

# From the President's Desk

The 56th Annual Session of PNBC is behind us. Houston was a welcoming site. As we left, however, we were heart-broken by the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey. Thanks to the quick service of Dr. Frankie T. Jones, Sr., Chairman of our Disaster Relief Task Force as he reached out to Vice-President Philip Kent of the Southwest Region to assist the Houston pastors.

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*We are still appealing to all of our churches to send a financial contribution for our Disaster Relief Fund in further assisting these pastors and others who have been impacted by these devastating hurricanes.*

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I would like to take this time to give a heartfelt "thank you" to the PNBC family! By the grace of God, I was able to be present during the Annual Session, if only for President's Night. I thank each of you who prayed for my healing. Your prayers have worked so keep them coming!!! I thank God that my health is so much better and getting stronger. I am very appreciative for your prayers, calls, cards and expressions of concern. May our great God continue to bless and prosper you in every way.

### **Join Us for the Midwinter Board Meeting**

At this time, we are gearing up for our Midwinter Board meeting, which will be held the week of January 22-25, 2018, at the Melia Resort Hotel in Nassau, Bahamas. It is extremely important that all PNBC Department leaders and members be present to plan your program for the upcoming Annual Session in August. The Board meeting is a planning time and we want to be in the position of communicating our strategies to our constituency as soon as possible after the meeting.

If you have not done so, please go to our website [PNBC.org](http://PNBC.org) and register now. Reach out to your members and encourage them to register also.

### **Social Justice – It's Time for Action**

All of us are disturbed by the atmosphere that has been created by this Administration. Civil rights have been set back 50 years and racial tensions have not been this intense in decades. Because of President Trump, people feel emboldened to spew their racist attitudes. As Progressives, we want to provide a strategy to address this situation.

We also want to unite together and prepare our people to participate in the 2018 mid-term elections. Our vote is our voice and one of the only elements that we hold for real change. Our vote is powerful. We can make a difference, but we must rally our people together so that those in the country's leadership understand that our votes count. We must gather, convene, and strategize for real action like never before. The future of this nation is at stake.

At the Mid-Winter Board meeting, a special time will be allotted for our Social Justice Commission to present the plan for pursuing our social justice goals. The time is now!

### **The 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Session**

Our 57th Annual Session will convene in Philadelphia, the very location where the Constitution was written. While we are in Philadelphia, we want to make a strong statement about how the ideals in this founding document are being jeopardized by the current Administration.

### **Remember, God is With Us**

This is a challenging time. The world is a tinder box. Any day, war can break out and it has the potential to destroy human life on the planet as we know it. With racial relations corroded and our civil rights under assault, our children and grandchildren may face a bleak future.

As troubling as these times seem, we have been here before. Those of us who are at least my age and older can remember when discrimination and segregation were legalized. It was because of Progressive leaders that these laws were struck down.

We should be encouraged by the past. What we learned and must remember is that God is on our side. He will not fail us. Let us march on till victory is won!

God bless,



President James Perkins





# Ready, When Disaster Strikes!

## PNBC's New Disaster Preparedness Task Force

Over the last several weeks, we have experienced horrific disasters including hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, fires and mudslides, in both the United States and our neighboring countries. These calamities are virtually unlike anything we have seen in the past and especially with this degree of rapidity. At the request of President James Perkins, the PNBC Disaster Preparedness Task Force was created under the leadership of Dr. Reginald Porter and is responding to calamities with the full cooperation of the Missions Department.

Specifically, the PNBC church communities have been directly impacted by a series of hurricanes. While we, along with other faith-based organizations, continue to work to increase our level of response, most will agree that the scope of the disasters far exceeds the resources. However, although no group can do everything, every group can do something!

Within a 25 day time span, beginning in late August, we received daily reports on four different hurricanes. The destruction began with Hurricane Harvey, which was the first major hurricane to make landfall in the United States since Wilma in 2005. There were 83 confirmed fatalities and the affected areas included Texas, Belize, Louisiana, Nicaragua, and Honduras.

