# UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS

**Annual Meeting**  
Wednesday, July 26, 2017  
10am  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Philadelphia/Cherry Hill, NJ

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MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

August 3, 2016

The Annual Meeting was opened at 10am with a prayer by Bishop Nathan Baxter, a prayer by W.E.B. DuBois, “Give Us Grace.”

Present: All national officers and a quorum of voting members attending the conference were present.

The Agenda was Adopted: M/S President A. Buchanan/ Rev. E. Metoyer

2015 Annual Meeting Minutes: Rev. N. Pinder/Rev. T. Babb M/S. Minutes were approved as presented.

Credentials: Secretary D. Smith noted that 389 registered for the conference, 338 adults and 51 youth.

Guests: Dean of General Theological Seminary, Very Rev. Kurt Dunkle and his wife; Dr. Everett Ward, President of St. Augustine University; Staff members of TEC; Past Presidents John Harris, Rev. Dr. Sandye Wilson, Rev. Nelson Pinder and Rev. Darryl James. President Buchanan noted that representatives of the following seminaries were present: Church Divinity School of the Pacific, General Theological Seminary, Trinity Seminary, Virginia Theological Seminary and Sewanee School of Theology.

Episcopal Bishops of African Descent comments: Bishop Baxter spoke for Bishop Gayle Harris who was unable to join us.
Bishop Baxter thanked Bishop Santosh Marray and Bishop Barbara Harris who remained at the meeting. Bishop Baxter provided information on the membership of EBAD and noted the inclusion of two Native American bishops and the support of bishops of Spanish ancestry. EBAD’s encouragement of women bishops, particularly women of color, was noted. Bp. Baxter also noted that some of the EBAD bishops supported some of the youth/young adults’ attendance at the UBE Conference.

President’s Address: Canon Annette Buchanan
President Buchanan reviewed her summarized report. Key items are noted below.

- President Buchanan noted that this ended her first term as president and that it is truly a 24 x 7 job.
- Goals of the Board are:
  - Shore up the foundation of UBE and its impact within the Episcopal Church
  - Partnership with the Walker Center is going well
  - Staff support to the organization includes administrative support and a communication’s consultant
  - Shoring up the financial base. We have both a Treasurer and CPA addressing the finances
  - Increased communications including upgrades to the website, Facebook, Twitter. She noted the work is being conducted by Roger Wynn, the Communication’s Consultant.
  - A speaker’s Bureau will be developed to help “market” UBE. Presenters will serve as ambassadors for UBE.
• Highlights of the first term are:
  o Vigil for the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry with over 2000 attendees. This effort was completed with planning over only two months
  o The creation and placement of the Absalom Jones statue
  o The development of UBE Sunday, the first Sunday of September
  o The Weekly Prayer Line on Tuesday evenings
  o The development of monthly bible Study
  o Planning for the Spiritual Retreat to be held November 9-11, 2016 at Holy Cross Monastery, NY
  o Thanks were offered to the Chapter Presidents and Regional Directors
  o The Board meets monthly year-round.
  o Social Justice and Advocacy is much of the work UBE is engaged in
    ▪ UBE supported the Reconciliation and Anti-Racism C019 for $2M working with Heidi Kim and the Rev. Chuck Wynder
    ▪ Young people of UBE attended the Black Lives Matter Forum in Ferguson, MO
    ▪ UBE provided advocacy within the Consultation
    ▪ UBE supported the efforts of the Episcopal Economic Network and the Episcopal Policy Network
    ▪ Provided an opportunity for Black Deputies to develop key issues in preparation for General Convention
    ▪ UBE continued its partnership with LECUSA, the Haitian and Continental African and Caribbean communities
    ▪ UBE encouraged young adults and youth voice and seat
    ▪ UBE will focus in the coming period on succession planning.
  o Priorities: Black Church vitality, Leadership in the Black Church and the mentorship with small Black Churches and UBE.

Annual Treasurer’s Report. Treasurer the Rev. Clive Sang presented the financials including. M/S Rev. C. Sang/Rev. E. Metoyer. The financial report was accepted. The Budget for 2017 was presented. A. Flowers/Rev. A. Rawlins M/S the Budget. It was accepted.

Youth Report. Several youth provided feedback to the conference.
  • Cameron Brown noted that nearly 40 youth attended the conference and raise $61 that was donated to UBE. She noted that youth were more involved in the youth service.
  • Other youth who spoke were Gillian Jones from Texas, Kingsley Onuzuruike.
  • Marie Brown Harvey has been recommended by the youth as the next Youth Advisor to be confirmed by the UBE Board.

Young Adults Report: Darius Jenkins
Mr. Jenkins provided an overview of the week:
  • D. Jenkins thanked the organization Jericho Road who provided an opportunity for the Young Adults to volunteer.
  • He noted that nearly 200 backpacks were distributed, exceeding the goals by 100.
  • The YA invited adults to participate in their ongoing projects.
  • He noted that Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas’ presentation was particularly well received.
  • The mixer went very well.
Darius thanked all who helped in making the Young Adult experience successful.

Resolutions Committee Report. Canon Jill Mathis
No resolutions were submitted
Bylaws Committee Report. Canon Jill Mathis
M/S Ayesha Mutope-Johnson/Rev. Lynn Collins to suspend the notification period. Approved.

Nominating Committee Report: Rev. Eric Metoyer
The slate of officers presented to the body included all current officers:
- President: Canon Annette Buchanan
- First Vice President: Canon Jill Mathis
- Second Vice President: Rev. Martini Shaw
- Secretary: Dianne Audrick Smith
- Treasurer: Rev. Clive Sang
M/S Diane Pollard/Rev. Sandye Wilson to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate. Accepted.

Other Business.
It was noted that General Convention 2018 will be held in Austin, TX
The 2017 UBE Annual Meeting and Conference will be held in Philadelphia, PA
Prayers were offered for all the Black churches that are closing.
Appreciation was offered to the Co-Deans and the Chaplains of the conference.

The meeting adjourned with a prayer from Bp. Nathan Baxter at 12:00 pm EDT.

Bishop Baxter offered a prayer in honor of Rev. Oscar Romero.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dianne Audrick Smith
Dianne Audrick Smith
National Secretary
REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Resolution 2017-01
Resolution in support of the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys

Be It Resolved:
That The 49th Annual Business Meeting and Conference of the Union of Black Episcopalians supports and endorses the mission of the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys, Washington, DC. All chapters of the Union and its members are encouraged to adopt the school as part of their budgets and to give financially any amount possible on an annual basis. And where possible, to include the Bishop Walker School in any diocesan, parish and/or community group’s budgets where philanthropic opportunities might exist.

Explanation:
The Union of Black Episcopalians recognizes that young men of color are at risk in America. It recognizes the importance of a quality and caring educational experience as a means of moving out of the traps that keep us all, but especially young men of color, from moving ahead and becoming a vital and contributing force in society.

The Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys was created in memory of Bishop Walker’s recognition of the importance of education and his dedication to the African American Community. Serving African American boys from low-income families in Washington, DC, the school opened its doors in the fall of 2008 with thirteen students. Beginning with boys in Pre-school, the Walker School added a grade each year. The projection is that in 2017, the school will serve 160 students in JK-8.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, “This school is a point of light in a part of the world that desperately needs it.”

Receiving no government funding, the Bishop Walker School is supported by the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and its congregations, corporations, foundations and individuals who believe in the mission of the school. The Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys is committed to being an academically rigorous, tuition free, independent school, rooted in the traditions of Episcopal education and informed by current research on boy’s social and intellectual development that is focused on a child-centered educational approach and the educational philosophy of Bishop John T. Walker.

We invite the Union of Black Episcopalians to share in this vision by encouraging the membership to learn more about the school by visiting its website at www.bishopwalkerschool.org.

Submitted by:
• The Rev. Dr. Kwasi A. Thornell, Past UBE National President, Northern California/Vivian Traylor Chapter of the UBE
• The Rev. Canon Nan Peete, Retired, Past Chaplain of the Bishop Walker School
• The Rev. Dr. Robert Steele, Faculty, University of Maryland
• Dianne Audrick Smith, Educator, Deputy to General Convention, Diocese of Ohio
• The Rev. Chuck Wynder, Priest-In-Charge, Holy Comforter, Washington, DC
• The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, Bishop, Diocese of Washington, DC
• Canon Judith Conley, Diocese of Arizona, Past UBE National President
• John Harris, Bishop Herbert Thompson Chapter UBE, Diocese of Southern Ohio. Past UBE National President
• Lou Glosson, Former National UBE Youth Advisor and Member of Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, H. Belfield Hannibal Chapter UBE
Resolution 2017-02
Voting Rights and Voter Suppression

Whereas, The Voting Rights Act's passage was a signature accomplishment of the civil rights movement, and the Supreme Court’s 2013 decision in the case, known as Shelby v. Holder, effectively invalidated Section 5, which required state, county and local governments with histories of discrimination (as well as other more technical factors) to submit any changes to voting laws to federal authorities for approval; and

Whereas, at the state level, emboldened by Shelby v. Holder, Republicans have long been leading a sustained assault on voting rights. In state after state, the GOP has pursued a consistent and ambitious agenda to curtail voting rights, an agenda that includes requiring voter IDs, cutting early voting hours and locations, slashing Sunday voting, and eliminating same-day voter registration. It also includes restricting urban counties’ ability to open additional polling sites and purging voter registration rolls through the use of manipulable and overly zealous techniques. It extends to bans on straight-ticket voting, one byproduct of which is longer voting....

Resolved, that this 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church hereby directs and encourages the adoption, on a state-by-state basis, reforms that would expand voter registration, increase voter eligibility, and make voting processes more accessible.

Submitted by
Joe McDaniel, Jr., Member, Union of Black Episcopalians

Endorsed by,
The National Board of the Union of Black Episcopalians
Resolution 2017 - 03
Additional Funding for Becoming the Beloved Community for the Triennium 2018-2021

Whereas, the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognized, by the adoption of Resolution C019, that, despite repeated efforts at anti-racism training as well as racial justice and racial reconciliation initiatives including the passage of more than 30 General Convention resolutions dating back to 1952, the abomination and sin of racism continues to plague our society and our Church at great cost to human life and human dignity; and

Whereas, the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church formally acknowledged our historic and contemporary participation in this evil and repent of it; and

Whereas, That in the wake of the brutal, overtly racist murders of nine of our Christian brothers and sisters of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church on June 17, 2015; numerous inexcusable deaths of unarmed black men and youth at the hands of law enforcement personnel; and the moral atrocity of mass incarceration in which a hugely disproportionate number of persons of color have been unfairly caught in the net of an unjust criminal justice system, the 78th General Convention established as a top priority of The Episcopal Church in the upcoming triennium the challenging and difficult work of racial reconciliation through prayer, teaching, engagement, and action; and

Whereas, the Church understands that the call to pray and act for racial reconciliation is integral to our witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to our living into the demands of our Baptismal Covenant; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop, President of the House of Deputies, Vice President of the House of Bishops, and Vice President of the House of Deputies were charged to lead, direct, and be present to assure and account for the Church’s work of racial justice and reconciliation; and

Whereas, the above officials worked and published its work entitled “Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church’s Long-term Commitment to Racial Healing, Reconciliation and Justice,” which directs additional work in the area of Racial Reconciliation; therefore be

Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of $1.0 million for the triennium for the implementation of this additional work of organizing our efforts to respond to racial injustice and grow a community of reconcilers, justice makers and healers; and be it further Resolved, that such monies shall be utilized exclusively to make grants to agencies and dioceses of The Episcopal Church for the establishment of such programmatic activities aimed at addressing the issue of Racial Reconciliation.

