Union of Black Episcopalians  
Annual Report 2015-2016

2016 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND CONFERENCE

CANON ANNETTE L. BUCHANAN  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Enhance our communication strategy to better inform, collaborate and tell our story

- Hosted Vigil celebration for the installation of Presiding Bishop Michael Bruce Curry hosted about 2000 attendees
- Hosted Gala Award at General Convention to honor Black Bishops and leaders within the Episcopal Church
- Commissioned Absalom Jones wax statue with church-wide sponsorship, housed at the Blacks in Wax Museum
- Chapters planning impactful Absalom Jones celebrations, stronger collaboration with Dioceses, wider participation
- UBE Sunday established to highlight the organization and Rev. Alexander Crummell’s contributions to the Church

Spiritual Development

- Launched weekly UBE Prayer Conference Line in September 2015 hosted by regional directors and membership well received by lay and clergy members
- Online Bible Study re-launched 1st Thursdays
- Spiritual retreat scheduled for Fall 2016
- Annual Conference continues to highlight Services including celebrants/preachers from the diaspora, music from the African-American tradition and spirit-filled Bible study and Morning Prayers

Chapter Development

- Regional Directors actively engaged with chapters, all hosted Regional meetings
- President attended majority Regional Conferences and addressed leadership and chapter development issues
- Cultivating new interests groups nationally (e.g. Phoenix, Pittsburgh)
- DC chapter reinstated
- Diocesan chapters being explored in Diocese of Long Island and California
- Annual Board Retreat at VTS
- Annual Conference includes Chapter Leadership Training

Congregation Development

- Continued pursuing resources to address UBE Consultative Services & The Black Church Relevancy
**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

- Strategy developed for resolution C019 – Racial Reconciliation, communicated to church leadership, deputies etc.
- Continued work on priority positions developed with Black Deputies at General Convention
- Support for Episcopal HBCU with outreach to membership and Black Congregations
- Ongoing advocacy with The Consultation
- Collaboration with Episcopal Economic & Ecological Justice Networks to address General Conv. resolutions
- Ongoing partnership with Episcopal Bishops of African Descent especially for sponsorship of youth/young adults
- Partnership with Episcopal Church Staff e.g. Delegate to UN on drug policy

**YOUNG ADULTS**

- Direct actions from Young Adults on Black Lives Matter designed and attended Ferguson pilgrimage hosted by the National Church
- Increased participation of Young Adults at Annual Conference
- Concurrent plenary, workshops and service projects at Annual Conference for Young Adults
- Fundraising and Financial Sponsorship priority for Youth & Young Adults
- Active participation by Youth and Young Adults on UBE Board

**FINANCE**

- Fundraising Activities ongoing – (Annual Appeal, Membership Dues, Chapter Assessment, Life Member Levels, Online Store)
- Successful Year-End Annual Appeal
- Membership income increasing
- Exploring and applied for multiple grants
- Profitable 2015 Annual conference and General Convention Gala
- 2013 and 2014 Financial Review completed
- 990 filed for 2015
- Successfully repaying monthly loan to Diocese of Southern Ohio
- New Treasurer Clive Sang

**COMMUNICATION**

- Actively web posting, emailing and using social media to share information e.g. Current racial justice issues, Presidents Message, Death Notices, Job Post, Prayer List, Board Meeting Highlights, Conference Registration, Online Membership & Donation, Honorary Chair Messages
- Several positions statements issued e.g. Gun

**VOCATIONAL FORMATION**

- Focused attention and outreach by Board members to Black Seminarians to acknowledge major milestones (graduations) and to offer support as needed
- Improved relationship with seminaries