

NBPC

NATIONAL BLACK
PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS

A NEW THING

Is Emerging



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Rebuilding Vision. Strengthening Community.

President's Corner



Grace and peace to you in the strong and sufficient name of Jesus Christ.

I am deeply humbled and grateful for the trust that you have placed in me to preside over our beloved National Black Presbyterian Caucus.

I want to thank my predecessor, the Rev. Dr. Charles Heyward for a job well done and for facilitating my onboarding to the presidency.

As we fix our focus on the future, as I said in my introductory remarks in Charlotte upon being installed, let us lean into cultivating and developing strong and healthy congregations and congregational leadership. Our congregations are the mission frontiers for the PCUSA and can become catalysts for a new era of faithful and fruitful witness for the church. In spite of the present darkness in our nation, let us commit ourselves to good works of peace, justice, love, and hope for these are the very works, as we are reminded of in the second chapter of Ephesians, that we were created in Christ Jesus to do.

Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord as we learn from the past, live in the present, and look to the glorious future of wellness and thriving that God is calling us to join God in laboring for and living into.

Keep the faith and go with God,

**Rev. Gregory Bentley
bentleygj@aol.com**

A Word from the Vice President



Reflecting on my time as vice president of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, I'm reminded daily of the powerful truth in Luke 6:31: "And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise." This scripture isn't just a guiding principle—it's a call to action, especially now. We're living through a critical period in our history where doors are being shut in our faces once again. Voting rights are under attack, schools are being systematically defunded, and it feels like we're at risk of slipping back into times not unlike those from 150 years ago.

To hold the office of Vice President of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC) is to stand at a particular crossroads — one where faith and justice, history and urgency, community and accountability all converge. It is not simply an administrative role. It is a calling layered upon a calling.

The NBPC exists because the story of Black Christians within the Presbyterian tradition is one of extraordinary resilience. It is a story of people who worshipped in sanctuaries that would not fully receive them, who preached and prayed and organized even as the structures around them resisted their full humanity. To serve in leadership within that legacy is to feel the weight of those who came before — the pastors, elders, deacons, and laypeople who refused to let the church be complicit in its own silence.

At this moment, every member of the NBPC bears immense responsibility. Our roles—regardless of how large or small they may seem—are absolutely essential in stopping this dangerous regression from taking hold. We must walk a righteous path with unwavering dedication, standing firm not only within our own denomination but also courageously reaching beyond its borders to uphold our shared values and convictions.

Grace and peace,

Elder Ray Williams
raywelch@aol.com

NBPC

History

In 1893, the first predecessor to NBPC was organized. It was called the Afro Presbyterian Council and was organized by the Reverends Francis Grimke, R.H. Armstrong, Matthew Anderson and John B. Reeve. It advocated for political, religious, and social interest.

In 1947, the name of the Council was changed to the Council of the North and West. The Afrocentric nomenclature was dropped to indicate total integration into the program of the denomination. In 1964, Concerned Presbyterians was organized, but it again left out nomenclature in its official name to suggest any indication of racial consciousness.

In 1968, Black Presbyterians United (BPU) was created. This was a turning point in the church in which as Black folk, we began to affirm our Blackness and demand greater visibility and power in the life of the church.

Subsequent to 1983, following the merger of the PCUSA and the PCUS, to be inclusive of African Americans in both denominations, the name was again changed to the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC).

For almost 200 years now, Black Presbyterians have found it necessary to organize themselves in a number of ways, to contend against our church's heresy of white racism. In this ongoing struggle, our Black Presbyterian forebears relied heavily on the moral and spiritual resources of our Black religious heritage.

It is becoming increasingly clear as we survey history and assess our present reality, that as an oppressed people both in the church and out, our liberation cannot be left to the good intentions of a predominantly white majority. Church history reveals that prayers, social pronouncements, proclamations and programs on racial justice and reconciliation —alone or in combinations- —have meant very little. That same history also reveals, that, to the extent that changes have occurred, our Black organizations have played key roles in bringing about those changes.