Just five days later, reports came in that Hurricane Irma was now approaching. As of September 21, 102 fatalities have been reported in areas including Cuba, Puerto Rico, Cape Verde, Bahamas, and the United States (predominantly Florida).

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*Many people, already disaster victims, were on edge as they continued to receive updates on another hurricane brewing in the Atlantic known as Jose. Areas impacted included Bermuda, the East Coast of the United States and the Leeward Islands.*

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On the heels of Hurricane Jose came Hurricane Maria. Millions of people in the Caribbean are still reeling from its devastation. At least 10 people have been killed in Puerto Rico, where much of the United States territory is without power and water. The hurricane destroyed the island of Dominica, killing at least 15 people. It also hammered the Dominican Republic, the US Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos, a British territory.



As Chairman of the PNBC Disaster Preparedness Task Force, I recently returned from Houston after joining Dr. Phillip Kent, Southwest Regional Vice President, where we assessed damages and the needs of PNBC pastors, churches and communities. There are five PNBC pastors in

Houston, and two received damage to their homes. There was minimal damage caused to the PNBC churches; however, PNBC members experienced devastation to their homes and personal property. While the number of people affected was not what it potentially could have been, the damages received in many instances were severe, with some victims losing everything they owned.

There are areas that the city continues to clean up and, as you might expect, these communities include many of the poorer neighborhoods where the infrastructure is not well perfected. As evidenced by visits to the shelters, many poor, uninsured, disenfranchised and underserved Houstonians are still in great need.

PNBC pastors are actively engaged as part of the key decision-makers and leaders visiting many of these areas. They are

working with organizations like FEMA and the Red Cross to lend assistance go to those who are renting, leasing and/or own modest homes in the lower-income communities.

In addition, PNBC has established a Disaster Relief Account in Texas—separate from our Missions efforts—that allows disaster victims to apply for debit cards. Debit cards are being encouraged for usage in lieu of expending funds to transport dry goods, non-perishable items, and paper products from distant locations such as North Carolina, Virginia, and New York. Donations are acceptable at PNBC Headquarters in the form of checks and money orders or you can go to <http://www.pnbc.org/Mission> and utilize Givelify or Pay Pal. When you are making donations, please specify "Hurricane Relief 2017" on the form or payment.

Plans are being made for Dr. Porter, Dr. Kent, and I to meet with Southwest Regional PNBC pastors to effectively assess what further measures PNBC can take to aid and assist our churches during the Recovery Phase. Please be advised that the Recovery Phase is different from the Response Phase, as are the agencies serving the impacted area. It will be paramount for PNBC leaders to connect their communities with FEMA officials and other government agencies that are part of the Recovery Process.

We ask for your continued prayers for our team as we perform the work God has called us to accomplish and especially for ALL families affected by these continuous disasters.





# The Art of Progressing

**Dr. Timothy Tee Boddie, General Secretary**

*As General Secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, I count it a privilege and pleasure to greet you in the matchless name of Him who orders our steps and meets us with mercy, Jesus Christ, our sovereign Savior and Liberator.*

In the wake of unprecedented hurricane activity, both natural disasters (Harvey, Irma, and Maria), as well as human-made storms (Charlottesville, NFL's #takeaknee, POTUS), PNBC is more needed and relevant today than it was in its founding over 56 years ago. Although we have much to be proud of, there is so much more work to do. That is why I am so excited about our Midwinter Board Meeting. As you know by now, we will convene in Nassau, Bahamas at the beautiful, all-inclusive Melia Resort, during the week of January 22-26. We will be hosted by the Rev. Dr. Ivan Butler, International Region Vice President and senior pastor of Kemp Road Ministries.