Submitted by
Joe McDaniel, Jr., Member, Union of Black Episcopalians

Endorsed by,
The National Board of the Union of Black Episcopalians
Resolution 2017 - 04
Haitian Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Designation

Whereas, the current administration has decided the designation of "Temporary Protected Status" (TPS) for Haitians who were here illegally or on a visitor visa at the time of the 2010 earthquake would be extended yet again, but for only six months; and

Whereas, TPS is far from a permanent solution to the vast challenges facing Haitian immigrants and Haiti itself, it offers an important refuge for a group that has been victimized by natural disasters and harmful Western interventions; and

Whereas, the Caribbean nation has yet to fully recover from the 2010 earthquake when contamination at a UN base caused a cholera epidemic that has killed 10,000 people and, last October, Hurricane Matthew ripped through the country, killing hundreds more, destroying crops and homes, and displacing thousands; and

Whereas, after the earthquake, the previous administration gave Haiti a Temporary Protected Status designation. First introduced in 1990, the TPS program provides humanitarian relief to nationals of countries coping with a severe conflict or natural disaster. By providing recipients with legal status and work authorization, TPS designations—typically granted in 6- to 18-month cycles that can be renewed indefinitely—have become a crucial means of aiding people who face unsafe conditions should they be sent back to their home country; and

Whereas the TPS program has allowed thousands of Haitian immigrants to work and children to attend school, providing social and economic stability for families and communities; and

Resolved, that this 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognizes that this six-month extension will not allow Haitian TPS recipients living in the United States time to attain travel documents and make other necessary arrangements for their ultimate departure from the United States, and will also not provide the Haitian government with the time it needs to prepare for the future repatriation of all current TPS recipients; and therefore, be it further

Resolved, that this 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognizes the arguments for extending this “temporary” status stressed that Haiti’s in no condition to take back the estimated 50,000 or so people benefitting from this amnesty program and that it’s not like the expiration of the amnesty would mean all 50,000 would be rounded up and sent home the next day. Rather, they would all simply return to their prior status – mostly illegal aliens, plus some who were here on student or tourist visas when the earthquake hit. Those who were illegal and came to the attention of ICE would be deported, just like other Haitian illegal aliens; and therefore, be it further

Resolved, that this 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church requests that the Administration hereby extends the TPS designation for Haitians for another 18 months; and therefore, be it further

Resolved, that this 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church hereby calls for a statutory change. The TPS statute allows the executive to keep renewing this temporary status indefinitely. Instead, we need to change the law, so that the administration can grant TPS, but any extension would require an act of Congress. Our lawmakers still might choose poorly, but at least they’d be on the record and could be pressured by voters; and therefore, be it further

Resolved, that this 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church hereby calls for the passage of The Davis-Oliver Act, a broad measure to tighten up immigration enforcement that was taken up in the House Judiciary Committee in May of 2017, which contains a provision giving the Administration the right to make the initial TPS Designation, but puts the power to make an extension of such designation in the hands of Congress.

Submitted by, Joe Daniels, Jr., member, Union of Black Episcopalians
Endorsed by, The National Board of the Union of Black Episcopalians
Resolution 2017 - 05
On Mass Incarceration and Sentencing Reform

Whereas, there are significant racial disparities in sentencing decisions in the United States. Sentences imposed on Black males in the federal system are nearly 20 percent longer than those imposed on white males convicted of similar crimes; and

Whereas, Black offenders sentenced in state and federal courts face significantly greater odds of incarceration than similarly situated white offenders and receive longer sentences than their white counterparts in some jurisdictions; and

Whereas, Black male federal defendants receive longer sentences than whites arrested for the same offenses and with comparable criminal histories; and

Whereas, the level of disproportionate representation of Blacks among prisoners who are serving life sentences without the possibility of parole (LWOP) is higher than that among parole-eligible prisoners serving life sentences. The disparity is even higher for juvenile offenders sentenced to LWOP, and higher still among prisoners sentenced to LWOP for nonviolent offenses; and

Whereas, these racial disparities result from disparate treatment of Blacks at every stage of the criminal justice system, including stops and searches, arrests, prosecutions and plea negotiations, trials, and sentencing. Race matters at all phases and aspects of the criminal process, including the quality of representation, the charging phase, and the availability of plea agreements, each of which impact whether juvenile and adult defendants face a potential LWOP sentence; and

