

**Newsletter-** The quarterly newsletter BRIDGES is the means whereby ongoing work of the Office will be communicated. It will bring news from among constituents and will provide the opportunity for writers to share their gifts. Your participation is invited. Articles will be approved and printed on a first come first served basis.

**Annual Journal-** The Office of Black Ministries will publish an annual journal to be distributed throughout the wider church. You are invited to send in articles, share stories of your ministries, share theological reflections and provide historical information.

**Website -** The website is also a medium for sharing information. Please be sure to visit our website at: [www.episcopalchurch.org/black.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/black.htm)

### **The Black Clergy Directory**

OBM maintains an online directory for informational and mailing purposes. Please help us to keep this directory up to date by sending us contact changes as they occur. More detailed information about the black church may be found on Louie Crew's website at: [rci.rutgers.edu/~lcrew/blkpr.html](http://rci.rutgers.edu/~lcrew/blkpr.html)

**Contact us at:**

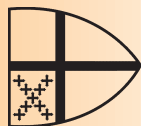
### **Office of Black Ministries Episcopal Church Center**

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## *Office of Black Ministries Ethnic Congregational Development*

*“God of grace and God of  
glory, on thy people pour  
thy power.”*

The Office of Black Ministries is dedicated to the enhancement and growth of black congregations and seeks to fulfill its Baptismal Covenant through partnership with Episcopal provinces, dioceses, deaneries, local parishes and ecumenical groups and organizations across ethnic and racial boundaries.

We embrace the mission **L\*E\*A\*D** to:

**L**everage our leadership skills for ministry  
in the whole church.

**E**stablish initiatives for growth and  
development among all segments of the  
church.

**A**dvocate for increased diversity in every  
aspect of church work for lay persons,  
youth and ordained persons.

**D**evelop programming and resources to  
provide a broader focus for mission and  
ministry among congregations.

## **HISTORY of the Office of Black Ministries**

In response to a request from the Conference of Church Workers among Colored People, the Reverend Bravid Harris was appointed Secretary for Negro Work in the Episcopal Church in 1943. Upon his election as Bishop of Liberia in 1945, he was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. Tollie L. Caution who served until 1966.

In 1973, the Rt. Rev. Quintin F. Primo, Jr. on behalf of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE), presented to the 1973 General Convention a resolution for the establishment of a "Black Desk" at the National Church Headquarters.

The Rev. Dr. Franklin D. Turner was the first incumbent of the Office of Black Ministries. He served until 1983 and was succeeded by the Rev. Canon Harold T. Lewis. The Rev. Lynn Collins was the first woman appointed Missioner in this position in 1995 and served until 2002. The Rev. Angela S. Ifill was appointed Missioner in 2004.

## **PROGRAM INITIATIVES AND SERVICES**

### **Recruitment, Training & Development Program (RT&D)**

RT&D supports the education and training of seminarians, ordained leaders and young people attending college with an interest in ministry in the church. The committee is chaired by the Rt. Rev. Orris G. Walker, Jr., Bishop of Long Island. The committee meets in June and November of each year to accomplish its work.

### **Organization of Black Episcopal Seminarians (OBES)**

Every year in March, the Office of Black Ministries bring together black seminarians who receive scholarship support for this annual conference. Postulants and Candidates for Holy Orders gather to learn from experienced clergy as they share information and resources that support the seminarians experiences and to help prepare them for ministry. Among other benefits, the conference provides an opportunity for seminarians to fellowship and to develop relationships for networking and mentoring.

### **Mentoring Partnerships**

This program builds upon the contacts that begin at the annual OBES conference. A broader effort will recruit experienced clergy to match up with seminarians and newly ordained clergy to forge on-going long-term partnerships for support in ministry.

### **One in the Spirit**

Is an activity designed to bring together diverse groups for ministry. Black and white congregations will be encouraged to share the gifts and talents of clergy and lay people with one another regardless of color or gender. This effort will provide opportunities for congregational visits for fellowship and conversation. Clergy will preach and lay people will lead Sunday morning forums, as congregations reach across lines of ethnicity and gender to build a church that draws upon the gifts, skills and energy of diverse experiences and perspectives.

### **Links with the three Historically Black Episcopal Colleges**

Historically Black Colleges and Universities have produced more African- American professionals than all other institutions of higher learning combined. They were also the source of recruitment for young black clergy in the Episcopal Church.

St. Paul's College, Lawrenceville, Virginia, St. Augustine's College, Raleigh, North Carolina, and Voorhees College, Denmark, South Carolina were all founded for the purpose of educating blacks. A campus ministry will link these colleges with deacons, bishops and priests for onsite seminars.

### **Black Ministries Advisory Committee**

The Black Ministries Office is served by an Advisory Committee chaired by the Rt. Reverend Michael B. Curry. The committee agreed on a statement of purpose as follows:

1. Serve as a counsel of advice and support to the Missioner of the Office of Black Ministries.
2. Assist the Missioner as appropriate with planning for the work of the office.
3. Assist the Missioner in seeking to interpret the work of the office to the constituency being served and provide constructive and insightful feed back to the office from the constituency and the wider church.
4. Advocate as required for the needs and concerns of the ministry of the office within the governing structure of the General Convention and Executive Council, and the operational structure of the Office of the Presiding Bishop.
5. Fulfill other duties as called upon by the Missioner for the furtherance of the work of the Office of Black Ministries.

Members of the committee include: The Rev. Dr. Kortright Davis, Dorothy Dottin, Carolyn Gaines, John Harris, Ora Houston, The Rev. Deon Johnson, Elizabeth Morgan (youth representative), The Rev. Nan Arrington Peete, Katherine Tyler Scott, The Rev. Martini Shaw, The Rt. Rev. Orris G. Walker, Jr. The Rt. Rev. Arthur B. Williams, and the Rev. Bernard Young.

### **Communication**

In addition to everyday interaction, the Office of Black Ministries plans to communicate with its constituents through: