



NBPC Northeast Region

# Herald



# Come one! Come all!

You are most welcome!



**1ST ANNUAL  
NORTHEAST REGIONAL MEETING**  
after 2016 Revitalization Meeting

Friday and Saturday

**AUGUST 10 AND AUGUST 11, 2018**

**CAPITAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

*Keynote:*

The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Priest, Jr, National President

*Theme:*

“Seeking Good; Establishing Justice.”

*Scripture:*

“Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. Hate evil, love good, maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.”

*(Amos 5:14-15, NRSV)*



**PC (USA)**

**223RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The National Black Presbyterian Caucus to host its GA Dinner at the Marriott Hotel in St. Louis, MO

**JUNE 18, 2018 ■ 5:30-8:00 PM**

*Theme:*

Where Do We Go From Here?  
Seeking Racial Justice And Equity!

## Issue Four, June 2018

The National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC) is committed to Jesus Christ and works to ensure that the witness of Presbyterians of African descent is healthy, growing, dynamic and empowering; that racial justice is integral in the church’s self-understanding and lived out in every aspect of ministry within the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Taken from 2015 National Bylaws



## NORTHEAST REGION OFFICERS

*Moderator:* **Ruling Elder**

**Barbara Adams-Smelter**

*Vice-Moderator:* **The Rev. Maxine E. Jenkins, HR \***

*Secretary:* **Ruling Elder Lenore Williams \***

*Treasurer:* **The Rev. Dr. Doris Glaspy**

*Assistant*

*Secretary:* **Ruling Elder Alan Perry**

*Nominating*

*Committee Chair:* **Ruling Elder Warren McNeil**

\* These two offices are up for election at the annual meeting. You should have registration and nomination forms in your mailbox.

# NEWARK CHAPTER

submitted by Genevieve H. Hardy, NBPC, Newark, NJ

The Newark Chapter of NBPC holds monthly meetings on the fourth Saturday beginning at 12:00 noon. The chapter was dormant for several years but it is active once again. There has been an ongoing effort to increase participation by unrepresented churches; however, efforts have been sporadic.

The current officers are as follows: (elected for a 3-year term):

## CURRENT OFFICERS

*Moderator/*

*President:* **Frederick Mintor**

*Vice Moderator/*

*President:* **Charlotte B. Cade**

*Treasurer:* **Bruce Butts**

*Assistant*

*Treasurer:* **Lorraine Cuffee**

*Correspondent*

*Secretary:* **Raymond Robinson III**

*Recording*

*Secretary:* **Genevieve H. Harding**

Within the Newark Presbytery there are six churches led by Black pastors. However, not all of these churches are represented in the Newark Chapter.

- ◆ Roseville Presbyterian Church, Newark, NJ — The Rev. Danny Mitchell
- ◆ Trinity Presbyterian Church, Montclair, NJ — The Rev. Anita Wright
- ◆ Weequahic-Elizabeth Avenue Presbyterian Church, Newark, NJ — Elder Doris Peterson
- ◆ 1st and Trinity Presbyterian Church, South Orange, NJ — The Rev. Valencia Norman
- ◆ First Presbyterian Church in Irvington, NJ — The Rev. Lakuta Mjumbe
- ◆ First Presbyterian Church in Irvington, NJ — The Rev. Denise Kennedy
- ◆ Elmwood/Central Presbyterian Church, East Orange, NJ — The Rev. Maria Crompton

In addition, there are four Honorably Retired pastors: The Rev. Dr. Doris Glaspy, The Rev. Henry Cade, The Rev. Alfred Johnson, and The Rev. Howard Bryant. Last but not least, there are members from other Presbyterian churches who have joined.

At the behest of The Rev. Danny Mitchell, (Roseville) the Newark Chapter sponsored a Good Friday service featuring the preaching of "The Seven Last Words."

Participants were as follows:

The Rev. Norman (Forgiveness), The Rev. Wright (Salvation), Elder Doris Peterson (Relationship), Elder Gayle Griffin (Abandonment), The Rev. Denise Kennedy (Distress), The Rev. Mjumbe (Triumph), The Rev. Danny Mitchell (Reunion). Music was provided by Roseville's Choir under the direction of Mr. Terry Walker. The event was well attended.

