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Black Episcopalians

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The Union of Black Episcopalians

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**41st Annual Meeting and Conference
June 21-June 25, 2009**

**Hilton Hotel Silver Spring
Washington, D.C.**

National UBE Board Sets 2008-2009 Projects and Priorities

National UBE Board Members attending the Black Ministries Conference held in New Orleans, October 19 - 23 took time out to meet to set priorities and establish five Self-Directed Ministry Teams to execute the strategy and be responsible for the projects.

Under the theme of "Equipping Servant Leaders for the 21st Century Church" the Board will focus on the UBE Mission of Education, Preparation and Advocacy during the coming year with projects that will include:

- Co-locate the National UBE Project Office in the nation's capitol at the new Bishop John T. Walker International Learning Center (the Walker Center.)
- Provide resources for Congregational Leadership Development and Fund Raising support through the "Partners in Mission" collaborative with The Episcopal Church Foundation.
- Work with the Washington and Maryland UBE Chapters to host the 41st Annual Meeting and Conference in Washington, D.C. June 21-25, 2009.
- Provide infrastructure and support to assure an organized presence at the 2009 General Convention and co-sponsor the "New Community Celebration", in collaboration with other Ethnic and Social Justice Groups in the Episcopal Church July 8-17, 2009, Anaheim, California.
- Conduct a comprehensive membership drive.
- Implement the 2008 year-end and 2009 "Partners in Mission Heritage Fund Drive."



UBE National President, The Very Rev. Dr. C. David Williams (right) poses with past UBE Presidents during the Black Ministries Conference in New Orleans. L-R: Mrs. Judy Conley, The Rev. Dr. Richard Tolliver, The Rev. Darryl James, The Rev. Dr. Sandye Wilson, The Rev. Canon Nelson Pinder, President Williams.

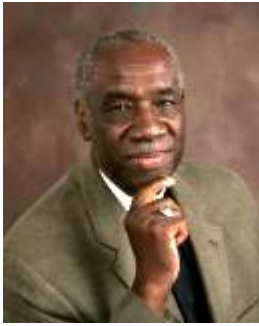
Responsibility for the planning, execution and monitoring of the projects and priorities will be carried out by Self-Directed Ministry Teams. The teams are accountable to the National Board and General membership. Project descriptions, team members, measures of completion and projected completion dates will be posted on a projects management page on the UBE web site, www.UBE.org.

The Self-Directed Ministry Teams are:

- Membership
- Communication
- Finance and Administration
- Fund Development
- Annual Meeting and Conference



The Union of Black Episcopalians



To the faithful elect in Advent, Greetings in Jesus name,

I have looked into scripture to find a word from God to share with you this Advent. The word that comes to me is from 1st Samuel: chap. 23. It is about David (who is an Advent creature, in light of the birth of Jesus Christ) and his heroic flight from the tyrannies of King Saul: "David therefore departed thence and escaped to the cave Adul'lam and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him, and he became a captain over them, and there were with him about four hundred persons".

If I had sufficient prophetic powers, as it has been said, I'd say that it all sounds a bit like UBE's story...uprooted and planted in the twenty first century! For truly the forces of inadequate funds, low attendance on Sunday morning, lack of participation in our worship and program life, and a low level of trust in our leadership are the tyrannies of the day which keep us from achieving that perfect life in Christ that is ours. It's almost as if Saul were still alive and chasing David!

I have spent a most eventful year as your National President. I have been privileged to be present for several Regional Conferences and to a few Chapter events. I have been warmly embraced and received at those functions. I presided over my first UBE Conference and am preparing for the second which will, by God's grace, take place in Washington DC. I watch prayerfully as the faithful turn out for every event...but I take note that the attendance is not as great as it used to be.

