



**NBPC**  
PUBLICATION SERIES

EDITION 2  
SUMMER 2026

Rebuilding Vision.  
Strengthening  
Community.

# MOVING THE VISION

*Forward*



# President's Corner

## *Let's Go Deeper!*

Once a church was a brave and revolutionary fellowship, changing the course of history by the introduction of discordant ideas; today it is a place where people go and sit on comfortable benches, waiting patiently until time to go home to their Sunday dinners. Many have refused to join the Church, not because the Church has demanded too much, but because it has demanded too little. Their criticism is not that the Church is too different from the world, but that it is too much like the world. The humiliating truth is that no Christian fellowship has ever truly challenged them.” – Elton Trueblood, “Alternative To Futility”, (USA: Harper & Brothers, 1948), 31, 112-113.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” Luke 5:4

Elton Trueblood penned this scathing critique of the Church 80 years ago but it sounds like it was written yesterday. It seems like the more things change the more they stay the same.

Are we content to just “hold it in the road and keep it out the ditches” or do we want to move forward boldly and bravely going where God is leading us? Is “that’ll do” enough or are we ready to stretch ourselves to become all that God wants us to be?

I invite each and every member of NBPC to join me in a season of prayer to discern how God is moving in our lives individually and collectively and how God is calling us to join God in God’s work in our lives, the caucus, the church, and the world.

Let me suggest two excellent ways to begin this process: daily prayer and Bible study. When I say daily prayer, I’m not talking about spending hours on your knees...5 minutes on a consistent daily basis will do. Couple that with consistent daily Bible study (reading through the Psalms is very good for this endeavor) and now we are positioning ourselves to hear from God and to respond faithfully to becoming who God is calling to be and to doing what God is calling us to do. Let’s go (and grow) deeper together!

In His Service,  
Gregory J. Bentley, President  
bentleygj@aol.com



# Vice President's Message

## *The Usefulness of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus*

*Revelation 7: 9. After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.*

**From time to time in our efforts to bring others to the Presbyterian USA denomination and to an even greater extent, when we recommend membership in the National Black Presbyterian Caucus to others, we are challenged about the usefulness and benefits of membership.**

**Within a denomination where Black members make up a small fraction of the whole, organized spaces for Black voices are not a luxury but a necessity. The National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC) has served that function for generations, giving Black Presbyterians a structure through which to preserve their history, hold their church accountable, and sustain one another in faith and practice. Its usefulness can be seen across four dimensions: historical continuity, advocacy for racial justice, institutional support for congregations, and the cultivation of leadership.**

**In challenging times as we are now, don't take the usefulness and benefits of our organization lightly. The Caucus exists explicitly to make racial justice "integral in the church's self-understanding," not a peripheral concern raised only in moments of crisis. It works in partnership with the denomination's Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns and the African American Congregational Enhancement Office, giving Black Presbyterians a formal channel into the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s decision-making structures. This is significant in a denomination where Black members number only about 41,000 out of roughly a million total members. Without an organized caucus, such a small minority could easily be outvoted or overlooked on questions ranging from resource allocation to responses to racialized violence.**

**Our Caucus is useful precisely because the challenges it addresses- historical erasure, underrepresentation, under-resourced congregations, and a narrow leadership pipeline- do not resolve themselves through goodwill alone. By preserving history, pressing for racial justice, supporting congregations materially, and cultivating leaders, the Caucus gives Black Presbyterians an institutional home within a predominantly white denomination.**

Grace and peace,

Elder Ray Williams, Vice President  
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](http://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

| Institutional Mission Partner (IMP) | Congregational Size | Institutional Mission Partnership | Enter Amount Below From The Schedule On The Left |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church     | 1 to 75.....        | \$100                             | ➡ \$ _____                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presbytery | 76 to 150.....      | \$150                             |                                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Synod      | 151 to 250.....     | \$250                             |                                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other      | 251 or more.....    | \$300                             |                                                  |

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](mailto: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

## PRESBYTERIANCHURCH (U.S.A.)

National Office: P.O.Box 99696

Troy, MI 48099

(843) 425-6869

[www.nationalnbpc.org](http://www.nationalnbpc.org) email:[info@nationalnbpc.org](mailto:info@nationalnbpc.org)



