



Committee on Black Congregational Ministries

Chair: Billye P. Bridges
Cheryl L. Walker, 1st 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 other interested groups 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/religious publications, special days and enriching 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:

- Seeking to revisit dialogue with members of Pacific Asian American/Canadian Christian Education (PAACCE) to determine ways these two committees can continue to collaborate.
- Engaging in dialogue with Committee on Disabilities to explore the interconnections between racism and ablism.
- Planning a 2008 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 to:

a. Other ELMC program ministry committees: CBCM is seeking to collaboratively work with the Disabilities, Public Education and Literacy, PAACCE and Black Family Ministries committees. We have engaged in conversations with three of the committees.

b. NCCC member communions not represented at the table: CBCM attempts to contact other predominantly African American NCCC member communions as well as staff in other denominations as we seek to resource and network with African American congregations and members not currently represented at the table. Committee members 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 distribute mailings and pertinent material about ongoing happenings and transitions within our committee and various communions.

3. How does the work of your program ministry committee 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 viable witness to the unity and diversity of the church because our voice is “welcomed, heard and valued at the table.”

4. What work of this program ministry committee was carried forward between meetings of the committee and how was it done?

Between meetings CBCM carried forward its work through teleconference calls, emails, and individual/small group assignments. Rev. Garland Pierce, Associate General Secretary, ELMC, in the midst of his transition, has continued to work diligently to serve our committee. His unselfish contributions have been invaluable to the ongoing work and mission of CBCM.

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 at NCCC website. Will be updated-10/07.
- *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. Updated version will be available as a download at NCCC website, October 2007.
- *2006 CBCM Annual Meeting*: CBCM held its 2006 Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, Scarritt Bennett at the invitation of Daryl Ingram, committee member from African Methodist Episcopal Church. Cheryl Walker, committee member from United Methodist Church, provided hospitality. CBCM met jointly with the Committee on Disabilities to explore the interconnections between racism and ablism.

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 NCCC member communions continue to have collaborative conversations as they seek what its means to be the whole church.
- 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. Daryl B. Ingram	African Methodist Episcopal Church
The Rev. Vivian Green	African Methodist Episcopal Church
The Rev. Raymon Hunt	African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Dr. Mary A. 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. Willa Ross	Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
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. 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. G. Jackson	Presbyterian Church USA
Ms. Brenda D. Tribett	Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
Ms. Adele Halliday	The United Church of Canada
The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Landers-Pettigrew	United Church of Christ
Ms. Cheryl L. Walker	United Methodist Church