I do not overlook the fact that some of our constituency are still waiting...waiting to see what will come of this new administration. Let me say that the Board has not been idle! We meet in the form of a conference call every month (the Executive Committee meet the week before the end of the month). At these meetings, we have prepared vital legislation for the Conference's approval (we have a new 501(C)3 and a new official address for UBE at the Bishop John Walker Center at our Nation's Capitol, Washington D.C. We are working with The Reverends Angela Ifill and Jayne Oasin to further their good ministries among us. The Board has established written priorities for total inclusiveness of all who wish to make UBE a resource for reconciliation within the Episcopal Church. We have the goodwill and the cooperation of several Black Bishops and many Clergy who want us to succeed in our ministry...which still is dedicated to uplifting Black People and eradicating racism within the Church and in the Community...which gives thanks to God for the apology recently given by our Presiding Bishop on behalf of the Episcopal Church for its participation in the wrongs and ills of slavery, and for her willingness to have ongoing talks with us about ways to make that apology real in significant ways.

I am not living in a cave, when it comes to supporting the people of God...I am among the people, if not always out in front! My greatest hope is in a greater trust in the UBE Leadership, and in the continued cooperation that we are presently experiencing from the Body.

We are not running from Saul, but rather, we are coming towards the clear light of incarnation...the enfleshment of ideas and hopes that now engulf this nation...a nation which has elected its first African American President.

My prayer for us all at this ADVENT is that we will be one UNION...living into One Hope and One Dream that this UBE concept will live on as an instrument of reconciliation to God, to each other and sustain the lives of our children, and our children's children.

The Very Rev. Dr. C. David Williams
National President/UBE

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Grace Church, Jamaica, NY
Hartford, CT
The Bishop James Holly
Chapter, Western NY

New York City
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New Haven, CT

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Minneapolis/St. Paul

St. Louis MO
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The Rev. M. Bartlette Cochran
Memorial - Dayton, OH
Wilma Ruth Combs
- Northern OH

Interest Groups

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Bishop Theodore Demby
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Triad-Piedmont, Greensboro, NC
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Dallas Metroplex, TX
Delray Beach, FL
John D. Epps -Houston, TX
The Good Shepherd
Chapter, Mobile, AL

Interest Groups

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North Carolina

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Ms. Dianne A. Smith
5567 Cabrillo Norte
El Sobrante, CA 94803
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dpas0819@yahoo.com

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Los Angeles, CA
Seattle/Puget Sound, WA

Vivian Traylor - Northern CA
Phoenix, AZ
Nevada - Las Vegas
Peter Williams Cassey
San Jose, CA

Interest Groups

Portland, Oregon

Prayers, tears and song mark Episcopal repentance for slavery

By Daphne Mack



Expressing “profound regret that the Episcopal Church lent the institution of slavery its support and justification based on Scripture,” Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori issued a public apology on October 4 at St. Thomas African Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

She went on to state that “after slavery was formally abolished, [the church] continued for at least a century to support de jure and de facto segregation and discrimination.”

The historic gesture of remorse drew hundreds of Episcopalians, both black and white, to the “City of Brotherly Love” October 3-4 for the Day of Repentance — a two-day solemn observance which included presentations that examined racism in the past, present, and future.

“Our coming together shows that this is not an Episcopal problem, nor a Christian problem, but a human problem,” explained the Rev. Jayne Oasin, program officer for Anti-Racism and Gender Equality for the Episcopal Church.

Seventeen bishops participated in the event which welcomed the following ecumenical partners: Baptists, Catholics, Presbyterians, Unitarian Universalist and Christian Methodist.

Through tears Loretto VanGrasstek, 72, of Church of the Ascension in Stillwater, Minnesota, said, “I cried from the moment I sat down to the last song we sang.”

Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, VanGrasstek of Creole and Choctaw descent, said, “It’s overwhelming to hear white people admit the things I’d only heard my grandmother speak of.”

C. David Williams, president of the Union of Black Episcopalians, who Jefferts Schori referred to in her homily, described the day as “sublime.”

“It [the day] was offered to God from hearts and minds of black and white people who had need for this apology and received it,” he said. “But we have a long way to go in making the apology real and I’m pledging myself to it.”

The Episcopal Church will now join other denominations and the Church of England, which in 2006 voted to acknowledge its complicity in the global slave trade.

To read the complete article visit: <http://ube.org/news.html>



UBE Celebrates 40th Anniversary and Honors The Rev. Canon Thomas Logan and the late Rev. Paul M. Washington



Photos by Ed Muse



Nominations for Annual Awards

Each year, four individuals or groups are honored during the annual meeting.