Whereas, in 2010, in long overdue recognition of the unfairness of the sentencing disparity, Congress passed the Fair Sentencing Act (FSA), which reduced the disparity between the amounts of crack and powder cocaine required to trigger certain mandatory minimum sentences from 100-to-1 to 18-to-1. In 2011, the Sentencing Commission amended the Sentencing Guidelines consistent with the FSA and then voted to apply the new guidelines retroactively to individuals sentenced before the FSA was enacted. While the FSA was a step toward increased fairness, the 18-to-1 ratio continues to perpetuate the outdated and discredited assumptions about crack cocaine that gave rise to the unwarranted 100-to-1 disparity in the first place; and

Whereas, the racial disparities in juvenile LWOP sentencing are symptomatic of racial disparities throughout the juvenile justice system. For U.S. children, the racial disparities grow with each step into the criminal justice system—from arrest, to referral, to secure confinement. Black youth account for 16 percent of all youth, 28 percent of all juvenile arrests, 35 percent of the youth waived to adult criminal court, and 58 percent of youth admitted to state adult prison. Black youth are twice as likely to be referred to a juvenile court and more likely to be processed rather than diverted. Among those juveniles adjudicated delinquent (i.e. found guilty), Black children are more likely to be sent to secure confinement and are more likely to be transferred to adult facilities. Among youth who had never been incarcerated in a juvenile prison, Blacks are more than six times as likely as whites to be sentenced to prison for identical crimes. Black children are also more likely to be prosecuted as adults and incarcerated with adults: Black youth compose 35 percent of youth judicially waived to adult criminal courts and 58 percent of youth sent to state adult prisons; and,

Whereas, despite the Supreme Court's joint ruling in Miller v. Alabama and Jackson v. Hobbs, 132 S. Ct. 2455 (2012) that, for juveniles, LOWP sentences violate the Eight Amendment against cruel and unusual punishment, states have inconsistently interpreted the retroactive holding, resulting in thirty-two states which still allow the imposition of LOWP for juveniles; and
Whereas, the current Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, has issued a memorandum dated May 12, 2017, which directs The Justice Department to seek all charges against a defendant which would trigger implementation of Mandatory Minimum Sentences, thus wiping out the Sentencing Reforms Gains which have been recently achieved; therefore be it

Resolved, that this 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church (TEC) hereby urges an amendment to the federal sentencing guidelines to prevent any discriminatory impact on minorities including by further reducing the disparity in penalties for crack and powder cocaine offenses. Crack and powder cocaine are two forms of the same drug, and Congress should eliminate any disparity in the amount of either necessary to prompt mandatory minimum sentences; and be it further

Resolved, that this 79th General Convention of TEC urges the Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, to end his call for the imposition of all possible charges that can result in the imposition of Mandatory Minimum Sentences; and be it further

Resolved, that this 79th General Convention of TEC calls for the abolishment of the sentence of life without parole for offenses committed by children under 18 years of age, and that child offenders currently serving life without parole to have their cases reviewed by a court for reassessment and resentencing, to restore parole eligibility and for a possible reduction of sentence; and be it further

Resolved, that this 79th General Convention of TEC calls upon State legislatures to repeal all existing laws or the portions of such laws that either allow for or mandate a sentence of life without parole for a nonviolent offense. Such laws should be repealed for nonviolent offenses, regardless of whether LWOP operates as a function of a three-strikes law, habitual offender law, or other sentencing enhancement. Make elimination of nonviolent LWOP sentences retroactive and require resentencing for all people currently serving LWOP for nonviolent offenses; and be it further

Resolved, that this 79th General Convention of TEC urges Congress to enact comprehensive federal sentencing reform legislation such as the Smarter Sentencing Act of 2015 or the Justice Safety Valve Act of 2015, which would reduce some mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses and would retroactively apply the Fair Sentencing Act—which reduced the crack/powder cocaine sentencing disparity—to those currently serving sentences for these offenses; and be it further

Resolved, that this 79th General Convention of TEC urges Congress to initiate studies to examine racial disparities in sentencing, including racial disparities in prosecutors’ exercise of discretion in seeking sentencing enhancements under three-strikes, § 851 federal drug enhancements, and other habitual offender laws and disparate racial effects of drug policies such as mandatory minimum sentences and school zone drug enhancements.

