

NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS
46TH Biennial Virtual Convention Business Meeting
June 24, 2021 – June 26, 2021

“Then the LORD said I’ve clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I’ve heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know their pain” -Exodus 3:7 (CEB)

The National Black Presbyterian Caucus

46th
BIENNIAL
VIRTUAL
CONVENTION

The Black Family, Congregation
and Community in the Presbyterian
Church USA: Navigating Identity,
Equity and Economics

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

JUNE 24-26, 2021
Charleston, SC



President's Report
National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC)
Annual Board of Directors Meeting
January 25, 2021

Grace and Peace Friends,

I was blessed with two (2) opportunities to say a few words about the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mrs. Rosa Parks this month. In both messages I spoke about how Dr. King talked about finding the strength to love in order to confront the power of evil in our country. Dr. King taught us that love is the only path to justice and the realization of the beloved community. He taught us that, *"returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."*

Why is love important? Love is important because it is the only power that can defeat the evils of racism and white supremacy. Love is the power that fuels justice and peace. No justice, no peace. Shalom is peace with justice. As Dr. King said, True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice. *"Our faith requires us to love our sisters and brothers in order to live in the light. But whoever hates a sister or brother lives in darkness, walks in darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness. Friends, let us walk in the light of God's love."*

As members of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, it is our mission to advocate for social and racial justice and challenge the Presbyterian Church (USA) when it fails to take seriously the needs of the poor, oppressed, and disenfranchised which requires us to aggressively combat racism and injustice in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Sandwiched between the celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday and February Black History Month I want to remind us of our mission and purpose. We were reminded on January 6, 2021 that we have much work to do.

Dr. King reminded us that difficult days are ahead. The work before us is difficult work if we are so inclined to accept it. The work begins with us. The work to eradicate racism in the church and society begins with us. The work to eradicate racism starts at home. Love begins at home. Home is where your heart is. God who knows our heart knows our capacity to love. God is love. The work begins in our church and places of faith.

President's Report
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The work to eradicate racism in society begins with the work to confront **"gracism."** **Gracism** is racism that thrives in our faith tradition, the Presbyterian Church (USA). Gracism is not about the theology of grace. Gracism is the existence of racism within communities of grace. Eradicating *"gracism"* is about faith communities recognizing their racism, their complicity, and complacency in combating and eradicating racism.

It is my theology that if we the people of God cannot eradicate racism in a predominately white denomination with diverse people of color then how do we realistically expect racism to be eradicated in society? Friends this is work that is before us. It is clear and identifiable; it is unavoidable and inevitable.

Meetings - Participated in the following meetings:

- NBPC Executive Board
- Finance Committee
- Revive Renew Restore (RRR) Team
- Vice President - Elder Doris Evans
- Operations and Procedure Manual Committee
- Website Committee

Chapter and Region Relations

Chapter and session involvement - Improve communications from NBPC board directly to Chapter and session leadership.

NBPC Request for Appointment of an Administrative Commission to investigate irregularities actions negatively affecting member Rev. Oghene`tega Swann and black members of the Beaver-Butler Presbytery. Joined chapter and regional officers in pursuing justice.

2021 National Biennial Convention

Supported the efforts of the committee and provided leadership to its planning and scheduling.

President's Report
National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC)
Annual Board of Directors Meeting
January 25, 2021

2021 Focus, Expectations and Goals - Reminder of the challenges that lie before us.

- **Resolution 02-084 "The Lack of Installed Pastoral Leadership in People of Color Congregations in the PC(USA)"** from the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee. Referred to the 225th General Assembly (2022)
- Complete requirements for Resolution **05-09 "On the Challenge of Being Black in the PC(USA)."**
 - The Office of the Stated Clerk to respond to the presbyteries that the NBPC identifies as not abiding by COR guidelines.
 - Board of Pensions seeking to collect people of color data to how BoP can support black churches in its ability to participate in the PC(USA) Board of Pension requirement for installed pastors.
 - Make the number of vacant pulpits a discussion in member chapters presbyteries an issue in your presbytery meetings.
 - Advocate for issues that adversely affect black congregations before a church reaches a point of no return.
 - We have not because we ask not.
 - Provide opportunities of youth and young adults to participate in the governance of the PC(USA) including education in systemic and institutional racism.
 - Encourage black persons to speak out on issues in their governing bodies that need to be addressed.
 - Participate (caucus) around our own prejudices and complicity within the black church on issues of inclusion.
- Mission Statement - provides the unity - referred to Bylaws committee.
 - Requires updating/simplification.
 - Full participation in the emerging life of the PC(USA) with a strong focus on governance.
- What are the issues facing us? What is the current context of our member congregations? What is the state of the Black Presbyterian Witness in the PC(USA).
- Communication - Participated in supporting Website Committee in securing a new contract.
- Membership Focus
 - Support all the efforts of our committee. Responded to all membership inquiries.
- Achieve Voice and Vote at each council level

President's Report
National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC)
Annual Board of Directors Meeting
January 25, 2021

- Sessions (Membership)
- Presbyteries
- Synods
- General Assembly
- Intergenerational Inclusion in membership and governance Psalm 145:1-5.
- Establish Caucus Foundation based on our mission.
 - Establish our current state. What is the condition of our congregations and chapters?
 - Leaving a sustainable Caucus for our legacy.
 - Establishing a sustainable foundation.
- Relationship with General Assembly

Proposed Initiatives for 2021

- Young Adult and Youth Summit in collaboration with Montreat, NC.

Challenge: NBPC Mission and purpose statement is not attracting a critical mass of Presbyterians to participate in the work of NBPC.

Issue that adversely affects the lives of black people: White supremacy and racism in the church and society.

Caucusing Topic: The lack of installed pastors in predominately black Presbyterian churches. The lack of the participation of black clergy and millennials.

Blessings with Justice and Equity at all times,
Thomas H. Priest, Jr.
Thomas H. Priest, Jr., President

NBPC Vice President Report
46th Biennial – June 2021

Shalom!

