



Washington Chapter

Union of Black Episcopalians

Post Office Box 55038 – Washington, DC 20040-5038

2008-2009 PROGRAM YEAR REPORT

The Washington Chapter expanded existing programs while simultaneously spending much of the early program year planning the 41st Annual Meeting and Conference scheduled for Washington in June 2009.

41st Annual Meeting: The Washington Chapter applied for and was awarded a grant to hire a professional meeting planner to facilitate the Chapter duties in relationship to the 41st Annual Meeting of the Union of Black Episcopalians. Much of fall 2008 was dedicated to organizing volunteers and other activities to make the event as successful programmatically and financially. After extensive planning discussions and meetings, the national UBE office failed to provide reliable financial information from last year's conference, a reasonable budget projection for this year's conference and could not advance requested seed money for the conference. These developments combined with an assessment that national UBE had inadequate resources to program a successful event, the Washington Chapter requested that national cancel the 2009 conference. After receiving national's decision to continue with the meeting, the Washington Chapter voted to withdraw hosting support for the conference. The Chapter further voted to invite Afro-Anglicans/Black Episcopalians to a transformative learning event in the winter of 2010 to accomplish three things:

- Collectively revisit the mission and purpose of UBE;
- Determine if the will and capacity exists to rebuild UBE for today's context; and/or
- Develop a plan and identify resources to create a new entity to advance our shared interests and aspirations.

The Epiphany Series: Four Wednesday evening dinners and discussions were scheduled in January at four different churches with significant Afro-Anglican communicants. The subject was forming partnerships between churches and various organizations. A free will offering paid for food and beverage. The second year for this program faced challenges of cold and icy weather causing one program cancellation and low attendance. The chapter plans to hold the program later in the liturgical calendar next year.

Absalom Jones Celebration: Our 31th annual service, celebration, and fundraising campaign awarded \$3,000 each to St. Augustine's, St. Paul's and Voorhees Colleges, and the Howard University Chaplaincy received \$1,000 to support scholarships and endowments. Our Absalom Jones Achievement Award was presented to The Rev. Janice M. Robinson for a life of exemplary service improving the physical, mental and spiritual lives of others. Rev. Robinson will retire as rector of Grace Episcopal Church, Silver Spring, MD this month. Approximately 300 people attended this popular event.



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Crummell –Cooper Leadership Initiative: The diocesan-wide leadership program, in partnership with the Afro-Anglican Clergy Association of Washington sponsored an interactive workshop on March 30, 2009 titled *Young Adults, Millennials & Church: Creating a Clear Space for Ministry*. Presenter, Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Rector, Grace Episcopal Church, Syracuse, NY offered new ideas and exchange information aimed at strengthening our youth programs.

The Education Committee: has continued its one on one work with several students. One former student with a ten year relationship with the organization has now been successfully employed for several years after receiving both a bachelors and masters degree, and has been able to successfully negotiate her immigration status. A nine year relationship student who will graduate this month from one of the nation's leading Episcopal day schools for girls (Washington's National Cathedral School) here in Washington, DC, has received a full renewable scholarship to Dickinson College (PA) totaling more than \$53,000 per year, and recently received her citizenship. Two of our youngsters have graduated from college (Brown University and Howard University) this year, both after successfully completing their education at area/regional Episcopal schools (Washington Episcopal School/National Cathedral School and St. Anne's Belfield School (VA)). Another, who graduated from Episcopal High School (VA) recently graduated from Syracuse University. Another youngster, who attended Washington Episcopal School in Bethesda, MD, having graduated from the School at Church Farm in Pennsylvania has successfully completed his freshman year at the University of Maryland College Park. Still another student will enter her third and final year this fall at St. Margaret's Episcopal School in Virginia. Our other youngsters continue to excel and thrive as well!

Website: Our web site continues to inform the community. Check us out.

<http://www.washingtonube.org>

Respectfully submitted,

Janice West Wormack, President