Submitted by,
Joe McDaniels, Jr., Member, Union of Black Episcopalians
Endorsed by,
National Board Members of the Union of Black Episcopalians
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Spiritual Development:
• Weekly national teleconference Prayer Line continues with steady following
• Monthly national teleconference Bible Study continues with variety of leaders
• Hosted first annual 2-day spiritual retreat for rest and revival

Chapter Development:
• New chapter established in Haiti affirmed with visit from UBE leadership team
• Chapters actively involved in encouraging members to be deputies for General Convention and to fill other critical Diocesan, Provincial and National committees
• Chapters involved in community outreach programs and celebrating our history with robust programs for Absalom Jones and UBE Sunday

Congregational Development:
• UBE Board provided consultation to Black congregations to address vitality and leadership issues
• Presentation by UBE leaders about the organization at churches and other venues
• Focused meetings with Black Clergy to solicit feedback and provide status

Leadership Development:
• Active involvement in search committee for new Missioner of Black Ministry
• Deeply committed to keeping before the Church the importance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities to include active communication and recruitment of students
• Began focused outreach to Black Seminarians to acknowledge major milestones and to offer support as we have improved relationship with seminaries
• UTO grant awarded to VTS Black student organization with UBE support
• Engaged and active Board as well as leadership at the Regional and Chapter level
• Succession planning being actively deliberated across all leadership positions
• UBE Board continues to include appointment of new At-Large Members from the African Diaspora: Caribbean, Haiti, Liberia, and other African countries
• Annual Conference continues to be educational and multi-generational, highlights:
  o Workshops and Plenary that engage social justice issues in our community and church and provide further knowledge about TEC and our congregations
  o Spirit-filled Services including celebrants/preachers/music from the diaspora
OUTREACH & ADVOCACY

• Continued advocacy for social justice issues by creating resolutions to be presented at 2017 Annual Conference and General Convention that support our community e.g. Voting Rights, Living Wage, Fair Criminal Justice, Immigration
• Launched Mental Health Taskforce in 2016 to address this critical issue
• Networking continues in monthly meetings with other Episcopal advocacy groups who share our concerns and vision for a just and inclusive Church and society
• Strengthened Ecumenical collaboration with the African Descent Lutheran Association, other denominations being explored
• Contributed to charitable causes including Episcopal Relief and Development donations for continued rebuilding in Haiti

COMMUNICATION

• Celebration of the accomplishments of people of African descent with UBE’s accolades, presence and gifts for the following events:
  o Investiture of the Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray as the XI Bishop of the Diocese of Easton, MD
  o Consecration of the Rt. Rev. Carl Wright, Armed Services and Federal Ministries, first Black Bishop in that role
  o Consecration of the Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville Burrows, Diocese of Indianapolis, first Black female Bishop in that role
  o Appointment of the Rev. Kelly Brown-Douglas as Dean of EDS-Union Seminary, first Black female Dean of Seminary
• We continue to enhance communication launching an online newsletter UBUNTU
• We are active on social media and frequently email relevant information to our members and supporters.
• We are an active resource for job placement throughout the church

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

• We are committed to Youth and Young Adult development with concurrent plenary, workshops and service projects at our Annual Conference
• We continue to have Youth and Young Adults Advisors on UBE Board
• Young Adults awarded UTO grant for leadership development
• Strategic planning meetings held to develop programs for youth and young adults nationally

FUNDRAISING - FINANCE

• We are financially able to meet our obligations, including expenses for our administration and communications support including repayment of our loan.
• Ability to sustain payment for Part time consultants for: Administrative, Communication & Financial support
• Life memberships payments have increased