A lot has happened in the last few years for African American and Black Americans. We are still murdered at will, we are still being profiled, and now because of technology, we are seeing in real time the brutality that we experience. The events of the last 365 days have been traumatizing. We have had to deal with covid and the inequity of services provided for our people and in our neighborhoods. We have had to deal with the violent attack on this nation's capital, only to be told what we saw is not what happened, justice in the George Floyd murder, still waiting on decisions in Ahmaud Arbery's and Breonna Taylor's cases and environmental disasters over the winter and spring. As I submit this report, my prayers are with the thousands of soldiers that are guarding this very institution of democracy domestically and abroad, that protect my freedom of speech.

As the Vice President for NBPC, this year alone saw many challenges. I guess I have become a zoom guru, learning more and more about the software application capability. I have also saw the decline of self-care time because evenings and weekends are no longer for self-care, but are an extension of the work day and week.

APCE Diversity Task Force

Continue to meet monthly. I currently facilitate a book discussion on "Race Talks" by Derald Wing Sue, and have completed section four. The Task Force has written a diversity statement and had webinars created for APCE by Crossroads Anti-Racism Training with Jessica Valdez Torres. The statement and webinars were released at the APCE Annual event February 4-6, 2021 and are free to APCE members for one year.

05-09 Update

The 05-09 team received a copy of the Electronic Reporting Tool to use, discuss, and provide input. We have tested the Tool and will convene again prior to sending our recommendations to OGA. We meet regularly with the Board of Pensions and OGA. We look forward to having the finished product at the 2022 General Assembly.

Humbly Submitted,

Rev. Doris A. Evans
Vice President NBPC
Class of 2022

Treasurer's Report
NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	<u>December 31</u>		<u>April 30</u>	<u>December 31</u>
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2021</u>
	<u>ASSETS</u>			<u>BUDGET</u>
Current Assets:				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 64,325	\$ 99,706	\$ 115,657	
Deferred Expenses	-	3,000	-	
Investments	<u>31,426</u>	<u>31,595</u>	<u>32,872</u>	
Total Assets	<u>\$ 95,751</u>	<u>\$134,301</u>	<u>\$ 148,529</u>	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Liabilities:				
Accounts Payables	\$ 680	\$ 117	\$ 117	
Deferred Revenues	<u>875</u>	<u>5,069</u>	<u>-</u>	
Total Liabilities	<u>1,555</u>	<u>5,186</u>	<u>117</u>	
Net Assets:				
Without Donor Restrictions	54,680	85,234	101,179	
With Donor Restrictions	<u>39,516</u>	<u>43,881</u>	<u>47,233</u>	
Total Net Assets	<u>94,196</u>	<u>129,115</u>	<u>148,412</u>	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 95,751</u>	<u>\$134,301</u>	<u>\$148,529</u>	

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenues:				
Programs and Event Fees	\$ 48,081	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,030	\$ 33,500
Membership Dues	20,511	16,564	15,104	21,730
Contributions	12,122	7,755	5,620	4,125
Grants	9,500	22,000	-	-
Investment Income, net	4,380	3,180	1,277	-
Miscellaneous Income	<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Revenues	<u>94,606</u>	<u>54,500</u>	<u>27,031</u>	<u>59,355</u>
Expenses:				
Program Expenses	80,563	5,000	2,500	31,000
General and Administrative	<u>4,935</u>	<u>14,581</u>	<u>5,234</u>	<u>30,370</u>
Total Expenses	<u>85,498</u>	<u>19,581</u>	<u>7,734</u>	<u>61,370</u>
Increase In Net Assets	9,108	34,919	19,297	\$ <u>-2,015</u>
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	<u>85,088</u>	<u>94,196</u>	<u>129,115</u>	
Net Assets at End of Year	<u>\$ 94,196</u>	<u>\$ 129,115</u>	<u>\$148,412</u>	

NOTES: (1) The December 31, 2019 financial statements have been reviewed by Brooks, McGinnis & Co., LLC CPAs and concluded: "We are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America." (2) The December 31, 2020 statements are currently under review. (3) Tax return for 2019 has been filed; return preparation for 2020 has been automatically extended by the CPA firm. (4) Investments are held by the Presbyterian Foundation. (5) Deferred revenues and expenses are recognized in the subsequent year. (6) The current year's statement is as of: April 30, 2021. (7) The 2021 Budget was approved by the Board of Directors.

BY: Rev. Dr. Charles C. Heyward, Sr., Treasurer

NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

MAIL and BANK ASSISTANT REPORT

APRIL 19,2021

The Financial Administrator did not receive any vouchers during the first quarter. There is a question of the proper procedure for submitting a voucher. The Treasurer has indicated that the Auditor requires original documents, others feel that emails are okay. The process must be clarified.

The administrator completed the process of assuring that the required signatures were on all bank accounts at Bank of America as of March 2021. There continue to be a question of the signatures on the Presbyterian Foundation Endowment's Account at PCUSA. A PayPal Account established recently, need to know the signatures on that account.

MAIL and BANK ASSISTANT:

The process of receiving membership application, documenting the same and making the bank deposits continues. The Membership Chair receives all applications after they are processed. The Treasurer, Membership Chair, President and Finance Chair receives a copy of the Bank Deposits.

Rosy M. Latimore

April 19, 2021

2021 MEMBERSHIP

As of April 30, 2021

Year	2021
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Region	Chapter	Total		
Mid-Atlantic	BPU Of Wash	11		
	Charlotte	6	Chapters	14
	Coastal Carolina	4	Regions	5
	Eastern VA (PEVA)	20	Individuals	261
	New Hope	1	Institutional Mission Partners	40
	Salem BPC	2	Lifetime Members	52
	Region	1	Seminarians	4
	Baltimore	2	Youth/Young Adults	10
	BC of New Hope	5	Total	386
	Presbytery of the Peaks	17		
	James	1		
Mid-Atlantic Total		70		
Mid-South	Dallas/FtWorth	1		
	East Tennessee	1		
	Houston Texas	4		
	Huntsville/North Center	6		
	Louisville	11		
	Unassigned Chapter	2		
	Region	1		
	Greater Memphis Area	9		
Mid-South Total		35		
Midwest	Chicago	1		
	Dayton	6		
	Michigan	56		
	Cincinnati	1		
Midwest Total		64		
Northeast	New York City	10		
	Newark	14		
	Philadelphia	21		
	Pittsburgh	39		
	Unassigned Chapter	2		
	Region	1		
Northeast Total		87		
Southeast	Charleston-Atlantic	19		
	Fairfield-McClelland	16		
	Greater Atlanta	12		
	New Harmony	32		
	Northeast Georgia	16		
	South Florida	6		
	Region	1		
Southeast Total		102		
West	Southern Cal	27		
	Region	1		
West Total		28		
Grand Total		386		

Chapter Development and Re-Development
46th Biennial, June 2021

Greetings in His Name!

