director

GENERAL GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY: THE PARTICIPANT MUST BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF HIS/HER LOCAL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. THE WRITING /ESSAY CONTEST IS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS, GRADES SIX TO TWELVE. THE MULTIMEDIA CONTEST IS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS, GRADES ONE TO TWELVE. THE POSTER CONTEST IS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS GRADES ONE TO TWELVE.

ESSAY /POSTER/ MULTIMEDIA CONTEST THEMES

SELECT ONE (1) TOPIC FROM THE LIST BELOW:

A . GOD, YOU, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI), AND INTEGRITY

Artificial Intelligence has been proven to increase productivity, move technology faster than we can imagine, and help us in just about every aspect of our lives. Can AI replace the inspiration that can only come from our Creator? Some youth may use AI on the computer to do their assignments. How does your faith influence the way you approach your school work? What are the pros and cons of AI in shaping Christian thoughts and practices, and the way we work?

B. CAN YOUR FAITH HELP YOU TO HAVE A PEACEFUL CONVERSATION WITH PEOPLE WHOSE IDEAS YOU DISAGREE WITH? IF SO, WHY?

We are living in a society with ever deepening divides in the way that people see the world. Even people of the same religion and in some places, in the same congregation, or the same family see the world radically differently, so much so that the temptation is to demonize people and see them as threats. Can your faith help you to have a civil, respectful conversation with someone whose ideas you deeply disagree with? If so, how?

C. WHAT ARE SOME CHALLENGES YOU HAVE FACED WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS? HOW CAN YOU OVERCOME THOSE CHALLENGES WITH GOD'S HELP?

As followers of Christ, we sometimes face many challenges. Consider difficult problems you may have, for example, loss of loved one, anger from betrayal, or various disappointments. Discuss the ways that you can overcome such challenges with God's help. Explain what you can do to accept the challenges and not let them rule your life.

D. WHAT ROLE DOES FORGIVENESS PLAY IN YOUR LIFE?

Explain how you define forgiveness. Give examples of how you forgive people and let go of past grudges, anguish, bitterness, etc. of those who hurt you.

E. BUILDING BLOCKS – USE THIS CATEGORY FOR THE MULTIMEDIA CONTEST ONLY!

To encourage all learning styles, use Legos, popsicle sticks, cookie art, or puzzles to create a piece that shows what you have learned about Richard Allen. Make a video and submit it.

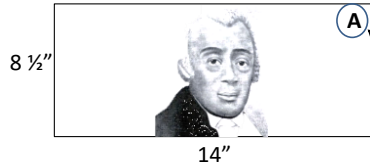
RULES FOR THE ESSAY CONTEST

1. Select one topic. Develop the topic based on the selected theme.
PLEASE BE SURE TO GIVE YOUR ESSAY A TITLE, AND PUT THE LETTER OF THE TOPIC THAT YOU HAVE SELECTED AT THE TOP OF EACH PAGE.
2. DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON ANY OF THE ESSAY PAGES.
3. The essay submitted should be between 850 and 1000 words for ninth to twelfth graders and between 650 and 800 words for sixth to eighth graders. Include the word count total on the bottom of the final page.
4. The essay must be typed double-spaced on 8 ½" x 11" pages with 1-inch margins.
5. The essay should be submitted as a Microsoft Word document. No PDF documents.
6. The acceptable essay font styles are, Times New Roman, Calibri, and Arial (All font size must be 12 pt).
7. Official Entry Form must be completed and included.
8. Completed essays must be emailed to 1stDistrict.AME.CE@gmail.com by the Presiding Elder District Christian Education Director, who must CC the Conference Director.
9. Use at least two references. Include a Bibliography.
10. Essays will be judged on the basis of knowledge and analysis of the subject, originality of ideas, development of the topic based on the selected theme, clarity of expression, organization and grammar.
11. Each grade will have a first, second and third place winner.
12. For help with writing the essay search for the following online: "The Beginner's Guide to Writing an Essay/Steps & Examples."

POSTER CONTEST

SELECT ONE (1) TOPIC FROM THE TOPIC LIST ON PAGE ONE.

WRITE THE LETTER OF YOUR TOPIC IN A CIRCLE AND PLACE IN THE UPPER RIGHT CORNER.



Also put the topic letter on the entry form below. e.g., My entry is a poster. Topic: A (See attached entry form example.)

Place topic **Letter** in upper right hand corner.