Mission

Purpose

Mission

The Mission of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus is to serve Jesus Christ, and enrich the black Presbyterian congregations and their communities, through our commitment to congregational enhancement, advocacy, social and racial justice; and challenging the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) when it fails to take seriously the needs of the poor, oppressed, and disenfranchised.

Purpose

The Purpose of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus is to Enable–Equip–and Empower people of the African Diaspora, in dealing with current issues that adversely affect or that can enhance their lives in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and society. Persons of the African Diaspora are those throughout the world that are descended from the historic movement of peoples from Africa.

NBPC MEMBERSHIP

Connected by Faith. United in Purpose.

WHY MEMBERSHIP MATTERS:

- Strengthen communities through leadership
- Promote church growth and sustainability
- Advocate for equity & justice
- Build connections across regions

Join Today!

“Where there is no vision,
the people perish...”

Proverbs 29:18

Stay Connected. Stay Engaged. Stay Committed.



NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS (NBPC)

2026 APPLICATION FORM MEMBERSHIP

www.NationalNBPC.org

Theme taken from 2 Timothy 1:6

"Fan into Flame the Gift of God: Equipping Our Youth for a Flourishing Future"



Check only ONE BOX below for your MEMBERSHIP selection: Today's Date: _____

Individual Membership Includes: Circle of Elders, National, Regional and Local Dues \$ 50
Affiliate Membership (non-Presbyterian)

Young Adult (Ages 18-25 years) \$ 25
Youth (Ages 12-17 years) Includes: National, Regional and Local Dues
College/University
Seminary

Lifetime Membership This is a ONE-TIME Investment when paid in full \$1,000
Benefit: Pay ONLY Regional and Chapter dues in the subsequent years. \$25

Region Dues \$100
Chapter Dues

Table with 4 columns: Institutional Mission Partner (IMP), Congregational Size, Institutional Mission Partnership, and Enter Amount Below From The Schedule On The Left. Rows include Church, Presbytery, Synod, and Other with corresponding dues amounts.

General Donation to National for Ongoing Expenses \$ _____ Check

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Make all checks and money orders payable to: National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC)

Preferred Title (Please check appropriate Box(es):

Rev. Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss

Generation: Gen Z+ (born after 1996) Millennials (born 1981-1996) Gen X (born 1965-1980)
Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964) War+ (born before 1946)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Preferred Email Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Mobile Home Work Other

Secondary Phone: _____ Mobile Home Work Other

Church: _____ Presbytery: _____

Region: _____ Chapter: _____

Mail/Forward Membership Application, Dues and IMP Contribution to: NBPC Memberships P.O Box 99696 | Troy, MI 48099

Direct questions to: NBPCmembership@gmail.com or (248) 505-4727

RETAIN COPIES FOR YOUR RECORDS

As a 501(c)3 organization, membership dues are not tax deductible, while donations are deductible for tax purposes.

National Black Presbyterian Caucus

Chapters and Regions





NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

National Office: P.O.Box 99696

Troy, MI 48099

(843) 425-6869



www.nationalnbpc.org email:info@nationalnbpc.org

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Vacant

Seminarians Advisor

Rev. Dr. Brian C. Henderson

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Vacant

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Elder Alvin Smith

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Elder Stefanie Lewis, Chair

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Midwest Vacant

Mid-South Elder Natalie Toombs

Northeast Elder Julie Stephenson

Southeast Rev. Dr. Joe Rigsby

West Rev. Dr. N'Yisrela Watts-Afryie

Upper-Northeast Rev. Dr. Aaron Bass

NBPC REP TO GA RACIAL EQUITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (REAC)

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BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CLERGY WOMEN

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AFRICAN CONNECTION

Elder Dr. Y. Dianna Wright

BLACK PRESBYTERIAN

WOMEN Elder Dr. Lydia

Willingham

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SEMINARIAN REPRESENTATIVE

Rev. Dr. Brian C. Henderson

YOUTH and YOUNG ADULT ADVISOR

Elder Lynne Foreman

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Vacant

CHILDREN'S REPRESENTATIVE

Rev. Dr. Toure C. Marshall

PRESBYTERIAN INTERIM UNIFIED AGENCY LIAISON

Rev. Carlton Johnston, Interim Director

African American Intercultural Congregational Support

VICE PRESIDENT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

BE COUNTED.