The year of 2020 has had many challenges for chapter and regional development. During the first two months of the year, as a Chaplain for a federal agency, we were not allowed to travel. Then the whole country was put on lock-down because of the covid pandemic.

We quickly became adept at meeting via ZOOM and other online applications. Regional Representatives and the Revise, Restore, Renew teams met often throughout the year to rediscover the relationship of Regional Representatives to chapters and of the Director of Chapter Development and Re-Development to Regional Representatives.

In this relationship, we are re-discovering the community and how we should relate to each other. We are also discovering the meaning of relevancy as it is used by Black Presbyterians when questioning whether to develop a new chapter.

We are struggling with geographically large regions. It is hoped that before the next Bi-ennial, and the relaxing of domestic travel restrictions, the regional structure will be researched and revised to allow for better communication with existing chapters and all Black Presbyterians.

Humbly Submitted

Rev. Doris A. Evans
NBPC Vice President and Director of Chapter Development
Class of 2022

Isaiah 43:18-19

18 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. **19** See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

NBPC Web Team Report
46th Biennial, June 2021

Greetings –

The Web Team was established at the 44th Biennial in Detroit Michigan. In the four years of being a committee, we have:

- Created a website- With the help of our vendor, we have created an information source for NBPC membership. There are articles, events, pictures, and news. Membership dues can be paid online. We are working with the Membership committee as they venture out to find a Membership portal that will have more functionality.
- The Web Team is working with the 46th Biennial Committee as an information source for NBPC members. The team has created Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook pages.
- The Web Team met with stakeholders from Finance, Membership, and the Biennial Committee to discuss their needs and what part our web host – Sidereal can do to support them.
- By the time of the 46th Biennial, we will have posted on the website, www.nationalnbpc.org two zoom meetings, “What is a Caucus”, and “How to Caucus – The Five Why’s”.

As with all new things, this has been a time of change, new processes, and challenges to maintain an online presence with current information. Your help is needed in keeping us informed with news in your chapters and regions. And if you would like to use your talents or gifts in this area, please contact me at info@nationalnbpc.org

Peace –

Rev. Doris A. Evans
NBPC Vice President and Web Team Member
Class of 2022

Habakkuk 2:

²Then the LORD replied: “Write down the revelation
and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.

Mid-South Region Chapter Report 2020- May, 2021

Greater Memphis Area Chapter Report

Met via Zoom November 21, 2020 & December 12, 2020. Membership campaign is underway. The chapter has representation on the Presbytery of the Mid-South's Racial Advisory Council as well as the Presbytery Council.

Monetary contributions were made to the Memphis YWCA Shelter for Abused Women, the Parkway Gardens United Presbyterian Church Benevolence Fund & the Rev. Raphael Warnock for Senator Campaign fund.

Greater Memphis Area Chapter dues were submitted on January 13, 2021.

Our Mid-South Regional Virtual Black History Program was February 21, 2021. The event was very successful and we thank all from other regions who attended.

Louisville Area Chapter Report

August 22, 2020 to November 14, 2020

Chapter meetings:

Mon, Oct 5, 2020 via Zoom

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 in-person, social-distanced, masked

Planning to meet within the next 3 weeks

Chapter Events:

1. Sept 21, 2020, made presentation at Mid-KY Presbytery Meeting as a response to racial civil unrest across the country, and as a Matthew 25 Presbytery. Watched "Systemic Racism Explained" video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrHIQIO_bdQ&t=48s
Followed by breakout groups to discuss 2 questions posed by our chapter.
2. Nov 14, 2020, made 2nd presentation at Mid-KY Presbytery Meeting as a follow-up to previous one on Systemic Racism. Watched "Why I'm Not Racist" video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzLT54QjclA>
Followed by breakout groups to discuss 1 question posed by our chapter.

We will have a 3rd presentation at our Feb 21, 2021 Presbytery Meeting. Rev. Dr. Angela Johnson will preach as outgoing Moderator, with our chapter providing specific ways that the Presbytery can work toward dismantling the systemic racism that exists within its ranks

3. Plan to follow-up with the League of Women Voters as the district maps for the State of Kentucky are being re-drawn. We will monitor the process so that it is done with transparency and equity.

Miscellaneous:

Our chapter has a permanent seat on Mid-KY Presbytery's Coordinating Commission.

Only 1 of the 4 African-American Churches in Louisville have re-opened for in-person Worship

Louisville Chapter Activities for January 2021:

1. Chapter Meeting will be held this month, date to be determined
2. President Angela Johnson participated in the Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition's "United in Prayer & Spirit" Virtual Prayer Program on Jan 19, 2021 here in Louisville. The NBPC logo will be used.
3. Will schedule a meeting with the Women League of Voters to follow up on the redrawing of KY voting district lines.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Angela Johnson, Louisville Chapter President

Nomination of officers is planned. Request will be made for someone else to serve as Regional Representative as we have been notified that our present Regional Representative has served longer than our National by-laws dictate.

Request to NBPC for \$478.32 from disbanded Knoxville chapter be forwarded to Mid-South Region treasurer for funds to be used for chapter development.

Mid-South Regional dues were submitted on January 13, 2021.

Regional Service Project:

Our 2021 service project is for each area within our region to donate gently used or new luggage, backpacks and cosmetic bags to children who are in the foster care program. We feel that these children will feel a better sense of ownership and their self-esteem will be lifted during their transition from one location to the other without having to move their belonging in garbage bags.

Plans are underway for our 2022 Synod of Living Waters Youth Leadership Development Conference hosted by the Mid-South Region of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus. Tentative site, Fisk University, Nashville, TN. Tentative dates July 14-17, 2022. Alternate dates July 21-24, 2022. All youth and young adults ages 12-21 from all regions are invited to attend.