Honorees are selected by the National Board of Directors.

Chapters may nominate persons whom you feel meet the criteria of long term Christian service to UBE, the Church, and the community. Nominees must be members of UBE.

To nominate an individual, send a letter of nomination stating why this person should be honored along with a biographical sketch of the person being nominated. Send your nominations to:

Ms. Alice Webley, National Secretary
3288 Page Ave. #104
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
757-961-8065
yelbew@aol.com

All materials must be submitted by May 30, 2009.

For more information, please contact your Regional Director



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR UBE MEMBERSHIP!

Application for National Membership or Renewal

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Fax _____
Email _____
Parish _____
Diocese _____
Chapter Affiliation _____
Please Charge \$ _____
To my: VISA MasterCard American Express
Credit Card #: _____
Exp. Date: _____
Signature _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

- Individual \$40
- Family \$60
- Retired \$35
- Youth - Under 21 \$25

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

- Individual \$500
Payable in yearly installments
- Church \$1000

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

- Church \$150
- Organizations \$100
- Associate \$40

Please make checks payable and mail to:

UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS LOCATION 0106 • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45264-0106



Chapters!

By May 30, 2009, please submit your

- Annual Chapter Financial Report
- Report of New Chapter Officers
- Membership Transmittal Report

JOIN THE UBE CHATLINE

1. Go to www.UBE.org
2. On the main page, on the left hand panel click [Join UBE Chat](#)
3. Enter your email address to join the UBE Chat Line.
4. Once you enter your email address click [Join](#).



UBE Calendar of Events

Episcopal Urban Caucus

Annual Assembly
February 4-7, 2009
Mobile, Alabama
Contact: Nell Gibson
www.episcopalurbancaucus.org and 212-699-2998

Deputies of Color Orientation Conference

April 17-19, 2009
Anaheim Maingate Hotel
Anaheim, California
Sponsored by:
Ethnic Ministries and the Partnerships Center
Contact: Cynthia Roach (Cindi)
Events and Meetings Planner
(800) 334-7626 Est. 6156 croach@episcopalchurch.org

Western Regional Conference

March 20-22, 2009
Seattle, Washington
Co-Hosted by: Western Region UBE, The Black/African American Commission, Province VIII
Contact: Dianne Smith, Regional Director. 510-463-7910

UBE Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting

April 18-19, 2009
Baltimore, MD
Contact: Joe Overton, Regional Director.
215-313-8086 jovert@aol.com

UBE Southern Regional Meeting

April 17-19, 2009
Jacksonville, Florida
Contact: James Barron, Regional Director.
713-303-7402 barron3242@sbcglobal.net

UBE North East Regional Meeting

April 25, 2009
St. Phillips- McDonaugah St. Church
Brooklyn, New York
Contact: Bert Jones, Regional Director.
973-634-3095 bjones924@comcast.net

UBE Annual Meeting and Conference

June 21-25, 2009
Theme: Marching to Zion: Hearing to God's Call for a 21st Century Church

Black Ministries Conference participants told to 'think globally and act locally'

By Daphne Mack



The Rev. Canon Nan Peete

The opportunity to discuss and identify the challenges which prevent black and multicultural congregations from thriving drew more than 200 participants — from the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, the Caribbean and Latin America — to New Orleans, Louisiana October 19-23 for the Episcopal Church's Black Ministries Conference.

"Sisters and brothers we are rich in diversity, gifts and talents and we have gathered here as the body of Christ because we take seriously our responsibility as Christians in the world and have chosen to take a critical look at our congregations and

ourselves," said the Rev. Angela S. Ifill, the Episcopal Church's program officer for black ministries.

The conference, "Grant Us Wisdom, Grant Us Courage, for the Living of These Days," met at the Intercontinental New Orleans Hotel to continue the work of the New Ventures Task Force which is charged with developing a strategic plan that will help congregations prepare for their role in God's mission in the world.

Ifill spoke of attendees taking a renewed spirit and heart back to their respective congregations to continue the work they are called to do.

Think globally, act locally

The opening Eucharist service at St. Luke's Episcopal Church included African drummers in the procession who set the stage for a liturgy infused with the rich cultural influences of those in attendance.