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Vacant

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Elder Lynne Foreman

Rev. Dr. Lawrence Willis

**Financial Administrator**

Vacant

**Mail and Bank Assistant**

Elder Alvin Smith

[alvin40smith@gmail.com](mailto:alvin40smith@gmail.com)

**Membership Committee**

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

Rev. Dr. T. Janel Dixon

### 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

# Rebuilding Vision. Strengthening Community.



# **SOUTHEAST REGION NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS**

## *Biennial Conference*

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

**14670 DUVAL ROAD,**

**JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32218-9429**

**JULY 23-25, 2026**

**VICE PRESIDENT**

# **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**BE COUNTED.**

**SECRETARY**

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

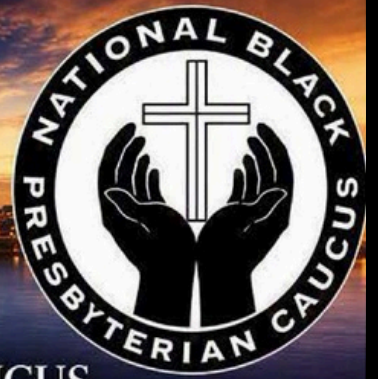
- **Vice President**
- **Secretary**

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

**SUBMIT ALL NOMINATIONS BY MAY 14, 2026**



— SAVE THE DATE —



OUR FAITH.  
OUR YOUTH.  
OUR FUTURE.  
OUR LEGACY.

NATIONAL BLACK  
PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS

# 49<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

THEME

“FAN INTO  
**FLAME**

THE GIFT OF GOD”:

EQUIPPING OUR YOUTH  
FOR A FLOURISHING FUTURE

“For this reason I remind you to fan into  
flame the gift of God, which is in you...”

2 TIMOTHY 1:6

| JUNE 17-20, 2027  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY





# General Assembly Recap



GA Modertors



NBPC President pictured with Rev. Dr. Diann Givens Moffett, Former President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



The Presbyterian Foundation hosted a dinner for all current and former moderators at the 227th General Assembly in Milwaukee. We loved hearing personal and professional updates from each one who was able to join us. It was a wonderfully warm and welcoming evening. Thanks to each one of the moderators for making time to join us!



Rev. Bentley, speaking during the moderators dinner.





NBPC President, Rev. Bentley Preaching in Miller Chapel @ Princeton Theological Seminary for the Black Theology and Leadership Institute. BTLI is a weeklong intensive continuing education event for clergy and laity for training, worship, and fellowship. The institute is designed for clergy and lay leaders who would like to deepen their thinking and preaching by learning from preeminent scholars of theology and religion.



# Let's Go Deep

*Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers, but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on the Lord's law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper."*