Natalie Toombs – Regional Representative
May 16, 2021



MIDWEST Region of NBPC

The Midwest Region of NBPC held a meeting and listening call February 27, 2021 to learn concerns and interest of our community for the future of Midwest Region of the NBPC.

We're excited about the National's move to collaborate with ASALH on the Black Family Agenda and we are deeply involved in the focused agenda of this year's campaign to "The Black Family, Congregation, and Community in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): Navigating Identity, Equity, and Economics" Our meeting was focused on hearing from the community to listen to what are the challenges and the needs for now.

Our listening event provided the following drivers from the audience and we the executive board for the region gathered the following thoughts:

1. We need to become more active in the pursuit of encouraging our community to be diligent in acquiring the Corona Virus-19 Vaccination shots with a sense of urgency. We must also be the herald and educator of the public with valid medical and scientific data which provide reality accuracy for making a good decision.
2. We need to be active more at the Presbytery level in committees to be an active participant in the process of using resources of the greater church and the PCUSA. We need to be active participants in the execution of the Matthew 25 focus and live to this faith journey. "Simply if we're not at the table; we truly have no room to complain or protest"
3. Urban Ministry need to be understood at the Presbytery level for all of our region.

4. Integral to our movements in reviving the MidWest Region; we must be dedicated to young adults and creating pathways for younger members to join and have leadership opportunities.
5. We need to ensure we create a Marketing community in our region to ensure our message is moving in the right windows for success and meet the 21st century movements of information flow in society.
6. Presently, we've done a poor job of promoting and educating members of the caucus to understanding the critical value plus what our participation brings to our PCUSA community and our culture at large.
7. We need to make our engagements more than charitable handouts and seek activities that generate empowerment opportunities for community and the church.
8. We need to make sure we are actively involved in the PCUSA movements toward Multiculturalism to ensure a pluralistic movement does not have us divorce ourselves of our rich heritage in the church and outside the church.
9. We must be involved in the advocacy of our mission inside the church at all levels and within our community to be an impact action orientated neighbor.

We were excited to hear of these concerns and motivational activities for the future as we prepare for the NBPC Convention this June 2021 and our overdue Midwest Regional Conference in October 2022. May God's Grace be with us all as we work with due diligence to be a part of God's Beloved Community for the future.

We also humbly ask for prayers for The Midwest Region as we put in the work and prayers to our Lord and Savior to bring us active and vibrant members, so we can do this work of both culture and faith.

Within the Midwest Region, there are two chapters, Dayton (Ohio) and Michigan. They both continue to meet to work towards the needs of their community. There are 6 members from Dayton (Ohio) and 48 from Michigan

Midwest NBPC Officers

Adrienne D. Adams, President

Jesse C. Swanigan, Treasurer

Larry C. Jenkins, Acting Vice President

NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS
Northeast Regional Representative Report to the Board

April 19, 2021

Region Meetings

The Northeast Region Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Philadelphia chapter. The date is August 13-14, 2021. The meeting will be held virtually. Election will be held for offices of President, Treasurer, and Assistant Secretary during that time.

Region Activities

Chapters continue to engage with congregations and the community. Most activities remain virtual. Black History Month was celebrated around the region with high attendance. Members were able to support and engage with other congregations for various Good Friday and Easter services via virtual platforms.

Chapter Information (4) Memberships as of March 31, 2021

Philadelphia Members: 15, 4 IMP

Moderators: Rev. Dr. T. Janel Dixon and Rev. Ethelyn R. Taylor

Secretary: Elder Joan Clerk

Financial Secretary: Carlitha McInnis

Treasurer / Membership Chair: Elder Elaine McCray

Nominations Chair: Rev. Anna Grant Borden

Northeast Regional Rep: Rasheeda J. Hastings

Events / Activities

- Planning for Annual Meeting continues. Save the Dates were sent out. Verification of guest speakers is pending. Registration is due to go out on schedule.
- African American Heritage Celebration in partnership with Philadelphia Presbytery went well with high attendance.
- Chapter moderators and will facilitate groups within the “Anti-Racism Formation Process”. This initiative is conducted at the Princeton Theological Seminary and will include the leaders in the Philadelphia Presbytery. More information forthcoming.
- Churches continue to prepare for reopening with repairs, updates, and ensuring compliance with safety protocols.

Pittsburgh Members: 39, 6 IMP

Officers

Moderator: Elder Lenore Williams
Vice Moderator: Rozalia Jordan
Treasurer: Alan Perry
Secretary: Milea Perry
Membership Chair: Reverend Maxine E. Jenkins

Events / Activities

- Activities included Rich Heritage of African Americans In and To the Presbyterian Church. This was in partnership with the Synod of the Trinity and was well attended.
- Hosted Freedom Rising Sunday.
- Hosted Palm Sunday Unity Service,

New York Members: 8, 1 IMP

Officers

President: Rev. Dr. Flora Wilson Bridges
Vice-President: Rev. Dr. Glen Misick
Secretary: Dr. Tee Gee Wilson
Assistant Secretary: Elder Moretha Matthews
Treasurer: Elder Connie Gant Assistant
Treasurer: Elder Shirley Brown
Membership Chairperson: Elder Abiodun Adelana
Youth and Young Adults: Elder Imani Mason, TE Anthony Ross-Allam

Events / Activities

- Black History Month Celebrations were well attended, including a Presbytery Wide Martin Luther King/Rosa Parks Service via Zoom with President Priest preaching the Word.
- Hosted Saturday Black History Month Lecture Series via Zoom.
- Hosted Anti-Racism Training with the King Center.
- President reports working with Presbytery on task force for undoing structural racism.

Newark Members 12, 1 IMP

Officers

President: Rev. Dr. Doris Glaspy

**Other officer info pending

Events / Activities

- Continue to focus on increase of outreach, which is expanding their contact list. President reports some struggle with flourishing of this chapter. Of note is merging of Presbyteries from seven to four.
- Chapter hosted a Zoom program which was successful and well attended. Reports this is a “missional community” with four African American churches.
- We will work closely with chapter to support, encourage and maintain enthusiasm.