The Headquarters staff has geared up for our Midwinter Board Meeting by preparing, mailing and posting on our website the pertinent details and everything you will need to register for the meeting. If you have not received your information by land mail, please visit our website at [www.pnbc.org](http://www.pnbc.org), or simply give us a call at 202-396-0558. One of the exciting highlights President Perkins has planned this year will be our annual MLK

Empowerment Service on Monday night when our keynote speaker will be the one and only, Dr. Michael Eric Dyson. The Rev. Dr. Dyson's exceptional scholarship and prophetic preaching has become indispensable and his voice of socio-political critique is widely known through both network and cable news.

In addition to Dr. Dyson, other dynamic preachers we will hear in the Bahamas are Dr. Ivan Douglas Hicks, Dr. Jacqueline Thompson, Dr. Edward L. Branch, Dr. Tamara Scott and an emerging voice and new PNBC pastor, Dr. Andre Price.

Towards this end, I wish to thank each of you who continue to support Progressive with your financial resources. I am especially grateful for those of you who made individual or church contributions to our disaster relief efforts in Texas, Florida and the Caribbean. If you have not yet given a sacrificial gift, you may still give to the PNBC Disaster Relief Fund by visiting our website or through PayPal and Givelify.

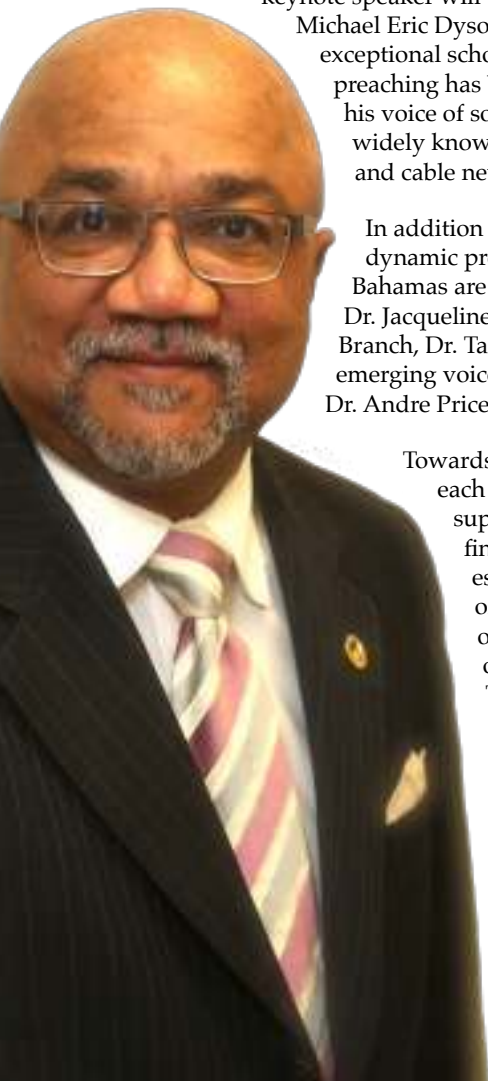
*I would also like to thank all of our churches*

*committed to the 1% model of financial stewardship conceived by our visionary founders. Please be mindful that if 100% of our member churches would make and keep the 1% pledge, PNBC can and will re-establish its position as one of the most fiscally sound denominational bodies in the nation. Your continued and consistent support will enable us to:*

- Operate Headquarters with a balanced budget and potential excess revenue.
- Meet our monthly obligations consistently and on time.
- Afford greater leverage with which to implement President Perkins' visionary initiatives, including the Progressive Baptist Community Development Corporation, The Voter Registration, Education, and Participation Program, and collaboration on the 3-year national phenomenon, The Angela Project.
- Invest in our most important assets—our human resources—and prioritize staff education and training, adequate benefits, and periodic merit-based compensation increments.
- Carry on the financial support of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and theological schools.
- Continue collaboration and cooperation with like-minded ecumenical organizations and associations such as National Council of Churches, National Conference of Black Churches, New Baptist Covenant, Baptist World Alliance, and the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, which will fortify our foundation, advance our mission, and maximize our potential.
- Sustain the strong tradition of support for home and foreign missions in cooperation and collaboration with partners like Lott Carey and National Baptist Convention of America.
- Expand our disaster relief efforts in the wake of recent flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Maria.
- Become a leader in and model for sustainability and alternative energy in providing community solar resources throughout the country.

We must never forget that we are the beneficiaries of a great legacy of PROGRESSIVE leaders who loved the Lord and who led God's people with a servant's heart. We are also the children and grandchildren of those sainted souls who understood that PNBC is a God-inspired and God-infused denomination full of purpose, progress, and power! Let's resolve to make them proud of us!

SEE YOU IN NASSAU!!!







# PNBC Social Justice Commission

## Join Us for a Year of Action!

### What is Our Call?

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

Luke 4:18-19a

### Vision

To build on PNBC’s rich justice-seeking foundations by addressing issues of poverty and barriers that keep our communities from thriving, the criminalization of black, brown and poor people and connecting these issues to the right to vote.

We see this vision as a true test of our Christian identity as well as carrying on the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As we approach the 50th year since the assassination of Dr. King and the Poor People’s Campaign, we believe the issues that Dr. King raised as essential to social and economic justice are as relevant today as any time in history. To this end, the Social Action Committee believes that our charge through 2018 is to continue Dr. King’s mantle by relaunching The Poor People’s Campaign.

### 2018 Relaunch of the Poor People’s Campaign

#### The PNBC Mandate

1. End the assault on poor and working people and a “Call” for jobs.
2. End mass incarceration, over-policing of black and brown communities and the “Public School to Prison Pipeline.”
3. End the attack on healthcare
4. End voting discrimination and suppression.

#### PNBC Vision: “Take Back Washington”

PNBC will play a leading role in honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Poor People’s March on Washington by taking action! We will organize our convention members, community stakeholders, as well as impacted and indigenous people to reignite the movement for poor and oppressed people from a moral position all year. Our mantra is “Take Back Washington” from now through the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King and on through the November 2018 elections.

### PNBC Action Plan

1. To prepare our convention for the assault on poor and working people, which we foresee as the tactical direction of the current conservative agenda. Historically, during times of conservatism and attacks on the social safety net, churches become the first line of defense for poor and working-poor people. As a defensive measure, we believe our work will be to ensure that PNBC congregations are a “modern-day sanctuary” for oppressed people and do our part to provide charity, while pushing legislatively for justice.
2. To equip our member churches and membership with the tools they need to make the case for a poor people’s agenda. These resources will be in the forms of theological framing as well as tool kits/curricula related to justice-seeking around issues of poverty and will coincide with our national days of action.
3. To bring to bear the political power of our members and convention by engaging our membership in political education that includes the issues that we care about: poverty, mass incarceration, healthcare, and voting rights. PNBC desires to ensure that we are creating informed, issue-based voters and candidates in 2018.

### Take the Pledge!

Download the PNBC Social Justice Commission 2018 Year of Action Plan at [www.pnbc.org](http://www.pnbc.org). Review the PNBC Pledge section and commit to taking action with us in 2018.

Look for upcoming webinars and communications that detail how you can further participate. For more information, call PNBC at 202-396-0558 or 1-800-876-7622 or email [office@pnbc.org](mailto:office@pnbc.org).



## 2017-2018 Calendar of Action

August 28, 2017 March On Washington to End Mass Incarceration Days of Collective Action	April 4, 2018 Poor People’s Actions in your community March on Washington
September 20-21, 2017 Washington Takeover Part I Visits to Members of Congress on 2018 Budget	May 13, 2018 Mother’s Day Voting Registration Drive “Freedom Summer” 2018
January 15, 2018 King Day 2018: Emphasis on Poverty	Oct TBD by your state End of Voter Registration
February 14- March 29, 2018 Lent: Declaring Isaiah 58: 6-9 Fast	November 6, 2018 Elections



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