The chapter has identified three initiatives which are pertinent to our particular objectives for 2018. The group was divided into committees which meet on a regular basis.

### ***Social Action Committee-Hunger and Voter Registration***

The committee placed Thanksgiving baskets in churches and members donated canned goods and non perishables. These items were passed on to the Community Food Bank in Hillside, NJ. Also they will hold a registration drive to encourage young voters to register for the mid-term election. One proposed site is Bloomfield College, in Bloomfield, NJ.

### ***Scholarship Committee- Providing a Scholarship to a High School Graduate***

A scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded to a high school graduate base need, academics, church participation and community involvement. Chapter members will be requested to donate at least \$100 for seed money. Solicitation letters will be sent to member churches.

### ***Bloomfield College Partnership Initiative***

Bloomfield College is a Presbyterian College in the city of Bloomfield, NJ with a multicultural student body. In the year 2017 the chapter assisted Rev. Terri Ofori, college chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life in serving a pre-Thanksgiving dinner for students. An initiative is being planned which will develop a working relationship among Rev. Ofori, the students and the NBPC.

The Newark Chapter continues to invite other Presbyterian churches to join the caucus; however, some have indicated there is no need for such an organization. Suggestions to increase awareness include visiting congregations for a minute for mission, engaging speakers (convocation event), letters to sessions concerning meeting dates, etc.

# PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

The Pittsburgh Chapter meets regularly on the third Saturday of each month at Historically Black Churches.

## CURRENT OFFICERS

<i>President:</i>	<b>Elder Lenore Williams</b>
<i>Vice President:</i>	<b>Ms. Bethany Smith</b>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<b>Ms. Milea Perry</b>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<b>Elder Alan Perry</b>
<i>Chaplain:</i>	<b>Mr. Derail Holcomb</b>
<i>Membership Chair:</i>	<b>The Rev. Maxine E. Jenkins</b>

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus Presents

# Pittsburgh's Got Talent

Saturday, June 9, 2018 at 6:00 pm  
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary  
616 Highland Ave. Pgh, PA 15206

REV. BRIAN WRIGHT SR.    AAMI BOYS CHOIR    JAY EMOLOA

CHARLEE GATEWOOD

Proceeds to benefit  
**Coleman-Patrick Scholarship Fund**  
\$40.00 DONATION

FOR TICKETS: 412-573-9811 or pghgottalent18@gmail.com

We Celebrate **JUNE-TEENTH.**  
*How about YOU?*

2018 WESTERN PA

Join Us for the **JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION & BLACK MUSIC FEST**

This event was a fantastic display of the many talents in Pittsburgh. The singing, spoken words, and instrumentals were pure joy to the mind, body and spirit! Thank you to the planning committee!

The Pittsburgh Chapter of NBPC will again join in celebrating *Juneteenth*, June 21- 24, 2018.

*Continued on next page...*

...continued

# PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

submitted by Anita Perry, NBPC, Pittsburgh, PA

## FREEDOM RISING

The 222 General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church USA, held in Portland, Oregon approved the resolution to: Take specific action to address and improve the worsening plight of the African



American male. The initiative's name, "Freedom Rising" honors the memory of the late The Rev. Eugene "Freedom" Blackwell. The Pittsburgh pastor, who died August 30, 2016, was the overture's advocate at the General Assembly in 2016. Five cities have been chosen to initiate pilot programs: Baltimore, Maryland; Cleveland, Ohio; New York, New York; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Charlotte, North Carolina. These programs are to confront the destructive issues facing black communities. This initiative will address recidivism, support the prevention of substance abuse, empower African American males to develop hireable skills, provide job placement and address education.

**Pittsburgh** — Freedom Rising in the Pittsburgh Presbytery will have two grants, which are offered to ministries or programs serving African American males within the community of the Pittsburgh Presbytery. One is a one-time enrichment grant for an existing ministry or program. The other is a seed grant to begin a new ministry or program of support.