1 IMP Membership - Rochester NY - 1 IMP

List (3) issues that adversely affect the lives of Black people in their presbytery and community.

From New York:

- 1) Racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism
- 2) Healthcare disparities
- 3) Mass incarceration

From Philadelphia:

- 1) Racism
- 2) Gun violence
- 3) Gentrification

Regional/Chapter Challenges (Identify barriers/problems)

From Philadelphia: The lack of installed pastors in many churches

One caucus topic that generates the most discussion.

To be determined

Regional/Chapter Initiatives (for example overtures, programs, grants, ministries, and focus)

- **Focus for the year: Initiation of Three Taskforces**

Communication Taskforce – find opportunities to Connect and share our mission.

Office of Public Witness (OPW) Taskforce – gather resources and evaluate mid-year how we can move forward.

Matthew 25 Taskforce - encourage chapters to become leaders and channel this to the Presbyteries.

Purpose and Policies for taskforces have been developed

Rep Activities:

- Met with RRR - shared with chapters about youth scholarships being offered.
- Discussed plans to reach out to areas who do not have chapters and encouraging involvement in activities within those we have
- Will discuss how we can engage youth in our three focus areas, as mentioned above, by direct involvement at upcoming EO meeting
- Will discuss initiatives to pull from our ranks to offer our own programs to youth, such as caucusing, community organizing, listening sessions to hear how we can open doors for them

Update on issue with Beaver-Butler Presbytery, Refreshing Springs, and Reverend Swann.

- Request for mediation between Reverend Swann and Beaver-Butler Presbytery failed. Proceeded to Synod – Proceeded to Stated Clerk. President Priest has submitted a letter to the Stated Clerk PCUSA, asking for investigation into the Synod of the Trinity and Beaver Butler Presbytery. We are awaiting a response.
- In the interim Beaver Butler Presbytery has voted to appoint an Administrative Commission (from its members) to Refreshing Springs. Those appointed are the same individuals alleged to have caused harm to this congregation. Refreshing Springs has responded with request for Stay of Enforcement. Stay of Enforcement was granted.
- Refreshing Springs has sent Remedial Complaint against Beaver-Butler Presbytery. Refreshing Springs is keeping us updated on status. answer received – response pending.

This has truly been an uphill battle. We remain committed to justice and accountability. We will press on empowered by the prayers and support of our members, anchored in the Word, and trusting in Gods will.

Respectfully submitted

Rasheeda J. Hastings

NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS
WEST REGION
REPORT TO THE NBPC BIENNIAL CONVENTION – JUNE 24-26, 2021

By the grace of God, the National Black Presbyterian Caucus-So. CA Chapter (NBPC-SC)/West Region (WR) has weathered the past 23 months since our last Convention as have our sister churches and chapters.

Highlights from the NBPC-SC/WR include:

- (1) NBPC-SC Lydia McDonald Academy For Ministry (LMAFM)** continues to conduct Annual Officer Training and other requested training events and workshops as part of its Leadership Development platform. This includes the fellowship, study, and worship events in item (2).
- (2) Advent and Lenten Bible Studies, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday** worship services were held with good attendance and participation despite being presented virtually (2020-21).
- (3) Pacific Presbytery convenes a Task Force on Race (ATFR):** In the aftermath of the George Floyd murder, the ensuing protests, and the Derek Chauvin conviction, conversations within congregations, large and small groups, focusing on individual, institutional, and systemic racism are being held with an increasing level of interest. The ATFR is comprised of 4 representatives of NBPC-SC representatives including Rev. Reginald Ragland (President), Rev. Mark S. Jones, Sr. (WR Rep.), a Pastor, and an Elder from two NBPC-SC congregations. Also on the ATFR are, the General Presbyter and the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, and eleven diverse members from various congregations within the Pacific Presbytery. We will review the procedural manuals and practices of the Presbytery. A Race Equity Audit will be done by an outside agency (Crossroads), with the goal being for the Presbytery to move away from current practices and become more of an anti-racism organization. Our primary task will be to look at practices of the Presbytery related to white supremacy and racism and report back to the Presbytery with recommendations. This would include a process for self-monitoring. A second goal is to become an agency in which systemic racism no longer thrives. A book (“Another Way: Leading Change on Purpose” by Matthew W. Williams) is being used for equipping leaders for the pending changes and Crossroad will do another audit likely in late summer or early fall. A letter was sent from the Presbytery to all churches asking each (white) pastor to address issues of racism from the pulpit.
- (4) NBPC-SC Pastors & Clergy** over the past two years has met in person, at least bimonthly, prior to the pandemic and virtually up to the present time. Our focus is always how we can best serve God’s people in general and our congregations specifically. Items 1-3 above emerge from these meetings.
- (5) NBPC-SC Administrative Board** meets monthly on the third Thursday in conjunction with the Pastors & Clergy (5) gathering. The Admin Board meeting follows the Pastors & Clergy gathering.

In conjunction with **Item #1 of the Rationale** contained in **NBPC Resolution 05-09** that follows:

Item #1—Research completed in twelve presbyteries indicate that presbyteries are not abiding by the Committee on Representation guidelines, as stated in the Constitution (Book of Order, G-3.0103). a survey is being conducted of WR Presbyteries with Black Presbyterian Congregations and/or Black/African American populations in the WR to determine: **1)** If each Presbytery has a Committee on Representation (COR); **2)** If the COR is a stand-alone committee; **3)** If the COR of the Presbytery combined with another committee. Increasing participation of Black/African American Presbyterians in the life and decision making of the PC(USA) and addressing the lack of pastoral leadership in Black Presbyterian churches, is the purposes for this survey. NBPC Resolution 05-09 addresses the role of NBPC advocacy being intentionally pursued at GA 225 and is supported by NBPC-SC/WR.

Current NBPC-SC/WR Leadership:

Rev. Reginald Ragland, *President*
Rev. Leonardo Wilburn, *Vice President*
Rev. Ann L. Hayman, *Secretary*

Ruling Elder Karen A. Heads, *Treasurer*
Ruling Elder Patricia Brown, *NBPC-SC Membership Coordinator*
Rev. Mark S. Jones, Sr., *NBPC West Region Representative*

Humbly submitted:
Rev. Mark S. Jones, Sr.
NBPC West Region Representative

National Black Presbyterian Caucus
AFRICAN CONNECTION
True to our Native Land

Vision – So seeds of oneness between all peoples of African descent.

