



National Black Presbyterian Caucus 47<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference

**Held** – North Charleston Marriott Hotel –

4770 Goer Drive – North Charleston, SC 29406

**Dates** – Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Seventeenth of June, A.D. 2023

The National Black Presbyterian Caucus

And

The National Black Presbyterian Women

Sponsors an Essay Contest

**The Conference Theme: “A Gathering of Black Presbyterians”** The Black Family, Congregation and Community in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Navigating Identity, Equity and Economics

2023 Focus: “The Year of Virtual Connections!”

*Scripture: “How good and pleasant it is when believers line together in unity.”*

Psalms 133:1 (NIV)

It is our wish that each of you will have fun reading, writing, and researching. 2



**Scripture:** Matthew 5:13-16 NLT- (13-You are the salt of the earth, but what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. 14-You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15)-No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16)-In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

## Essay Questions from The National Black Presbyterian

### Women Question – Number One



**Lucy Craft Laney** was a true light to others. She created places and spaces where youth could grow and learn. In what ways can you be like Ms. Laney? Can you practice being the true light and salt of the world in your daily life, and how will these actions impact the individuals around you? (Expand your ideas using this paragraph and answering all questions below: A, B, & C, using double spaces with 1000 words or more).

- A) How can you cultivate a spirit of kindness and compassion in your daily life, and why is this important for being the true light and salt of the world?
  
- B) How can you use your education and knowledge to make a positive impact in the world, and what role do young people play in advancing technology, innovation, and digital progress?
  
- C) Why do you believe that it is important for youth to be a positive influence in their communities, and how can you encourage others to follow your lead?



Matthew 5:13-16

## Essay Question from the National Black Presbyterian Women

### Question – Number Two



**Lucy Craft Laney** proved that one person can make a difference in creating positive change. How can you work with others to address social, and environmental issues? What do you see as being the role youth can play in creating positive change in the hybrid and virtual world? (Expand on your ideas using this paragraph and answering all questions below: A, B, & C, using double spaces with 1000 words or more).

A) How can the virtual world be a tool for promoting equity and justice? What role can young individuals play in shaping these conversations?

B) How do you think the virtual world imparts economic opportunities for black individuals, and what steps can be taken to level the playing field?

C) How can we use social media and other digital platforms to challenge stereotypes and promote positive representations of black people? Why is this important for building a more inclusive society. 4



Matthew 5:13-16

## Essay Question from the National Black Presbyterian Women



### Question—Number Three

We are the church together. We must be the salt and light to shine and make things right. There is evidence that digital algorithms and social media can be bias to people of color. What steps can you take to not be tracked by algorithms, or keeping yourself safe in the virtual world? (Expand your ideas using this paragraph and answering questions below: A, B, and C, using double spaces with 1000 words or more.)

- A) How can we create safe spaces for black people in the virtual world and what role do online communities play in promoting mental-health and well-being?
  
- B) Discuss ways young black entrepreneurs leverage the virtual world to create economic opportunities and build wealth, and what challenges do they face in doing so, in keeping blacks safe?
  
- C) How can we use technology to address systemic racism and promote social justice? What role can youth play in driving these efforts forward.