Delivering the sermon, the Rev. Nan Peete, canon for development in the Diocese of Washington, D.C. was met with a roaring applause when she opened with the phrase, "Change We Can Believe In."

She urged the gathering to reflect on where they are in order to know where they want to go and how they want to get there, and insisted that where there is no vision, there is no church.

In her concluding remarks, Peete reminded the group that they are the bread that is broken out into the world to feed others the good news; and that they are the blood for those who thirst for the good news. Her final call-to-action urged the group to "think globally and act locally."

To read the complete article visit: <http://ube.org/news.html>

— Daphne Mack is a freelance writer based in New York City.

BLACK MINISTRIES EIGHT TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE
Inter-continental Hotel - New Orleans, LA
October 19-25, 2008

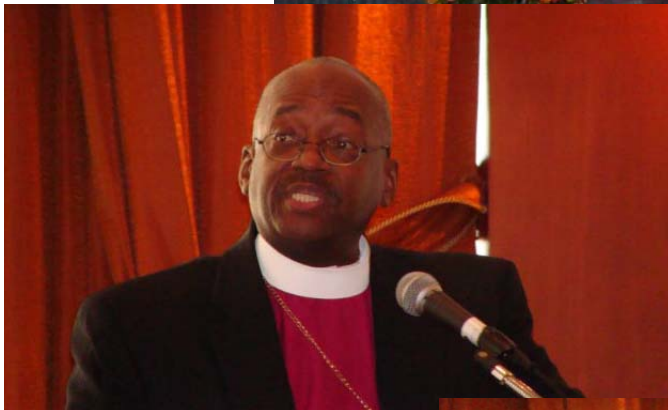


Above: The Rev. Canon Angela Ifill and Bishop Michael Curry

Above: The Rev. Dr. Kortright Davis and The Rev. Dr. Canon Harold T. Lewis



Left: Closing Eucharist with Bishop Barbara Harris Celebrating second from left

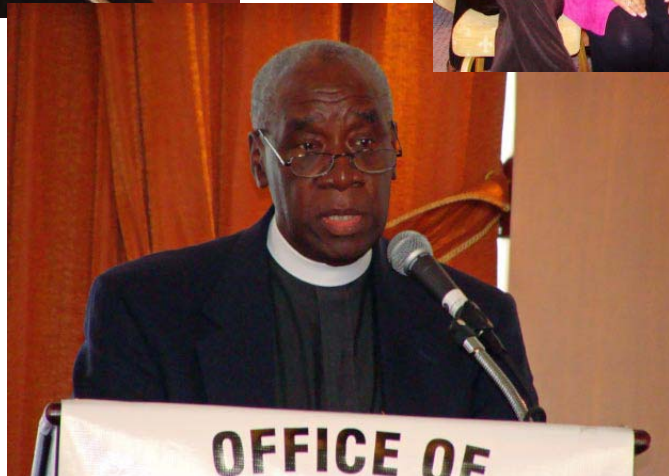


Above: The Right Rev. Michael Curry



Above: Womens Conference Participants

Right: UBE National President The Very Rev. Dr. C. David Williams





Seasons Greetings



The Union of Black Episcopalians

CONFERENCE STAFF

Honorary Deans: The Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton
 The Rev. Kwasi Thornell
 Dean: The Rev. Vincent Harris
 Associate Dean: Janice Wormack
 Associate Dean: Reba Bullock
 Treasurer: Richard Miller
 Business Manager: John E. Harris, Jr.
 Conference Manager Ann Hayward

Chaplain: The Rev. Virginia Brown-Nolan
 Youth Chaplain: The Rt. Rev. Julio Murray
 Asst. Youth Chaplain: The Rev. Terrence Taylor
 Conference Registrar: Ms. Alice R. Webley
 Youth Advisor: Ms. Gina Houston
 Oversight: UBE Executive Committee
 Host Chapters: Washington DC UBE Chapter
 In cooperation with Baltimore, MD Chapter

Phone: 513-281-5200 • 1-800-806-5837 • unionof_blackepiscopalians@yahoo.com

Online Registration: www.ube.org



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