Goal - To create lasting relationships between Africans and African Americans in and through
the Presbyterian Church, USA.

The African Connection ministry seeks to deepen relationship of African American Presbyterians with our siblings in (and from) Africa.

PCUSA African constituents were hit the hardest in this COVID-19 pandemic. They were hit hard by job loss and illness, yet they were resilient because this situation is familiar to what has been happening back in Africa. A lot of the African pastors lost their secular jobs, but for some the **PDA** emergency grant was a life saver.

Some good came out of all this though. Those who had always struggled with the technology had to step up and learn the basics which is a milestone for them. They confess that they are excited to learn and know how to use "Zoom." Rev. Princeton E. Abaraoha had check-in sessions every two weeks to keep in touch with everyone. It was highly successful. The number of the dead nationwide was overwhelming.

Princeton and I thought that we needed to start building relationship with leadership and across congregation to build trust before we can authentically engage in ministry together. I'm still hopeful that some of the ideas we have will help us accomplish this.

We thought a great place to start is to foster relationships with African Presbyterians and African American Presbyterians. Some ideas include:

- sharing stories about the current fellowships that exist
- using those ideas as models to help other fellowships begin.
- Inviting the churches of board members to become first communities to use the proposed plan once developed.
- Setting a time for NBPC Board to visit with the members of the African Presbyterian Leaders Alliance

African Presbyterian Leader Alliance is a group of African leaders in Dallas that functions like a caucus for the African fellowships with the purpose of creating unity among them. There are currently 70+ African fellowships and ministries in the PCUSA. Rev. Princeton E. Abaraoha is Field Staff African Intercultural Ministries Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries, located in Dallas Texas

The idea to begin to develop relationships with the 70+ African fellowships and ministries in the PCUSA is of course on hold. We could establish zoom meetings between the groups, but I think it would not be a strong start for people who treasure fellowship, meeting with one another.

I made some connections with the Zambia-Zimbabwe-Mozambique-USA Mission Network, one of some 30+ World Mission-related networks that have formed at various times over the past 40 years to bring together Presbyterians in the USA who have

partnerships or other relationships in particular countries (or groups of countries) with PWM's global partners in those countries for fellowship, worship, mutual encouragement, learning, joint action and sharing of best practices.

Other work that is on-going -

1. I was connected to Otis and Earline Smith by Rosy Latimore. The Smiths served in Malawi. Rev. Smith and I had a conversation to review history. He is writing a summary of his work and searching for his old ministry brochure so we can determine how we might use the funds that have been set aside for African Connection.
2. Working on beginning conversations with African American mission co-workers. We are working to set a date for conversation to see what possibilities we have of beginning this ministry. I'm speaking with:
Rev. Cheryl Barnes - Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe
Rev. Paula Cooper in Malawi, Kenya, Rwanda and Zambia
Elder John Etheredge in Ghana
Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather in South Sudan

Connections will be made with African Presbyterian and the African Presbyterian Leader Alliance

3. I had conversation with Rev. Dr. Marsh Haney in March after I participated in the Maria Fearing Covid Event. I want to keep her story before the church as a resource full of ideas on how churches and individuals can support co-workers in Africa, connect with African Presbyterians here in the US, or hear a call to mission themselves.
4. A workshop opportunity on mission at NBPC in June. It would fit into navigating identity. I was reminded that workshops were not being offered at this year's convention. The next option is to host webinar conversations that will help us break down walls and create opportunities to strengthen our connections.
5. The NBPC community is invited to share with us any relationship you currently have with mission partners or any ministry with communities or church in Africa or with African ministries in the Diaspora (including the Caribbean). Please share your stories with me at dianna.wright@pcusa.org. if you would like to be one of our ministry partners, please let me know at the same email address above.

Dianna



Annual Board Meeting for NBPC

January 25th, 2021

The purpose of NBPW is to serve as an organization to share cultural heritage, experiences, and perspectives for empowering Black African in Diaspora women to participate fully in the life and mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the ecumenical community, and society.

In alliance with NBPC, Presbyteries, and our communities we wish to connect with all Black Presbyterian Women throughout the country to address women's issues and concerns.

The National Black Presbyterian Women have engaged in the following events which were the focus of our work this quarter.

- Educating voters in various states about the historic 2020 election, and supported campaigns as needed:
- Inspiring members to shop with Small Black Enterprises.
- Encouraged the use of wearing masks, washing hands, and social distancing.
- Exploring, and planning a National Black Presbyterian Women's Gathering for 2022, or whenever the virus goes away to make this feasible.
- Supported projects such as Maria Fearing Foundation. The Maria Fearing Foundation is currently selling the Maria Fearing book for only \$10.00.
- Established and published a Black Presbyterian Women's directory.
- Committee selected to propose updates to the organization's bylaws and we expect this to be completed in 2021.
- Established a Christmas designed with the logo of NBPW and mailed members Christmas cards with a message of Peace.
- We are purchasing a Zoom account to reach more individuals.
- Our current membership dues are \$20.00. Join/renew membership by paying the \$20.00 fee with a check payable to NBPW with the membership form. Mail to Ms. Judith Jerry, 450 Stevens Drive, Apartment 204, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. The National Black Presbyterian Women (NBPW) membership fees are maintained and used to conduct our conferences and training sessions. (Also, we are searching for other ways through a financial institution that members may pay with/or without a check).
- Additionally, members are submitting news articles and then newsletters are created by Mrs. Tracy Hooper, and sent electronically to members, and mailed out to members without email addresses. If you have a good article, please share it with us.

During this outstanding quarter, several special services and meetings were held utilizing the Zoom platform, and members found it to be immensely helpful to attend these sessions. The following special services and meetings were held by Zoom.