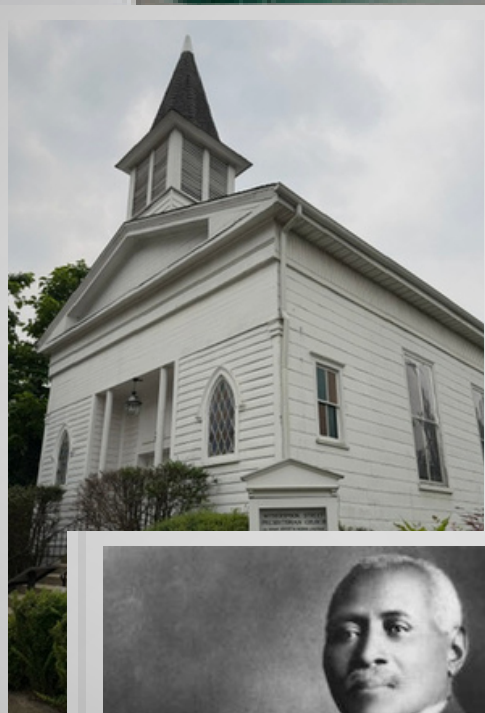
*~ Psalm 1:1-3 (NRSV)*



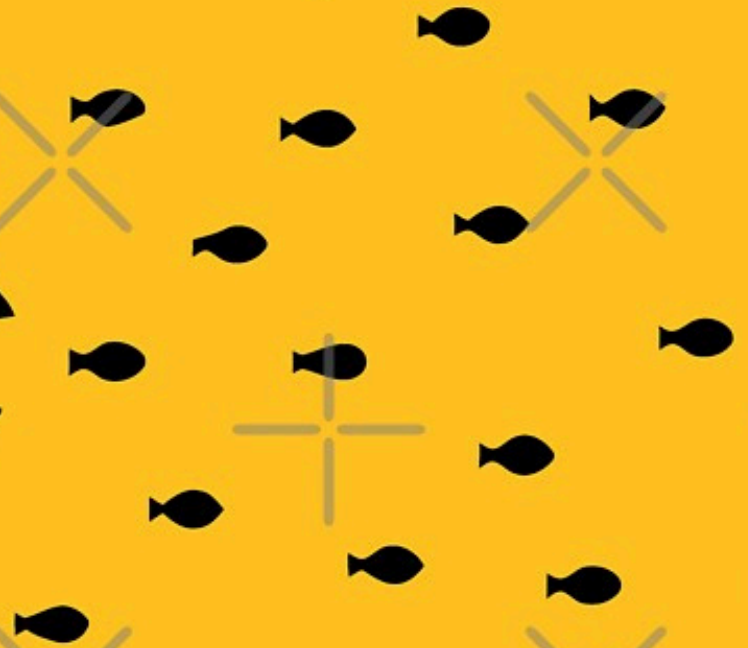
**WHEN THE ROOTS ARE  
DEEP, THERE IS NO  
REASON TO FEAR THE  
WIND.**

**AFRICAN PROVERB**

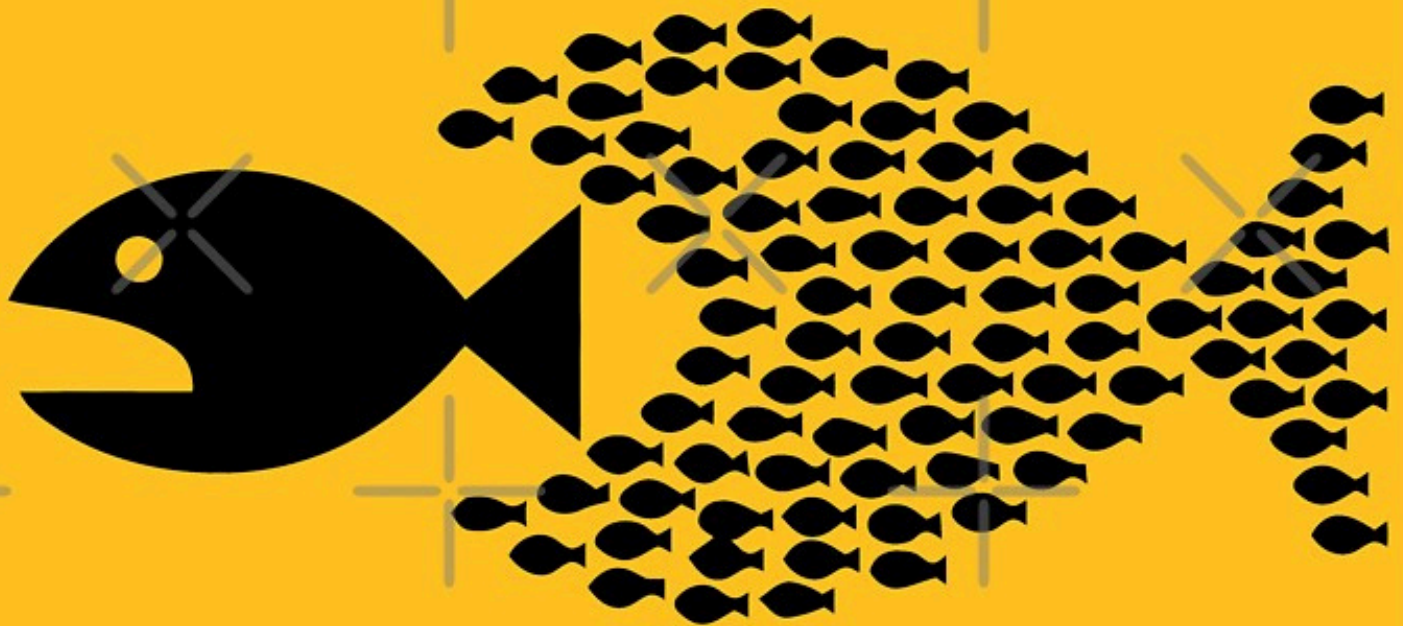




**This historic Black Presbyterian church was pastored by the Rev. Dr. William Robeson, father of the inimitable Renaissance man and freedom fighter Paul Robeson.**