**Baltimore** — Baltimore is in the process of building a foundation within the churches in their Presbytery. They are working on developing a common understanding and direction for work in addressing racism in the churches and community. There have been preliminary conversations about potential collaborations with local organizations to support initiatives. They are currently in the exploratory phase.

**New York City** — The New York Presbytery has been supporting various campaigns. Some are local and some are national. They are expanding their prison visitation team's efforts. Presbyterians in this Presbytery are

involved in the Campaign to Close the jail on Riker's Island. This activity may lead to additional advocacy actions. The intent is to reduce solitary confinement, address bail reform, and affect speedy trials. Not to mention by closing the jail on Riker's Island, prisoners will be closer to their families and attorneys.

In the Bronx, a former gang member is now an elder and instrumental in the "I Am the Peacemakers" program that involves Boys and Girls Clubs in the area. They are investigating a partnership to provide church camp scholarships for two students. While at the camp, the focus will be on leadership training. Plans to grow this program are in the making. Lastly, the Presbytery of New York has been engaged in the "Poor People's Campaign" which began in 1968 under Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr.

## HOW DOES MY CONGREGATION PARTICIPATE?

1. Ensure your Congregation is participating in the Peace & Global Witness Offering
2. Have your session vote to dedicate the locally retained 25% for Freedom Rising
3. Download the bulletin insert and offer a minute for mission during worship, available at [www.pcusa.org/peaceglobal](http://www.pcusa.org/peaceglobal)
4. Send the locally retained 25% to:  
Presbyterian Foundation  
200 E 12th St.  
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

*Please write "Freedom Rising" in the memo line of the check*

*To contribute, please visit:*  
**[www.presbyterianfoundation.org/freedom](http://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/freedom)**



**The Northeast Region Executive Committee would love to hear your thoughts and concerns. We invite you to contact us.**

**And would you please keep us in your prayers as we plan for the Northeast Region Annual Meeting in Harrisburg?**



# PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

submitted by Julie Stephenson, NBPC, Philadelphia, PA

The NBPC Philadelphia Chapter meets the first Tuesday of the month, September to June, alternating between evening (6:00) and afternoon (12:30).

## OFFICERS

- Co-Moderators:* **The Rev. Dr. Janet Dixon**  
Pastor, Cedar Park PC  
**The Rev. Ethelyn Taylor**  
Pastor, Oxford PC
- Secretary:* **Joan Clark**
- Treasurer:* **Gloria Ricks Carter**
- Financial Secretary:* **Elaine McCray**

In 2018, the Philadelphia Chapter continues to seek God's will as we move forward with our goals. Our biggest project is The Black History Program, which we sponsor with the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

The Rev. Dr. Paul Timothy Roberts Sr., President of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, was our guest speaker for the Black History Program. Rev Roberts graciously agreed to "Coffee and Conversation" which we hosted on Saturday, February 10, 2018. The theme: "Challenges and Hope for the Black Presbyterian Church." The conversation was interesting and meaningful. It was open to everyone.

On Sunday, February 11, 2018, at Oxford Presbyterian Church, The Rev. Roberts delivered a moving message on the Black History Program Theme, "Courageous Conversation Continues: Where Do We Go From Here?"

Each month we review plans that will move our agenda forward. Members are encouraged to participate and encourage others to become active in the church and NBPC. We have members who will be present at the Synod meeting in April, some at the 223rd General Assembly in June, and some at Northeast Region Meeting in August.

We wish a happy, safe summer to everyone!

# NATIONAL INFORMATION



## THE NBPC 45TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

JUNE 26-29, 2019

ATLANTA, GA

### Theme:

Where Do We Go From Here?  
Seeking Racial Justice And Equity!

All accommodations, meals, plenary/ workshops, and other activities will be held in one location!

- Circle the dates on your calendar and start making plans to attend
- Plans are underway for new, exciting and motivating activities
- Calling all YOUTH: Special activities are being planned for you, too!

*National Black Presbyterian Caucus*  
**www.nationalnbpc.org**

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Priest, Jr., President

