

# *Committee on Black Congregational Ministries*

**Chair:** Billye P. Bridges  
Carmichael Crutchfield, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair

**Staff:** Garland F. Pierce

## **Program Mission/Purpose:**

The mission of the Committee on Black Congregational Ministries (CBCM) is to nurture member communions and others in bringing an Africentric perspective to their work of resourcing congregations, especially those of African descent. CBCM's purpose is to address the concerns of African-American congregations related to curriculum, biblical and other religious publications, special days and other educational resources that impact these communities of faith.

## **1. What specific actions has the program ministry committee taken or plans to take to follow through with the work on cultural proficiency begun in the January 2005 ELMC meeting?**

CBCM continues to seek ways to work on cultural proficiency, namely, through:

- Dialoguing with members of Pacific Asian American/Canadian Christian Education (PAACCE) to determine possible ways these two committees can continue to collaborate.
- Participating in teleconference calls with Committee on Disabilities to discuss issues around racism and ablism. Considering a one-day meeting with this committee during our 2006 annual meeting.
- Planning a 2007 Ghana Study Tour open not only to CBCM, but also to interested seminarians and other ELMC members.

## **2. What actions has the program ministry committee taken to strengthen its relations:**

**a. Other ELMC program ministry committees:** CBCM actively seeks to collaboratively work with the Disabilities, Public Education and Literacy, and PAACE committees. We have had conversations with the three committees.

**b. NCCC member communions not represented at the table:** CBCM constantly dialogues about and contacts other predominantly African American NCCC member communions as well as staff in other denominations working to resource African American congregations and members not currently represented at the table. We make personal contacts.

**c. Other communions and/or agencies:** CBCM attempts to invite other communions and/or agencies to our annual meeting/educational event. We send out mailings and other pertinent literature about the ongoing happenings within our committee and various communions.

**3. How is the work of this program ministry committee carried forward between meetings of the committee?**

Between meetings CBCM carries forward its work through teleconference calls, e-mails and small group assignments. For the past few years, Barbara Tilley, ELMC program specialist, has offered administrative support to the committee's work while Garland Pierce has given programmatic leadership. Their contributions have been invaluable to the ongoing committee work.

**4. How does the work of your program ministry strengthen ELMC as a whole? How does your work make ELMC a stronger witness to the unity of the church?**

The work of CBCM strengthens ELMC as a whole through its presence, resources, participation, contributions and perspectives. Our work helps make ELMC a stronger witness to the unity of the church because of "our welcomed and heard voice at the table."

**5. What resources/products/services does the program ministry offer to denominations/congregations/the public?**

- *Special Days in the Black Church*: a collection of bulletin inserts, historical information, orders of worship and litanies for holidays and special occasions in the Black Church. Available as a download from the NCCC website.
- *An Annotated Bibliography of Africentric Resources*: an 80-page book that is an updated edition and includes all the entries in the first edition and has expanded to include new entries and annotations for most of the bibliographic entries, plus a listing of useful websites and videos. For purchase through ELMC and member communions that participate in CBCM.
- "Christian Education Forum: Nurturing All~ Christian Education for Small Congregations": This public forum examined the vital role of Christian Education in small congregations, as well as compared the role and impact of Christian Education within the small, medium and large size congregations.
- "Christian Education: The African Diaspora": CBCM held its 2005 annual meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada at the invitation of Richard Choe, committee member from The United Church of Canada. We had an opportunity to learn more about Black Canadians, the Black Church in Canada and Black Canadian educational resources.



**6. What recommendations do you want to make to the Education and Leadership Ministries Commission? To the NCCC?**

- CBCM recommends that the Education and Leadership Ministries Commission continue to invite and involve our predominantly African American denominations to the table in decision-making capacities.
- CBCM recommends that the National Council of Churches continue "...to seek justice, to love mercy, to walk humbly with our God," throughout the whole fabric of this body!

**Membership:**

The Rev. Dr. Darryl Ingram	African Methodist Episcopal Church
Ms. Vivian Green	African Methodist Episcopal Church
The Rev. Raymon Hunt	African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Dr. Mary Love	African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
The Rev. Brenda Halliburton	American Baptist Churches in the USA
The Rev. Yvonne Carter	American Baptist Churches in the USA
The Rev. Billye P. Bridges	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
The Rev. Dr. Carmichael Crutchfield	Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
The Rev. Lynn Herring	Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America
The Rev. Canon Angela S. Ifill	The Episcopal Church USA
The Rev. Arthur Williams	The Episcopal Church USA
The Rev. Lovelle A. Maxwell, Jr.	National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.
The Rev. Olivia Cloud	National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.
Dr. T.B. Boyd, III	National Missionary Baptist Convention of America
The Rev. Dr. David Groves	National Missionary Baptist Convention of America
The Rev. Marcel Kellar	National Missionary Baptist Convention of America
The Rev. Stephany D. Graham	Presbyterian Church USA
Ms. Brenda D. Tribett	Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
The Rev. Richard Chung-Sik Choe	The United Church of Canada
The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Landers-Pettigrew	United Church of Christ
Ms. Cheryl L. Walker	United Methodist Church