**DO NOT PANIC**



**ORGANIZE**





**REAC**

*The Racial Equity Advocacy Committee*

**EQUITY**

*In Action*

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







**RESISTANCE**



**RESISTANCE  
HISTORY**

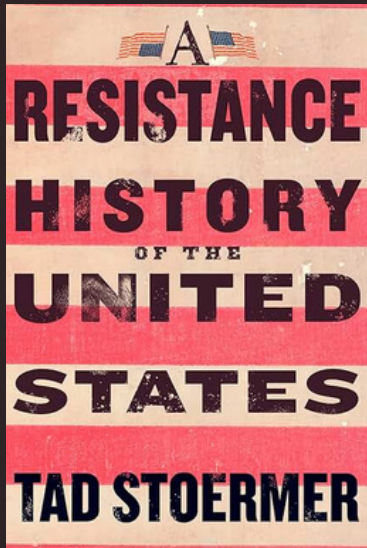
OF THE

**UNITED  
STATES**

**TAD STOERMER**

**TAD STOERMER**





# Featured Book

Revisit the Salem Witch Trials, the Underground Railroad, and other resistance movements of American history to get a bold new understanding of how resistance shaped our past—and how its principles can change our future.

The United States was shaped by resistance—but not in the way we’ve been taught. The Revolution did not secure liberty; it opened the door to either liberty or oppression, where only white men enjoyed all of the benefits and protections of citizenship.

In *A Resistance History of the United States*, public historian Tad Stoermer shows how from the very beginning, that tension—between the ideals of resistance and the realities of power—has defined America more than the Enlightenment ideals enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Utilizing powerful storytelling to focus on key—and often lesser-known—moments in American history, this book reveals the truth of how resistance movements from Colonial times have opposed the powers that be. Stoermer covers an impressive roster of pivotal movements, with each chapter identifying a key resistance movement and principle meant to inspire contemporary readers, including:

- Bacon’s Rebellion/Metacomet’s War (1676)
- Salem Witch Trials (1692)
- The Black Loyalists (1783)
- The Underground Railroad (1850)

Through these and many more examples, Stoermer dismantles the mythologies that pass for American history—exposing the curated nostalgia, moral evasions, and institutional silences that have long protected abusive power. What emerges is an essential look at how we can take lessons from the past to understand, and effectively respond to, the injustices we face today.

# NBPC Publication & Submission Protocol

## Publication Schedule

- The NBPC publication will be released quarterly throughout the year.
- Special editions may be released for major announcements or General Assembly updates.

## Submission Deadline

- All submissions must be submitted at least 3 weeks before the publication release date.

## Accepted Content

- Upcoming events and initiatives
- Committee and regional updates
- Community outreach and advocacy efforts
- Scholarships, leadership, and educational opportunities
- Member spotlights and announcements
- Chapter and Regional Updates

## Content Guidelines

- Submissions should focus on current or upcoming events.
- Content may be edited for grammar, formatting, and clarity.
- NBPC reserves the right to decline submissions that do not align with the mission or publication standards.

## Submission Information

- Subject Line: NBPC Publication Submission – [Region/Committee Name]

| Edition   | Publication Release Date | Submission Deadline |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Edition 2 | June 15, 2026            | May 22, 2026        |
| Edition 3 | September 15             | August 21, 2026     |
| Edition 4 | December 15              | November 20, 2026   |

### Edition 2 Form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfJBjVc0dcmAqw27ewYcomKmQC\\_qvMYBCvVJx8czjxd7CdkA/viewform?usp=publish-editor](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfJBjVc0dcmAqw27ewYcomKmQC_qvMYBCvVJx8czjxd7CdkA/viewform?usp=publish-editor)

### Edition 3 Form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczw89Qrv5\\_gsS-tAMnBL\\_A9K6asDyo9k2RBjDQgtuSNxGkAA/viewform?usp=publish-editor](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczw89Qrv5_gsS-tAMnBL_A9K6asDyo9k2RBjDQgtuSNxGkAA/viewform?usp=publish-editor)

### Edition 4 Form:

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*"Where there is no vision, the people perish..." – Proverbs 29:18*





# 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*