- 1) Advent Service 11-30-2020
- 2) Kwanzaa Service 2-27-2020
- 3) Christmas Social 12-27-2020
- 4) Supported New Harmony NBPC New Year's Eve Service 12-30-2020
- 5) Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. & the two Senators from GA, 1-18-2021.
- 6) Supported – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. MLK Day, Dr. Priest 1-18-2021
- 7) NBPW meetings and birthday celebrations are ongoing via Zoom until further notice.

The Lucy Craft Laney Honorees and the NBPW Youth Essay Awards offer a moment to look back at the great works Black Americans have done, and time to look ahead and celebrate the historic election of President Joe Biden, Jr., and Vice-President Kamala Harris. The Black Presbyterian Women recommended for 2021 that the National Black Presbyterian Caucus provide matching funds towards the youth essays for the purpose of awards and certificates to recipients at the NBPC 46th Biennial Convention. The awards ceremony will be held virtually in Charleston, South Carolina.

The Co-Chairs and Planning Team of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus were **remarkably busy promoting this event which will occur June 24, 25, and 26, 2021 in Charleston, South Carolina. This historic convention will be virtually manned. You can see additional information on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and the NBPC Website at <https://nationalnbpc.org>**

Theme: The Black Family, Congregation, and Community in the Presbyterian Church USA: Navigating Identity, Equity, and Economics.

Scripture: Exodus 3:7 “Then the LORD said, “I’ve clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I’ve heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain.”

Save the date! See you at NBPC 46th Biennial Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Lydia Willingham, President
National Black Presbyterian Women

NBPC
The Circle of Elders
Report to the Board of Directors
January 25, 2021
9:00 PM (EST)

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, in a time of global pandemic, social, economic, religious and cultural unrest, the Circle of Elders remains committed to its mission of keeping retired PC (USA) church servants and others connected to one another.

Never in the history of the COE has it been more important to keep everyone connected than now. Health officials require us to maintain social distancing because of COVIC-19 which leaves many of our members, sometimes alone and isolated.

The Circle of Elders mourned the loss of several of her members during 2020 including one of its founding members, Rev. Dr. Gayraud S. Willmore, whose memorial services were held recently via Zoom.

There were several notable birthdays celebrated during the year 2020 including Dr. Thelma C.D. Adair (100th) and most recently, (2021), Rev. Casper Glenn, celebrating his 99th birthday.

The Circle's two Coordinators of Communications, Elenora Giddings Ivory and Belinda Curry, continue to keep members well informed about what is happening in the church and the world around us. Much appreciation is expressed to the two faithful servants.

The Circle of Elders will be having its first Zoom meeting on January 28, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

James A. Thomas, Sr., Moderator

**Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC)
Report on the ZOOM Meeting of
October 14-16, 2020 and
The Women of Color Joint Working Group Meeting of
November 20, 2020**

The Reverend Dr. Flora Wilson Bridges
Representative from the National Black Presbyterian Caucus

A. Resolutions

REAC continued to work specifically on these resolutions that were submitted to the 224th General Assembly (2020) that were referred by the 224th General Assembly to the 225th General Assembly (2022):

1. A Resolution Addressing the Lack of Installed Pastoral Leadership in People of Color Congregations in the PC(USA)

REAC recommended that the 224th General Assembly (2020)

- Direct the office of the Stated Clerk to address the PC(USA) policies establishing minimum compensation standards (*Book of Order G-2.0804*) for pastoral calls to determine what obstacles these may create
- Strongly encourage mid councils to correct minimum compensation standards that directly and negatively impact a congregation's ability to call installed pastoral leadership
- Commend the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC) for their analysis of the causes of the lack of installed pastors
- Direct the Office of the Stated Clerk to provide the Office of the General Assembly current member and church statistics and demographics of people of color congregations. Data to be used to identify the number of predominantly people of color congregations without installed pastoral leadership (*Book of Order G-2.0504*).

It was recommended at the meeting that we review some information received from the Board of Pensions as REAC works on this resolution with the new Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Taskforce. It was formed to “study Board of Pension efforts in the areas of diversity, equality, and inclusion.”

2. A Resolution for a Mission Co-Worker on the Southern Texas Border

Direct PMA (Presbyterian Mission Agency) to employ a mission co-worker for the specifically defined need to support the overall mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the area of peace and justice for asylum seekers. There is an urgent necessity to demonstrate a practical and concrete commitment to the call of Jesus Christ to enter into partnership with and support of the marginalized and disinherited who seek asylum in the United States through:

- Seeking out and securing a culturally competent mission co-worker with lived intercultural experience, language skills, and professional experience or credentials who will hear and create an awareness with the broader church and society of the authentic condition and needs of asylum seekers
- Enable the opportunity for the mission co-worker to live out their own call to Jesus Christ through service to our sisters and brothers who seek asylum in the United States
- Increase knowledge of and communications with those seeking asylum on the southern border of Texas to discover their expressed needs and concerns from the vantage point of their own unique and personal perspective
- Help to meet these expressed needs of asylum seekers by establishing and interacting regularly and cooperatively with a network of pro-bono lawyers who have a willingness to make a commitment to legal service in the urgent interest of more expeditiously and effectively reducing the caseloads of those who are seeking asylum

3. A Resolution on Reproductive Justice: Black Maternal and Infant Mortality

This resolution was submitted jointly by ACWC (Advocacy Committee for Women's Concern) and REAC:

1. Request the Presbyterian Mission Agency develop resources to bring to awareness the disproportionately large number of Black women and Black infants who have died due to racial disparities in their healthcare. These resources are to be updated each year and made available to mid-councils and congregations for use on Mother's Day.
2. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency through the Office of Public Witness to advocate boldly to eliminate racial disparities in maternal and health outcomes by protecting the health of Black mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period, thereby ending preventable morbidity and mortality in maternal care as well as Black neonatal and infant mortality. This effort shall include immediate advocacy for the passage of Senate Bill 3363 introduced by Kamala Harris and House Resolution 2092 introduced by Rep. Alma Addams.
3. Urge PC(USA) entities and members to draw awareness to the racial disparities in maternal healthcare and especially in the critical need for scholarships for black pre-med and medical students.

3. A Resolution for Transwomen of Color

This resolution was submitted jointly by ACWC and REAC:

1. Direct the moderator or co-moderators of the 224th General Assembly (2020) to read aloud on the floor of the General Assembly the names of all of the transwomen of color from the United States whose murders were recorded in 2019.
2. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency through the Office of Public Witness to advocate boldly for the rights of transgender women of color and for the passage of the Equality Act.

3. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency through the Presbyterian Mission at the United Nations and the Office of Public Witness to advocate for the rights of color migrants and asylum seekers.
4. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to include Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20th in all future printings and distributions of the planning calendar.
5. Direct the six agencies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Administrative Services Group of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to include the intersection of gender identity as a part of cultural humility trainings done around the denomination.
6. Direct the six agencies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Administrative Services Group of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to include in all job postings a commitment to being not only an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer as defined by the U.S. government, but with the inclusion of gender identity and sexual orientation as well.
7. Direct the six agencies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Administrative Services Group of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to ensure the provision of all-gender bathroom facilities in their offices and at every General Assembly.

In 2019, all of the transgendered women who were murdered were Black except for one.

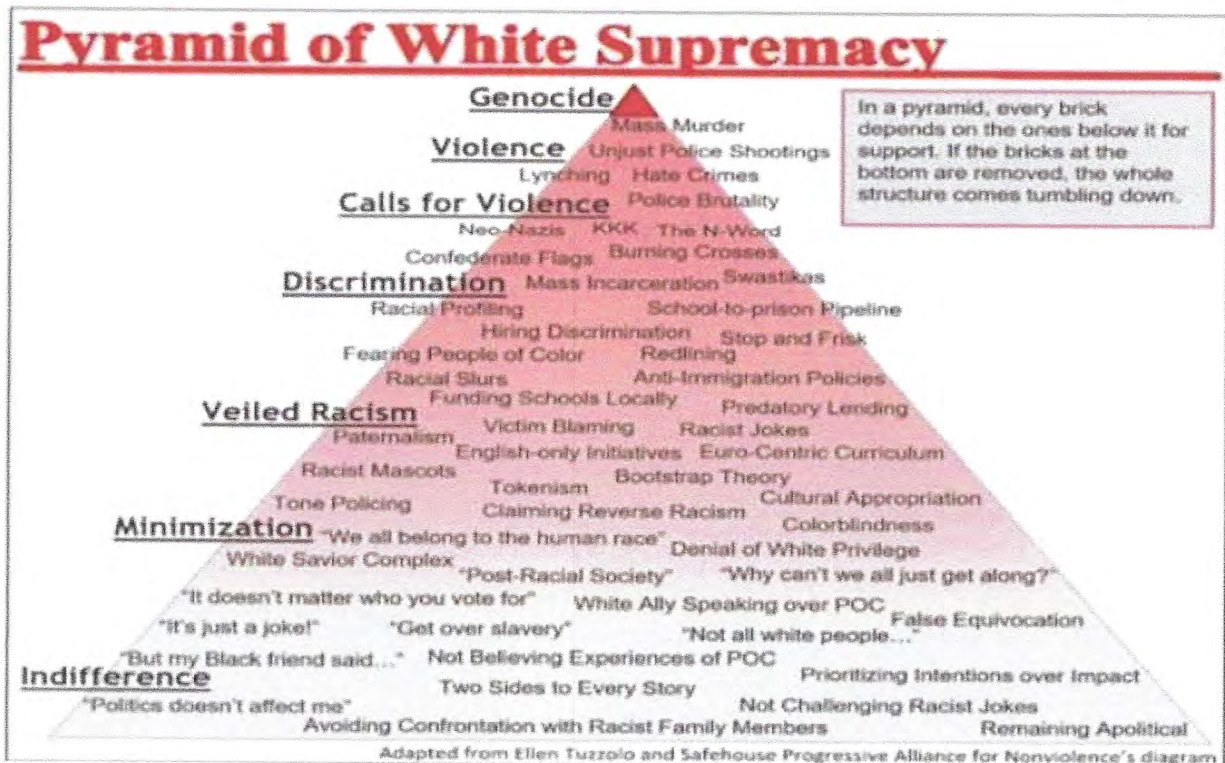
B. REAC's Overtures to the 225th General Assembly were reviewed in the REAC meeting by subcommittees. I was assigned to the subcommittee for Resource & Referral. This subcommittee was assigned the following tasks:

- The assessment of work from other entities
- Received and prepared responses to the General Assembly referrals
- Facilitated the preparation of Advice and Counsel Memoranda including those designed in consultation with the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns and the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy

- Process and analyze action of the General Assembly following each meeting in preparation for summary report to REAC
- Prioritize and initiate the preparation of statements, communications, resolutions, and reports on racial justice concerns to be forwarded to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board or the General Assembly
- Identify and develop necessary resource materials and plans for participation of REAC members of each General Assembly
- A resolution addressing the lack of installed pastoral leadership in people of color congregations in the PC(USA)

C. Training on Racism and White Supremacy

This excellent training on white supremacy was led by Marian R. Vassar, M.Ed, Director of Diversity Education at the University of Louisville. She used an outline called “Pyramid of White Supremacy” to help us understand the “building blocks” of white supremacy from the bottom up.



D. The Sundance Documentary “Time”

REAC will watch the documentary “Time” together about the family of an African-American man who served time in the infamous Angola Prison for twenty-one years. The film’s director, Garrett Bradley, won the first Best Director Award (2020) by an African-American woman in the history of the Sundance Film Festival. It is currently being shown on Prime Video.

E. Women of Color Joint Working Group

REAC hasn’t met yet in 2021. Between ACWC and REAC there are many intersectional issues being brought to the General Assembly that are being brought to the Assembly as a joint working group. Please see the report above.

There is also a concern that the Women of Color Joint Working Group should focus on what the advocacy committees above need to address in the future. The Women of Color Joint Working Group met on **November 20, 2020**. By consensus the group agreed to focus on continuing to build on the intersectional approach to gender and racial justice advocacy. Initial suggestions for focus were as follows;

- Theologies of women of color, researching and gathering stories with the intention of updating outdated PCUSA theology resources
- Bible studies from women of color about women in Scripture
- Sharing within this group from each member’s particular context to initiate the work suggested above
- Holding other intersectional identity markers in mind such as disability gender identity, etc.

The group will meet every two months beginning in January 2021.