SECRETARY

**The Nominating Committee seeks
nominations for candidates for the
following positions:**

- **Vice President**
- **Secretary**

**[SUBMIT NOMINATIONS
HERE!](#)**

SUBMIT ALL NOMINATIONS BY MAY 14, 2026

PURPLE POWER

Your Vote Matters
IN THE 2026 PRIMARIES

Dr. Lydia Willingham
President & Lay Pastor

✓
YOUR VOTE = YOUR VOICE

Every primary election shapes leadership, policy, community impact, and the future of our democracy.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

2026 PRIMARY ELECTION DATES

WHY PRIMARIES MATTER

- Determine party nominees for the general election
- Influence who appears on the general election ballot
- Lower turnout = greater impact per vote
- Your voice helps shape policies and leadership
- Many local races are often decided during primaries



MARCH 3, 2026

States Voting:
Texas
North Carolina

Early primary momentum begins here.



MAY 19, 2026

States Voting:
Georgia
Pennsylvania



JUNE 9, 2026

States Voting:
South Carolina
Maine



JUNE 23, 2026

States Voting:
New York
Maryland



JUNE 30, 2026

State Voting:
Colorado



JULY 21, 2026

State Voting:
Arizona



AUGUST 4, 2026

States Voting:
Michigan
Missouri
Washington



AUGUST 18, 2026

State Voting:
Florida



SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

State Voting:
New Hampshire

HOW TO PREPARE TO VOTE

- Check your voter registration status
- Know your polling location
- Review candidates and issues
- Bring required identification (if applicable)



WAYS TO VOTE

- In-person on Election Day
- Early voting
- Absentee/mail-in ballots

BARRIERS TO VOTING

- Registration Issues**
Missed deadlines
Confusing registration processes
- Work & Time Constraints**
Long work hours
Limited time off to vote
- Long Lines & Wait Times**
Especially in high-density communities
- Identification Requirements**
Not having required ID
- Language Barriers**
Limited multilingual resources
- Accessibility Issues**
Barriers for seniors or persons with disabilities



WE HAVE LOTS OF BARRIERS GOING INTO THIS ELECTION. Executive orders were sent to Georgia to pick up the 2020 ballots because he still wants to say that he won the election.

CALL TO ACTION!

- REGISTER
- EDUCATE YOURSELF
- SHOW UP AND VOTE

SCAN ME!



Be informed.
Be empowered.
Be heard.

RESOURCES



[Vote.org](https://www.vote.org)



[scVOTES.gov](https://www.scvotes.gov)

Includes Voter Registration, Early Voting, Absentee Voting, Upcoming Elections, Election Results, Election Audits

Southminster Presbyterian Church

Launches the Morrison F. Warren Community Academy

A new after-school program brings tutoring, leadership, and hope to Roosevelt School District families. Southminster Presbyterian Church has received a \$10,000 Mission Priority Grant from the Grand Canyon Presbytery to launch the Morrison F. Warren Community Academy — a free, after-school enrichment program serving up to 30 underachieving children ages 6 to 12 from the Roosevelt School District.

Named in honor of Morrison F. Warren, a beloved former Elder at Southminster, Arizona State University professor, and community "bridge builder," the Academy carries forward his legacy by centering four guiding values: that all children can learn, that children deserve to be heard and respected, that reading unlocks a child's potential, and that parents are essential partners in education.

The program will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30 PM on the Southminster campus. Tuesdays will focus on academic support — math, reading, conflict resolution, and social enrichment — while Thursdays will be dedicated to servant-leadership training, the program's primary goal. Students will also participate in monthly presentations tied to the PCUSA calendar, exploring topics ranging from Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy to World Food Day and disability inclusion. The need is urgent. The Roosevelt School District reports that 60% of Percy L. Julian Elementary students score below the state average in math and reading — in a state that ranks 48th nationally in public education and ties for the highest dropout rate in the country.

