

**REVIEW
of the
NBPC Northeast Region Annual Meeting
August 12 - 13, 2022**

**“New Wineskins: A New Way, For A New Day”
Luke 5:37-39**

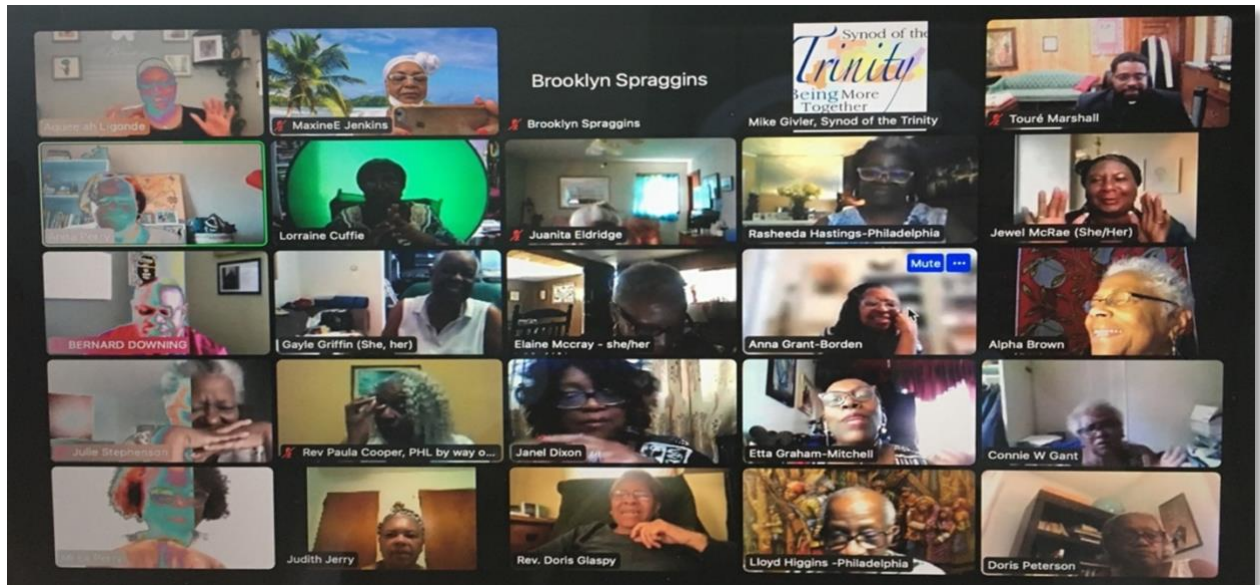


The Rev. Anna Grant-Borden, Acting Chair of the Northeast Region (NER) Nominating Committee, exclaimed she was “amazed and surprised at the moving of the Holy Spirit throughout the meeting and in all aspects of the meeting.” In preparation for the annual meeting the executive committee (EC) engaged in a weekly time of fasting and praying for the Lord’s guidance. God did not disappoint, showing up and showing out as only the Lord can do!

Even though, the 2022 NER Annual meeting was dedicated to the Rev. Dr. James F. Reese, it was the deliberate intent of the EC to include youth and young adults in all aspects of the meeting. We were proud to have twelve registered; although other commitments prevented some from joining on Zoom. Throughout the meeting, spirit-filled music established the mood and ushered us into God’s presence whether it was an instrumental prelude or postlude, a children’s choir, a rap, or solo pianist, singing “Here I Am, Lord.” We felt God’s Spirit inspiring and urging all to act in love in this new day.

Outgoing vice president, the Rev. Dr. Bernard Downing, exclaimed, “I believe we were able to introduce a different concept of those who are not familiar with New Wine, and the necessity of its impact. In addition, it has become prevalent to us that if we do not embrace its importance than we may continue our downward spiral and soon become a spiritual desert as opposed to a revitalized organism.”

In this intergenerational meeting, the NBPC National president (Dr. Charles Heyward), Presbytery and synod leaders, and the Presbyterian Historical Society honored the region with greetings and powerful prayers. Whereas the Rev. Gavin Walton (Pastor, Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh) made a clarion call for all in this ever-looming challenge to engage youth in the church by leading us to faithfully trust God as we boldly act in love saying, “yet if you say so, Lord, we will do it;” the Rev. Dr. Aqueelah Ligonde (Director of Coaching with Ministry Architects, New York City) creatively engaged us in listening and relating to each other, especially youth through her pre-listening session with six youth, presentations, training of facilitators for breakout rooms, the final WORD that CALLS TO ACTION (sermon), a Resolution,* in which we all resolved to love, listen, look and lead with a new mindset, and a powerful, interactive celebratory benediction. Dr. Ligonde encouraged us to listen to youth and members of our communities --be ‘roving listeners’ taking God’s love outside the church building. All were ready for ACTION!



Finally, a member at-large of the EC Elder Etta Graham-Mitchell (NYC) eloquently stated: “It was a pleasure to be in attendance at the annual NBPC Northeast Region Meeting because the Holy Spirit was in the midst from the very beginning to the end. New Wine was poured out as we saw and heard the message and theme of the meeting. Indeed, God is doing a new thing, and I am truly grateful for the new blessings!”

Submitted by:
The Rev. Maxine E. Jenkins, HR
President NBPC Northeast Region

***I RESOLVE TO:**

As we shift from the old wineskin to a new wineskin, we are called to a way of being that will require us to love, listen, look, and lead with a refreshed mindset.

I Resolve To...

LOVE like Jesus.

To imitate the kind of love that is patient and does not judge or hold grudges. A kind of love that protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres. **I resolve to LOVE like Jesus!**

I Resolve To...

LISTEN for the nudge of the Holy Spirit as I listen to the voices of God's children.

To keep the ears of my heart open when I am in communication with others.

To practice empathy and encouragement as the Spirit leads. **I resolve to LISTEN!**

I Resolve To...

LOOK for God in others.

To recognize their God given gifts and encourage them to use those gifts for the betterment of the world. To seek out the good in all of God's creation.

To look within myself for the courage to stand against injustice or wrongdoing. **I resolve to LOOK!**

I Resolve To...

LEAD with a heart of compassion, an ear bent toward empathy, my eyes set on Jesus, open hands toward mercy, with a voice that speaks truth, and with a mind that knows the peace that surpasses all understanding. **I resolve to LEAD!**

This new day begins with each of us loving, listening, looking, and leading with fresh perspective and open hearts. Let a new day arise!!