Union of Black Episcopalians
Black Deputies Forum

The Role of the Black Deputy at General Convention
Stoney the road we trod, Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died,
Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered.
Out of the gloomy past, “Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is case.

James Weldon Johnson (1871 – 1938)
Why Run for General Convention Deputy

• Represent your Diocese.
• Remind our Church of the importance of diversity of people and ideas.
• Present and support resolutions for change.
• Have a voice in the governance of the Episcopal Church
General Convention and Black Deputies

- Boycott of International Oil Companies in South Africa – 1988
- Racism in the Episcopal Church – 2006
- Apology for Slavery – 2009
- Budget and Staffing and ongoing work of the Church
Boycott of International Oil Companies in South Africa – 1988

This General Convention resolution is commonly referred to as the Shell Oil Boycott called on the Episcopal Church to endorse the boycott of Royal Dutch Shell. This request was made by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Details can be found in The Archives: Acts of Convention, Resolution 1988 – B052
Apology for Slavery – 2009

• An ongoing objective of many people in a number of our dioceses, it continues to be a priority.

• Further information is available from the Digital Archives

Racism in the Episcopal Church – 2006

• This continues to be an ongoing topic – important to many of us, there are many resolutions on the topic.

• For further information see the Archives of the Church – Digital Archives for General Convention Resolutions (A143))

• http://www.episcopalexarchives.org

• http://www.episcopalexarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_resolution.pl?resolution=2006-A127
Budget and Staffing and ongoing work of the Church

• It is important that African American people be present and offer our many skills to the wider communities of our Church, we chair committees, we act as volunteers, we should participate in all of the councils of the Church because it makes our Church a better place.

• We all stand on the shoulders of many African American Legends, some living, some called to greater glory. Without them we would not have been able to achieve any success or to continue to be able to participate in the roles we now have.
The Process – How Do You Get Involved

- Get involved in your diocese.
- Get involved in your UBE chapter
- Learn about the issues in the Church
- Follow issues of social justice, budget, on the Internet...Get involved.
- If you don’t have a group that you like....Start One!
Getting Elected

• Consider running for Alternate Deputy
• Get your name and your interest “out there”
• If you can’t get elected for 2015 – go as a visitor or volunteer if you can
• Talk with your deputies, let them know that you are interested
Get involved in your diocese

• Work on local committees
• Run for your vestry learn about the workings of your local diocese
• Reach out and network with other organizations in your diocese (ECW, UBE, etc.)
• Become a part of Facebook, Linked in and other groups.
• It is rewarding work, your Church needs you and your ideas – never shortchange what you bring to the table and what you have to offer!