Beyond the children, the Academy is designed to strengthen the whole family. Parents will be invited to parenting classes covering discipline, self-esteem, conflict resolution, and goal-setting. A parent support group will be formed with meeting space and coordination support from the church's Women's Guild and Men's Club. Healthy snacks, provided by Shellie's Preschool staff, will be available at each session to support students' nutrition and focus.

The Academy will be staffed by a part-time coordinator and college-aged volunteers, with oversight from the Southminster Session. Success will be measured by leadership module completion rates, parent engagement in church ministries, and student participation in monthly presentations.

"This program is about building bridges," said program organizers, "just as Morrison Warren did throughout his life — connecting families to resources, to community, and to one another as the local church functions as a connecting entity."

The Academy is expected to launch in May of 2026.

Provided by the Session of Southminster Presbyterian Church.



THE 227TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY WELCOMES YOU

**Milwaukee, WI
JUNE 22-JULY 2, 2026**

Visit the [GA Website](#) for
additional information.



REAC

The Racial Equity Advocacy Committee

EQUITY

In Action

**Advancing Equity at the
227th General Assembly**





SOUTHEAST REGION NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS

Biennial Conference

"Anchored in Faith: Navigating the Tides of Change with Purpose"

JULY 23-25, 2026

14670 DUVAL ROAD,
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32218-9429

**Scan here to Make Hotel
Reservations**





JOIN US!



The Southeast Region of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus invites you to join us July 23-25, 2026, in Jacksonville, Florida for Southeast Region Biennial Conference celebrating 49 years of service, faith and fellowship, in action.

The Biennial Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Airport located at 14670 Duval Road Jacksonville, Florida 32218. You can scan the QR code on the front of this page to book a reservation or call the front desk at (904) 741-4404. Be sure to provide the receptionist with the following Room Block code: SYNOD 2026 to receive the discounted rate of \$126 per night + tax.

This rate is valid through July 2, 2026, and available for the following dates only July 22 to July 26, 2026. Any reservations made prior or beyond this time frame will be subject to the hotel's general rate.

Registration for the Southeast Region, NBPC Biennial Conference is \$225 per adult and \$100 per youth. More details about the Conference Registration will be available soon. More additional information contact Elder Mary B. Porter, SER Treasurer, by phone (843) 889-3290 or via email mbporter3@comcast.net.

See you there!