RULES FOR POSTER CONTEST:

1. Entries will be judged according to the following grade levels: grades 1 – 3; grades 4 – 6; grades 7 – 8; grades 9 – 10; grades 11 – 12.
2. The poster board size must measure 8.5" x 14" (legal size cardstock) exactly. Any of the following mediums may be used: magic markers, crayons or colored pencils.
3. **COLLAGES & CUT-OUTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**
4. The Official Entry Form must be included.
5. It is preferred that the poster is scanned and emailed to 1stDistrict.AME.CE@gmail.com by the Presiding Elder District Christian Education Director, and CC the Conference Director.

MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION CONTEST

SELECT ONE (1) TOPIC FROM THE MAIN TOPIC LIST GIVEN ON THE FIRST PAGE:

Also put the topic letter on the entry form. (See the attached Entry Form example.)

- A. Create a video, using your iPad, Smartphone, or video camera, of any one of the topics on page one.
- B. The presentation should contain action, animation and sound.

RULES FOR MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION CONTEST

1. Participants (individuals or groups) may develop a presentation of the topic by creating one of the following:
 - A skit, a pass-off (passing the speech, song, spoken word, declaration statement of several persons ending in unison).
 - A liturgical dance.
 - A litany - a responsive reading in which the congregation's response is the same, even though the lines spoken by the leader changes.
 - A tag team presentation - A script where one person starts the topic and then tags the next speakers until the end of the script.
2. Make sure your video file is named *firstname_lastname_conferencename.mov* (or *.mpeg* or *.mp4* or *.wave* or whatever video file format you are using). For example:
jay_broadnax_philadelphia.wmv.

3. Record the video. The Presiding Elder District Christian Education Director will then click the following google drive link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t_f7OgrUU-06JH81qmV7AvMQ9z2DQsN4?usp=sharing
Copy and paste the file to the google drive. CC the Conference Director.
4. Time limit for the multimedia presentation is three (3) minutes.
5. Participants / Local Directors may contact the Conference Chair/Director or Conference designee for resolution of any problems or questions regarding the instructions or upload procedure. Conference Level leaders may contact Rev. Jay Broadnax for answers.

JUDGING:

JUDGING: Judging will be done by a committee of the First Episcopal District Board of Christian Education.

The winners of the seven (7) best essay-entries, one from each grade, (grades six to twelve) will read his/her essay for the Founder's Day Observance on February 8, 2025.

The First, Second and Third Place winners' posters and videos will be presented at the 2025 Founder's Day Observance. The presentation method will be decided at a later time.

The First Place Essay winners' essays will be submitted to *The Christian Recorder* to be considered for publication.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EACH CONFERENCE CHAIR AND/OR DIRECTOR INFORM THE PARTICIPANTS TO SUBMIT HIS/HER APPLICATION/ENTRY FORM AND COMPLETED CONTEST ENTRY TO THE PRESIDING ELDER DISTRICT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR (OR DESIGNATED PERSON). ALL ORIGINAL ENTRIES (ESSAYS, MULTIMEDIA VIDEOS AND POSTERS) MUST ALSO BE SUBMITTED TO BOTH THE FOUNDER'S DAY COMMITTEE BY THE PRESIDING ELDER DISTRICT DIRECTOR. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN **DECEMBER 13, 2024**. NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE.

FOUNDER'S DAY CONTEST COMMITTEE

ANNETTE WEBB, CONTEST COORDINATOR

REVEREND JAY B. BROADNAX

REVEREND DIANA L. CLARK, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

SISTER SHARON CARMICHAEL

DR. GLENN BASCOME

THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2025 FOUNDER'S DAY ESSAY, POSTER, AND MULTIMEDIA CONTEST

2025 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

★ PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ONLY! ★

NAME _____ AGE _____ GRADE _____

ADDRESS _____ APT # _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE (H) _____ CELLULAR _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PARENT(S) _____

CHURCH _____ CONFERENCE _____

CHURCH ADDRESS _____

PASTOR'S NAME _____

PRESIDING ELDER _____

ENTRY SUBMITTED _____ ESSAY _____ POSTER _____ MULTIMEDIA _____

Please check each statement below, sign and have your Christian Education Presiding Elder District Director or your Conference Christian Education Director/Chair sign:

B _____ My entry is an original Essay & is between 800 and 1,000 words in
Topic Letter: length. (GRADES 9 – 12); between 600 and 800 (GRADES 6 – 8).

D _____ My entry is an original poster and the measurement is 8.5" x 14".
Topic Letter: _____

A _____ My original multimedia is no longer than three minutes.
Topic Letter: _____

_____ My entry becomes the property of the Christian Education Department of the First Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Church and may be published in the official documents of the above organization.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Participant

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Parent

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Conference Christian Education Director or Chair