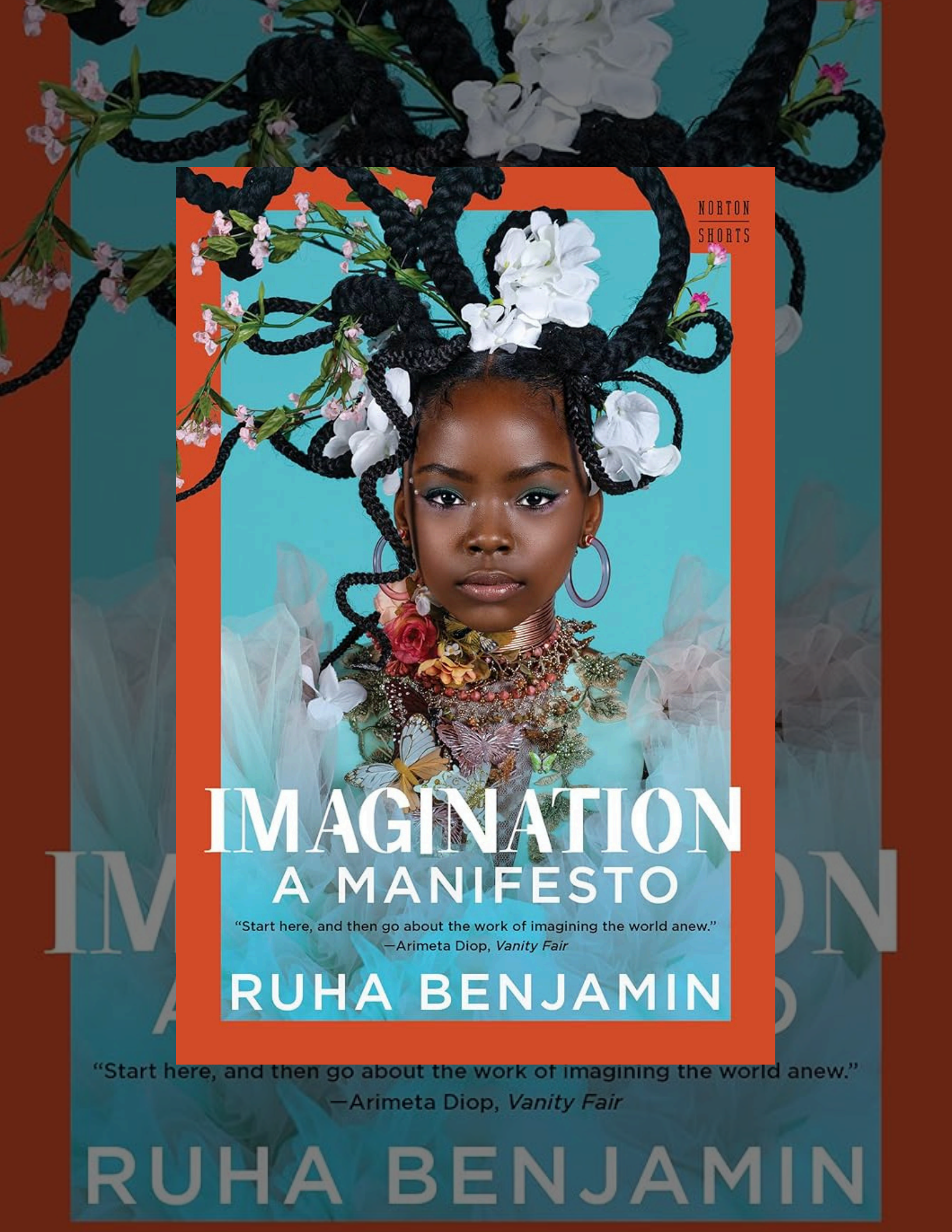
SAVE THE DATE

NBPC 48TH
Biennial Conference

JUNE 17-19, 2027

Louisville, Kentucky

Details coming soon!



NORTON
SHORTS

IMAGINATION A MANIFESTO

“Start here, and then go about the work of imagining the world anew.”
—Arimeta Diop, *Vanity Fair*

RUHA BENJAMIN

“Start here, and then go about the work of imagining the world anew.”
—Arimeta Diop, *Vanity Fair*

RUHA BENJAMIN



Featured Book

Start here, and then go about the work of imagining the world anew.” —Arimeta Diop, Vanity Fair

In this revelatory work, Ruha Benjamin calls on us to take imagination seriously as a site of struggle and a place of possibility for reshaping the future.

A world without prisons? Ridiculous. Schools that foster the genius of every child? Impossible. Work that doesn't strangle the life out of people? Naive. A society where everyone has food, shelter, love? In your dreams. Exactly. Ruha Benjamin, Princeton University professor, insists that imagination isn't a luxury. It is a vital resource and powerful tool for collective liberation.

Imagination: A Manifesto is her proclamation that we have the power to use our imaginations to challenge systems of oppression and to create a world in which everyone can thrive. But obstacles abound. We have inherited destructive ideas that trap us inside a dominant imagination. Consider how racism, sexism, and classism make hierarchies, exploitation, and violence seem natural and inevitable—but all emerged from the human imagination.

The most effective way to disrupt these deadly systems is to do so collectively. Benjamin highlights the educators, artists, activists, and many others who are refuting powerful narratives that justify the status quo, crafting new stories that reflect our interconnection, and offering creative approaches to seemingly intractable problems.

Imagination: A Manifesto offers visionary examples and tactics to push beyond the constraints of what we think, and are told, is possible. This book is for anyone who is ready to take to heart Toni Morrison's instruction: "Dream a little before you think."



NBPC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Luncheon

JUNE 27, 2026

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Thank You

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.

Isaiah 43:19